Local school districts hope to unveil reopening plans soon

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Jon Detwiler, Fremont City Schools superintendent, said he hopes to have a plan next week to release to the public regarding the reopening of the district's schools this fall. (Photo: File)

FREMONT - Fremont City Schools hopes to unveil a finished plan next week for reopening its schools this fall, according to Superintendent Jon Detwiler.

Detwiler said the district is working on a draft document and meeting with other school districts and the Sandusky County Health Department to figure out the safest way to reopen schools.

He said on Monday that there will be a countywide meeting later this week with all of Sandusky County's school superintendents and the health department to talk about reopening.

The Fremont City Schools superintendent said if he had been asked two weeks ago, he would have said it looked great for the district to hold all in-person classes starting in August.

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But last week, new coronavirus cases statewide rose to more than 1,000 per day.

There are now more than 54,000 confirmed cases in Ohio and 2,677 confirmed coronavirus deaths.

"I think, across the state, we're concerned about the numbers and spikes in cases,"

Detwiler said.

Gov. Mike DeWine announced new safety guidelines last week for K-12 school districts

in Ohio as they prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

Guidelines included vigilantly assessing symptoms, washing and sanitizing hands, thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing school environments, practicing social distancing and

developing a face-covering policy.

According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, the governor invoked a "strong consensus" among

educators and medical experts, as well as a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, in supporting a return of in-person learning when students go back to school.

Detwiler said everybody wants students to be able to attend classes in person.

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He said Fremont City Schools and other districts in the state have to figure out such things as when a student gets sick, what will the district's guarantine policy be, and how

can schools minimize risk while transporting students to-and-from school on a bus.

Dennis Haft, Clyde-Green Springs' superintendent, told parents in an online question-

and-answer session last month that the district is working on setting up a virtual school

for children who will not be returning in the fall because of health concerns.

Haft said the district sent out a survey to gauge interest and is also examining different

options.

He said the district was working on requirements for in-person learning and hoped to

have something to share with the public by mid-July.

Haft said the district was also preparing in case Clyde-Green Springs starts out with in-

person learning this fall and and has to switch to online learning only, due to the

pandemic.

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