

# Return to School

FAQ

All information in this plan is subject to change based on CDC, DOH and PDE guidelines and any applicable local/state laws.

## Why Hybrid Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is continually issuing revised and updated guidelines for a phased reopening of local school districts. As social distancing becomes increasingly more necessary inside of school buildings, administrators and staff must consider how effective social distancing can occur within school buildings. Considerations in this regard include:

- Ensuring that desks are spaced six feet apart.
- Avoiding overcrowding in common areas such as hallways and stairwells.
- Being able to provide adequate breakfast and lunch arrangements.

Due to these policies we are unable to provide all social distancing regulations in our buildings

## Hybrid Scheduling

The CHSD Hybrid Plan divides students into Group A and Group B. All siblings within a household (K-12) will be scheduled on the same day. Here is an example of the schedule:

|         | Monday    | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday    |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Group A | In-Person | In-Person | Remote    | Remote    | Remote    |
| Group B | Remote    | Remote    | Remote    | In-Person | In-Person |

If any parent or guardian wants to change their educational intentions from the previous survey, please notify your child's building principal by **Friday, July 31** so we can start grouping students to meet the distancing guidelines for the Hybrid Education Plan.

## **What program will be used for Remote Learning?**

Remote learning will be through the Fusion Cyber Solutions program sponsored by Intermediate Unit #1. This will provide the CHSD with the ability to build the capacity to fully integrate online learning into our schools. Fusion is an online learning initiative that involves a comprehensive shift in the way we envision our schools. Our goal is for the CHSD to offer the majority of their curriculum in both an online format and face-to-face, resulting in an education system where students can move seamlessly between classroom and online courses.

## **Will there be a scheduled school day through the Remote Option?**

Yes: The brick and mortar classroom activities will attempt to mimic instruction occurring in the online platform.

## **Will there be daily attendance in Remote Program?**

Yes: PDE states all students must participate in 180 days of instruction for the 2020-2021 School Year.

## **Can you Move from Remote Learning to In-Person learning.**

Moving from Remote Learning to In-Person Learning will occur at the 9 weeks period.

## **What is expected of me as a parent if my child is part of the online program?**

Research shows that no matter the provider of online education, your child will need adult assistance at home to be successful.

## **Will teachers be offered training to conduct online instruction should we suddenly have to transition as we did in March?**

Absolutely. Nearly all professional development prior to the school year will be focused on COVID-19 safeguards and online instruction. We have 7 days scheduled before the start of the year for teacher training.

## **What supports are available via CHSD Online Learning Academy to my child?**

Teachers are available via email, by phone, teams or by appointment.

All CHSD students have access to their school counselor, social workers and outreach counselors

## **Will all the class offerings be available via Online Learning?**

Most classes will be offered via Online Learning. Challenges exist, however, with some courses which require hands-on experiences including but not limited to Art and Instrumental Music.

## **Will my child need to spend 7 hours a day on his/her device?**

The amount of instructional time will depend on many factors, including your child's age, the content to be delivered, and the means with which the teacher is delivering such material.

As a rule of thumb, younger students will have less screen time than their older counterparts.

## What procedures will be used for the Buses?

Parents will perform screenings prior to sending children to the bus stop. Students who are symptomatic will remain home.

Buses will operate at reduced capacity. No more than 2 students per seat unless they are siblings.

Bus drivers and all passengers **are required** to wear a mask. Masks will be available for students who may have forgotten their mask.

Transportation schedules will continue to be provided daily to all students electing in-person learning.

Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily.

Establish protocols for loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households

## **Will masks and face coverings be mandatory for students and staff?**

All students and staff must wear a face covering (cloth mask or face shield) that covers their nose and mouth inside the school and while outside when physical distancing is not feasible.

Children two years and older are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.

Information will be provided to teach students how to properly wear a face covering (cover nose and mouth), to maintain hand hygiene when removing the face covering for meals and physical activity, and how to replace and maintain (washing regularly) a cloth face covering.

Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
- Seated at desks or assigned workspaces at least 6 feet apart;
- Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g., face covering breaks, recess, etc.)

## **What will happen if a student or staff member refuses to wear a mask?**

All students and staff are expected to follow all CDC and Pennsylvania DOH guidelines regarding masks.

## **How will Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation occur in each building?**

The Building and Grounds Supervisor has worked with the custodians and maintenance staff to clean and sanitize all buildings in the district to prepare for the safe and successful return of students and staff for the upcoming year.

The procedures for cleaning and disinfecting the facility will be continually monitored and reviewed with the staff to ensure consistent and proper cleaning methods. Currently all supplies used to disinfect the buildings are EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 that reduce risk.

Custodial Staff will continue to frequently clean high touched surfaces and objects including door handles and sink handles. Drinking fountains will be covered. Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.

Building and Grounds Supervisor will conduct regular checks to ensure all assigned areas are clean and disinfected.

## **What steps is the district taking for Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols?**

The classrooms and learning spaces throughout the district buildings will be evaluated and organized, to the maximum extent possible, to provide the staff and students with social distancing regulations to mitigate the spread of the virus. Some examples are the following:

- Determine your maximum capacity for each room
- Turn desks in the same direction.
- Students sit on one side of tables/desk facing the same direction.
- Reduce Class Size
  - Half of class roster
  - Maximum classroom capacity
- Balance class numbers as much as possible – remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms; maximize social distancing (to the extent practicable)
- Limit physical interaction through partner or group work
- Establish distance between the teacher's desk/board and students' desks
- Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing
- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
  - Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff
  - Students and staff to wear face masks/coverings
  - Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff

# Health Questions

## **What happens if a student or teacher becomes symptomatic during school hours?**

First, the student or teacher will leave the classroom immediately and report to the nurse's office or designated room.

The nurse will assess the student/teacher, including a temperature check and questions about any pre-existing conditions that may explain the symptoms. As the situation warrants, the nurse will contact a parent/guardian to arrange for transportation off-site.

Staff and students with elevated temperatures will leave the building regardless of cause.

The student or teacher's desk area will be sanitized prior to further usage.

The student or teacher will need to follow the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health's guidance on returning to school.

The school will continue to operate as normally as possible until additional information becomes available on the student or teacher's status. There are many common reasons other than COVID-19 that could explain someone not feeling well at any particular time. Notifications would not be warranted in the absence of further details.

**Will students and staff have their temperatures checked upon entry?**

Students will NOT have their temperature checked upon entry.

Symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day.

No children with symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school.

All district staff will perform a symptom screen on them prior to leaving for work, and will stay home if ill.

Staff, students and community will be constantly informed of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19

**How will you isolate or quarantine students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure?**

Procedures for isolation and quarantining will be the following:

If in school, student/staff member immediately quarantined in health office.

School Nurse will notify the Department of Health and follow their guidance regarding school closure, who must quarantine and for how long, and whether the instructional operation model must change.

All families and staff will be notified.

If there is a known COVID-19 case in a student or staff member's household, the School Building Office should be contacted and action will be taken as necessary based on guidance from the Department of Health.

During any period of isolation, students will have access to instruction through the Fusion Flex Program

## **What is the procedure for returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to school?**

The return to work or school will be determined through consultation with School Physician, school nurse, local health care professionals and state and federal guidelines.

Notification of local health officials, staff, and families will occur while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

Constant evaluation of the procedures will be completed and protocols may be adjusted as needed.

## **A student tests positive for COVID-19. What are the next steps?**

Due to safeguards put in place (such as minimal movement and assigned seating), we will be able to better trace potential contacts between the infected person and other persons with whom that person had contact.

We will work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and local health agencies to determine the extent of needs to isolate/quarantine.

All policies regarding confidentiality will be followed.

## **What is the protocol if a student or staff member tests positive or has exposure to someone that tests positive ?**

Notify DOH or local health officials and emergency management personnel.

Isolate to separate anyone who exhibits symptoms.

School nurses will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.

Clean and disinfect all areas thoroughly per CDC guidance.

Communicate case or exposure information with students, staff, and faculty.

Ensure continuity of education and research for all those impacted by any temporary suspension of in-person operations.

If individuals were in close contact with someone who became infected with the disease, follow CDC guidance

Work with local public health officials, if possible, to determine when routine operations can resume on campus

## What is the protocol for traveling during the school year?

The PA Health Department recently released the following travel guidance as of July 7, 2020:

*If you have traveled, or plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania.*

If you plan to travel to any of the identified high risk areas within 14 days of the start of next school year, the District is requesting that you contact your building principals and school nurses to assist in planning your child's return to school.

As the list of high risk travel areas will likely grow in number, please check for updates in advance of your travel at

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>.

## How will you protect students and staff at higher risk for severe illness?

The district will:

- Survey at-risk staff members to gauge their intentions in returning to work while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws
- Survey families with vulnerable children to gauge their intentions in returning to a traditional school setting while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws
- Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials
- Adhere to FERPA and HIPPA requirements
- Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances
- Offer an Employee Assistance Program to all staff members

## **What is the protocol for students with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals?**

Students that have complex needs and are at a higher risk for severe illness will be addressed on an individual basis to accommodate any specific needs.

Some examples of the procedures will be:

- Survey families with vulnerable children to gauge their intentions in returning to a traditional school setting while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials.
- Reconvene IEP Meetings to adjust for Special needs.

## How will you restrict the use of congregate settings?

Building schedules and routines will be assessed to minimize contact between students and staff during the day. Some examples for the cafeteria are the following:

Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff

Use disposable plates, utensils, etc.

Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practicable); designate entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use.

Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.

Serving meals in cafeterias with:

- Spaced serving lines (marked on floors)
- Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate)
- Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery (utilizing state seat time waiver to extend meal periods)
- Consider pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student instead of traditional serving lines. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.

The restricting of congregate spaces will be evaluated daily. Appropriate usage of the area and safety procedures will be communicated daily based on evaluation.

**Will signs be posted in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs?**

Yes: We will post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of Hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.

**Will information be provided on hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices?**

All staff will be provided training from the school nurse on the appropriate manner and frequency to mitigate the spread of the virus. The faculty will work together to educate the students on the rules and appropriate hygiene practices. Examples are:

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering coughs, and face coverings. Face masks will be strongly encouraged when social distancing of 6 ft. is not possible.
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, classrooms and frequently trafficked areas

## **Will communal spaces and hallways be staggered ?**

Procedures for communal spaces will be evaluated daily in each building to meet the needs of the students in attendance. Some examples are:

- Develop Entry Procedures and schedule
- Direct movement with clear traffic patterns; Establish clear traffic patterns with appropriate visual supports (e. g., directional arrows, signage, etc.) to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths
- Establish a protocol for student pick/drop up: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup
- Clear one van/bus before another begins unloading.
- Limit communal-use spaces such as cafeterias and playgrounds if possible; otherwise, stagger their use and disinfect them in between uses.
- Minimize unnecessary congregations of students and staff
- Minimize movement throughout the building and restrict mixing between groups to the extent possible. Try to keep the same student and staff groupings together throughout the school day as much as possible.

## **FOOD SERVICE**

### **Will my child go through serving lines to get food?**

Yes: At both school buildings, breakfast and lunch will be pre-packaged. The district will offer limited choices and no snacks will be available for purchase. We will be asking students to pre-order lunches. More information will be coming from the Food Service Dept.

Social distancing will be enforced during any and all foodservice distribution.

### **How will payments be handled if there is no contact in the serving lines?**

The preferred method will be through the online payment system through Myschoolbucks.com. This will provide the safest and most accurate way to ensure your child has funding for their school cafeteria account.

A secondary option will be through money/check to be included in an envelope with the students' names and homeroom teacher, along with the total cash/check contents and a phone number to contact for discrepancies clearly written on the outside.

## **Will I need to fill out a free and reduced application?**

At this time, YES and it is highly recommended in the event that the state once again approves the distribution of additional funding provided directly to approved families.

## **Will the students receive meals for Remote Learning Days?**

The district is reviewing the potential for this now.

Currently, there has not been any State or Federal level guidance on if the free feeding program will continue after summer.

## **Elementary Specific Questions**

### **What is the plan for outdoor recess?**

Scheduled recess will be facilitated by individual teachers. The enforcement of social distancing will occur during recess time. The campus will be utilized for recess rather than only the playground itself. The playground equipment will be off-limits as we try to reduce/eliminate the use of shared items. Students will not be permitted to use any type of ball during recess. Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after being at recess.

### **What is the plan for indoor recess?**

Indoor recess can occur while following social distancing guidelines.

**Given the requirements for social distancing, how will it be enforced in classes, hallways, cafeteria, gym, library, recess, buses, etc.?**

Mobility during the day will be limited, as students will remain in their classrooms for the majority of the day.

During unstructured time, classroom teachers will provide guidance and reinforce appropriate social distancing protocols.

Traffic flow in hallways will be based upon each school's individual layout. Your child's building principal will work with the staff to communicate these expectations to students.

Signage will be placed about the building as indicators of the protocols to follow.

**What is the plan for pick up/drop off? Will it be set for different times to limit everyone being there all at once?**

At this time, there is no planned change to arrival and dismissal times.

However, the specifics about pick-up and drop-off locations and procedures may change, based upon the school's specific layout.

Your child's building principal will inform you if any changes need made. Students will be required to follow CDC guidelines when entering/exiting the building.

**How will itinerant classes be handled?**

We are committed to a well-rounded education. As of now, itinerant classes will occur. We are exploring all available options to deliver these classes to your child.

## **HIGH SCHOOL-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

### **How will class sections be arranged?**

All classes will be split on the A/B schedule limiting the number of students in a classroom in one class period.

### **Will my child change classes?**

Yes, students will change classes based on their individual student schedules.

### **Does the district have an idea of what class sizes you are aiming for?**

Class sizes due to the A/B Day rotation will be an average of 16 students or less depending on the physical size of the classroom.

## **Will WACTC students attend 5 days or the same as CHSD (A/B Day)?**

CHSD students who attend the WACTC will still attend during the 2020-2021 school year, regardless of the selection of education (hybrid or full online instruction).

WACTC is currently developing a plan to meet the needs of all WACTC students that adheres to all current safety guidelines and mandates.

CHSD will provide transportation for students to attend WACTC from the high school daily.

## **Will students be permitted to park at the school?**

Students may obtain a parking permit by filling out the application for Student Parking. This information is available in the high school office. Seniors will be permitted to park in the lower parking lot and all others are in the Field House Parking Lot.

## **Various Questions**

### **How will IEPs and 504 plans be met?**

Whether at home or in-person, students requiring additional support and modifications will continue to receive services. The assigned caseworker will contact you in regards to the upcoming school year.

### **Will visitors be permitted in schools?**

Access to schools will be limited to students and staff. Parent conferences will be held virtually with limited exceptions. Large group activities will be prohibited.

### **Will there be changes to the attendance policy?**

Attendance procedures will be modified to encourage students who are sick to stay home or quarantine. The Fusion Flex Program will allow students to sign in at home.

## **Will water fountains be available ?**

No: Water fountains will be closed and the district is purchasing water bottle filling stations to be placed throughout the buildings.

## **Technology Concerns**

It will be necessary for us to do another needs assessment to collect data for the instructional needs during remote learning. We will be asking you to please complete another Technology Access Survey at a future date to provide information for our Technology Department.

**Thank you again for your support and patience during this difficult time.**