

P.S. 221
School Reopening
Town Hall Parent Meeting

August 17, 2020

School is scheduled to reopen for students on September 10th

NYCDOE COVID 19 School Health Policy

- Infection rate of less than 3% - threshold for school opening and remaining open
- Infection rate of 3% or more – school is closed
- Thresholds are triggers for closing schools, but may not be the only triggers

Health & Safety

- In compliance with social distancing guidelines, classroom capacity is based on maintaining six feet of physical distancing around each person
- All students and staff are required to wear face coverings
- Visitors to the school will be extremely limited - parent concerns and questions will be addressed by phone or videoconference, where possible
- Health and safety supplies including signage, masks, hand sanitizer, gloves and thermometers will be provided by Central DOE offices

Health and Safety

- Wellness barriers will be placed at our school safety desk and in the general office
- Our Building Response Team (BRT), an important component of emergency readiness, is a school-based team composed of varied staff members that is activated to manage health and safety incidents. This team will be responsible for managing and supporting our school's response to incidents related to COVID-19

Daily Health Screenings for Students and Staff

- Daily health screenings, including temperature checks, must be completed at home by families and by school-based staff
- Every morning, prior to entering school, specific staff will perform random temperature checks for students and school-based staff
- Any student with a temperature of more than 100 degrees at the random check cannot enter the building; however, if the child arrived on the bus or is unaccompanied, the student will be brought to the Isolation Room to await parent pick-up

School Nurse and Isolation Room

- Students showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be escorted to the isolation room by a designated staff member
- Our school nurse will evaluate the student
- The student will wait in the supervised isolation room for parent/guardian pick-up
- When a parent/guardian arrives, the student will be escorted to our main lobby

Note: Room 124 will be our isolation room

For all scenarios outlined below, all post-investigation decisions on classroom quarantines or whether full school closure is required will be dependent on the specific facts of each investigation.

Conclusion of Investigation	During Investigation	Post Investigation
A. 1 confirmed case	Close Classroom	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; students and staff in close contact with positive case self-quarantine for 14 days.
B. At least 2 cases linked together in school, same classroom	Close Classroom	Classroom remains closed for 14 days; students and staff in close contact with positive cases self-quarantine for 14 days
C. At least 2 cases linked together in school, different classrooms	Close school	Classrooms of each case remain closed and quarantined, additional school members are quarantined based on where the exposure was in the school (e.g.,

D. At least 2 cases linked together by circumstances outside of school (i.e., acquired infection by different setting and source)	Close school	School opens post investigation, classrooms remain closed for 14 days
E. At least 2 cases not linked but exposure confirmed for each one outside of school setting	Close school	School opens post investigation, classrooms remain closed for 14 days
F. Link unable to be determined	Close school	Close school for 14 days

Whenever a student is quarantining at home, the expectation is that they continue engaging with learning remotely if they are feeling well enough. If a school is closed, the principal will communicate by 6pm on the night before about the status of opening the next morning, based on the status of the investigation. We will not reopen a school building without confirmation from public health experts that

COVID-19 Notification

- Communication to all families when a case is confirmed by the DOHMH:
 - Families of students who are confirmed close contacts of the positive case must receive a letter stating that their child has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual; this letter gives clear direction to quarantine for 14 days, get tested, and see a medical professional
 - Families of students who are not considered close contacts must receive a letter stating that there was a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the school, but that their child is not considered a close contact and therefore there is no need to quarantine

Learning Models

- In order to comply with the CDC and New York State's physical distancing requirements, we must operate at significantly reduced capacity for in-person instruction
- Based on the number of families selecting Blended Learning and our room capacity data, Model 2 has been approved
- We have been provisionally approved for an exception for our two self-contained special education classes due to small class size and the highly specialized instructional support the students require
- Currently, 32% of our families have selected the fully remote model

Transitioning between Models

- You may opt-in to fully remote at any time by completing the Learning Preference form online
- You may transition from fully Remote to Blended Learning during set time periods each quarter
 - a schedule of dates for opting-in to Blended Learning will be forthcoming

Teaching & Learning

- Remote Learning for all students will include synchronous and asynchronous instruction, with synchronous instruction occurring daily
- An overall schedule for synchronous instruction will be posted where it is available to all parents and students in the class

School Day

- Students in school 5 ½ hours
- Student lunch will be an instructional period
- Teachers will have ½ hour of instructional coordination prior to student arrival
- Teachers will have office hours for 20 minutes at the end of each day to communicate virtually with families and students

Social-Emotional Learning and Support

- Our SEL curricula will include Sanford-Harmony and RULER - programs that we have been using to support the development of our students' social and self-regulation skills, and the formation of positive relationships
- SEL and wellness will be a priority during reopening as we reconnect, build community, process the pandemic's effects, and orient to a new school environment
- In addition to class activities and supports, group and individual intervention will be provided for students in need

Arrival, Dismissal, Movement through School

- We will utilize all doors for arrival and dismissal to allow students to engage in physical distancing
- The use of staggered arrival and dismissal times is being considered
- Directional markers and physical distance guidelines will be displayed on walls and floors
- Single file travel patterns and the use of one directional stairwells will support physical distancing

Meals

- Grab-and-Go meals will be available to all students for breakfast and lunch each day
- Meals will be delivered to Pre-K and K students; pick-up points will be designated for students in grades 1-5.
- Students may also bring their own lunch
- Students who are not receiving in-person instruction on a given day can pick-up lunch from school

Bus

- Students must wear face coverings
- Students from the same household may sit together
- Seating will be marked to designate which seats may be used in order to maintain social distancing
- If a student does not have a face covering when attempting to board the bus, face coverings will be available inside the bus door
- All DOE school transportation will be cleaned and disinfected each day

Play Yard and Exterior Spaces

- Multiple cohorts of students may use larger exterior spaces concurrently, provided that physical distancing is practiced between and within cohorts
- Our outdoor classroom space and play yard can be utilized for instruction time
- Physical education classes will take place outside in our playground to the greatest extent possible

Bathroom Usage

- Bathrooms cannot not exceed capacity based on physical distancing guidelines
- Alternate stall and sinks will be designated for use
- Signage regarding hand washing and physical distancing will be displayed
- Bathroom usage will be supervised through class visits and hall monitors

Building Cleaning

- Custodians will sanitize the building nightly with a CDC approved electrostatic sprayer
- Cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces (ex. door handles, bathroom fixtures) will occur throughout the school day
- The custodial staff will receive training on the new equipment
- Ordering and maintaining our health and safety supply inventory will be managed by our Custodial Engineer

*“Life throws challenges but with
patience and resilience, you can
convert every challenge into a new
opportunity to grow.”*

-Amit Ray