

Health & Safety Development Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: This FAQ document has been developed to aid in understanding Pennsbury's [Health and Safety Plan](#) which is separate from, but closely related to the [Continuity of Education Plan](#).

Updated October 11, 2020

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TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS

Question:

How often will buses be cleaned and disinfected? What types of cleaners and disinfectants will be used? What will riding a bus to school look like?

Answer:

A bottle of hand sanitizer will be duct taped to the bottom of the handrail on the left side of the stepwell where it will be available for the driver and students to use as they enter/exit the bus. Yellow or red tape will be used on both sides of the front row of seats to prohibit students from sitting there. We will also leave these windows open all the time, along with the roof hatches, to increase ventilation as long as the weather permits. The Transportation Office will create signs to indicate this.

Clear face shields will be used for all bus drivers. One box of disposable masks will be on each bus for the driver to give-out when and if a student appears at the door without one. Each driver will clean the "highly touched" surfaces of his or her bus after each shift.

At this point we are using a commercial aerosol can capable of virus-killing, or we provide them with a commercial grade hand sprayer and access to a bulk container of cleaning solution from which they can refill it. In either case, whatever this solution is it would have to be approved for use at schools.

Buses will be sanitized after every run with the misters and allowed to air dry. Additionally, bus surfaces will be wiped down each Wednesday. Drivers will spot check, clean and sanitize any built up residues.

Face coverings will be required for everyone on the bus/van with very few exceptions permitted.

Question:

Will the drivers have to take temperatures as kids get on the bus?

Answer:

No, the guidance of the Bucks County Health Department is that taking temperatures is not an effective method for screening for COVID-19, especially in children.

Question:

Will the district provide bus aides to help ensure kids will follow the rules and seating procedures?

Answer:

No. The cost to hire a bus aide for every run would be a very large number. Drivers will be expected to offer reminders of the rules and then report issues to the school as they do with other rule-breaking behavior. There will be ample signs posted on each bus alerting the children of the need to wear masks, social distance, and minimize contact with each other while on the school buses, and the drivers will monitor and reinforce these messages daily. We will rely on schools and families to reinforce these messages with students.

Question:

What is the normal percentage of students transported in the district?

Answer:

In previous years the percentage of students eligible for bus transportation has been between 75 and 80 percent of the total student population.

Question:

How will the driver monitor students that are not practicing social distance or not wearing a mask when the driver is driving?

Answer:

Once the bus is moving the driver's primary focus is driving the bus. Behavior issues/non-compliance could be addressed at the next bus stop and when the bus arrives at school.

LOCKERS

Question:

Will students use lockers for physical education?

Answer:

No, we believe we can function successfully without using PE lockers as we did at PWMS during construction.

Question:

Will students use hallway lockers at the middle school?

Answer:

We are working on a solution to this, which may include a temporary return to backpacks at the middle school level.

RESTROOMS

Question:

Will hall monitors be available to monitor social distancing at the student restrooms?

Answer:

We may be able to do this in some secondary schools.

Question:

What is the district's plan for keeping restrooms clean?

Answer:

During the school day, the custodial staff will clean and disinfect the bathrooms and frequently-touched locations in common areas. Bathroom use will be structured to avoid overcrowding in that space.

Hygiene routines that will be implemented throughout the school day include requiring individual hand sanitizing/washing before and after eating and using the bathroom. Periodic reminders about washing hands after using the restrooms will also be provided. Daily announcements will remind students about hygiene routines. Signage will reinforce these messages.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Question:

What PPE and other supplies will be provided for staff and students?

Answer:

We plan on providing hand sanitizer for classrooms and high traffic areas. There will be Plexiglass in areas determined by the administration and facilities department. The district will provide face shield-style masks for bus drivers. Teachers, support staff, and students at all schools will be provided with a face shield from Bucks County. Additional face-coverings are available upon request. We can provide school supplies, as we do each year, for families who cannot provide them.

Question:

Will the district provide plexiglass around student desks?

Answer:

No. We will follow DOH guidelines: spacing student desks to match social distancing recommendations and facing students in the same direction.

Question:

Are students allowed to wear masks? What kind of protection does your school provide for students?

Answer:

Students are required to wear face-coverings with very few tightly regulated exceptions. Each student will be provided with one clear face shield from the County. The District will provide masks for students upon request.

Question:

It's been announced in the media that Bucks county will provide face shields for each student. Will these be used in addition to masks or as a substitution for masks?

Answer:

Students are required to wear masks. If a student cannot wear a mask, this must be documented and go through an IEP or 504 process. At that point, we could consider a face shield as a substitute for a mask.

Question:

Is Manor one of the schools in Bucks Co that will be receiving Clear face masks to be worn in school?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

Also, indoor air modelers have stated that transmission by a teacher would be exponentially higher than transmission by students since he/she is doing the majority of the speaking. Has thought been given to the District providing well fitting N95 masks to teachers? This will not only protect the students, but also provide the teachers/staff a greater level of personal protection.

Answer:

N95 masks are problematic for a few reasons. First, they are still rather difficult and expensive to procure. We also have to consider getting the right fitting of the masks on a daily basis and the expense of replacing them frequently. It is not impossible, but there are steep challenges.

COVID-19 TESTING/CONTACT TRACING

Question:

Will the district conduct COVID-19 tests on staff and students prior to reopening schools?

Answer:

No, the district will not be conducting any COVID-19 tests. For testing information from PEMA visit [Pennsylvania Covid-19 Viral Testing](#)

Question:

Will COVID-19 test kits be available in the nurse's office for use during the school day?

Answer:

No, students and staff will need to follow up with their health care providers for testing.

Question:

What might contact tracing look like for kids who may have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive teacher or student?

Answer:

The DOH will be directing our contact tracing. [Contact Tracing Plan for Pennsylvania](#)

Question:

When and how will families be notified of confirmed staff or student illness or exposure to COVID-19? Will classes or even the entire school be closed?

Answer:

We will consult with the Bucks County Health Department on decisions impacting the closure of classrooms, schools, or districts. In consultation with DOH, we will notify families in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 using strategies similar to the successful and well-established communication strategies used with measles, pertussis, and other infectious diseases that keep classrooms, schools, and districts open. For example, for the 14-day period following such a diagnosis, we would consider increased education on signs and symptoms, increased monitoring of hygiene, increased use of masks, increased enforcement of social distancing. Notification would take place via emails to families and posting on our websites. We would consider closing a classroom, school, and/or district in consultation with the DOH.

Question:

I thought the government was encouraging contract tracking to stop the spread if someone gets it. How is just having one child stay home and not testing anyone in contact with them abiding by this?

Answer:

We will follow the contact tracing and quarantine direction from the Bucks County Department of Health.

Question:

Will all students be given free COVID test prior the school start? What are your plans if 25-50% tested positive?

Answer:

No, the district is not a COVID-19 testing provider.

Question:

Will teachers and staff be tested for COVID test before they start to go back to school and will the test be every 2 weeks as well as the students?

Answer:

Employees will be directed to be tested if only if they have symptoms, are exposed to someone who is positive, or as directed by their medical provider or the DOH.

Question:

Will bus drivers be tested for COVID on a regular basis?

Answer:

Employees will be directed to be tested if only if they have symptoms, are exposed to someone who is positive, or as directed by their medical provider or the DOH.

AIR CIRCULATION, VENTILATION, WINDOWS, FANS

Question:

What methods are being used in the schools to ensure proper air circulation and ventilation?

Answer:

The ventilation systems are designed to replace the air in the building with fresh air numerous times every hour. This occurs without opening the windows. The District plans to open this system to as close to 100% as we can get without the system malfunctioning. This will give the building the maximum amount of air changes allowable by the system. The result may be that the air conditioning does not cool as well as it could because the system will be bringing more warm air into the building than it is designed for to provide the most efficient cooling. Likewise, classrooms may be cooler during heat season because of the increased intake of cool air. Opening the windows could bring in more fresh air in areas with operable windows.

The District does have a policy stating that appliances, like fans, brought from home are not permitted. In this situation, the District is waiving that policy. For more information regarding how fans can assist air circulation, please visit [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#).

Question:

One last question: has any thought been given to increasing the ventilation throughout the building? I apologize if I didn't see this in the plan. This could be accomplished in a variety of ways- increasing air intake, zoned or individual class hepa filtration, or even allowing each classroom to crack a window would assist in increased ventilation.

Answer:

Some details on this are listed above, but yes, we will be using windows and the air exchange through our HVAC systems to bring in as much outside air as possible.

Question:

The FAQ's do not address the schools without AC.

Answer:

The schools that do not have AC the windows would be utilized.

The district policy regarding appliances, fans in this instance not being allowed has been waived.

Question:

Please consider info at time marker 53:53 to about 1:04, which is a classroom scenario. SARS-CoV-2 in Indoor Air: Principles and Scenarios is now available to watch on demand on our website at: www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/indoor-air-quality-science-and-technology. For additional information from EPA on Indoor Air and COVID-19 visit: [Indoor Air and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

The proposed hybrid model will reduce classroom capacity, but also distancing & ample ventilation should also be considered/implemented.

Answer:

Thank you for this additional resource. We will certainly review this.

HIGH SCHOOL SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Question:

How can we create more social distancing on the path?

Answer:

We are looking at several options including closing the internal road to utilize for foot traffic.

ELEMENTARY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Question:

What methods will be used to ensure social distancing with young elementary students (K/1/2)?

Answer:

During the first six weeks of school teachers always review classroom routines. Expectations will be reviewed with all students about the importance of maintaining that six feet distance. I envision teachers using a meter/yard stick to physically show students what 6ft might look like. Procedures will establish the rules for using the bathroom, getting out of their seats, and other routines but through the lens of the Pandemic we are facing. Other tasks: tying shoes, opening containers, buttoning coats etc... will be addressed with our students. We know that when something drops or there is a spill our kind students are quick to lend a hand. This would be something that teachers will do as teachers will have access to hand-sanitizer when aiding students with what are sometimes cumbersome tasks. This will be work done with the elementary principals and then communicated to staff.

Question:

How will indoor recess be conducted?

Answer: Typically, during indoor recess our students participate in games or activities that require limited movement. The elementary principals will establish those guidelines and review and prepare our school aides to make sure that students are complying with activities that don't involve contact with other students.

Question:

Where will students eat lunch if the cafeteria is not an option?

Answer:

Although we are still in the planning stages, we are thinking that students will eat lunch in the classroom. Students who pack lunch will take out their lunch and eat at their desks. This will require the development of many new procedures.

Question:

Will Kids Care be available before and after school?

Answer:

As of 10-11-2020, Kids Care is providing their services off-site.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Question:

How will procedures for pick up for early dismissal, sick dismissal, and end of the day be revised for social distancing?

Answer:

We will develop procedures at each level for these situations.

Question:

How will dismissal be handled at elementary level when the walkers and car riders are all leaving together

Answer:

Our principals are busily working on many procedures to ensure social distancing throughout the day. Arrival and dismissal procedures will be revised to create social distancing.

STUDENTS/STAFF WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND/OR SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS

Question: What additional accommodations will need to be made in classrooms where there is a hearing-impaired student who utilizes lip-reading or an FM system?

Answer: We will need to identify the areas of need and make accommodations for the students based on their individual needs.

Question:

About the air and ventilation system- my son has asthma which is triggered by people utilizing their fireplaces during the cold months. If the system will be open 100% then my son could get extremely sick. Will my son then have to be homeschooled 100% of the year? Fresh air is very good for many people, but gets worse due to what people do to the atmosphere around them, and for those for those that have asthma it can cause them to get pneumonia.

Answer:

We will need to make individual procedures and decisions for students with medical needs related to COVID-19.

Question:

I'm hoping the district will revisit notification of parents immediately once someone in a classroom (staff/student) tests positive for Covid. I understand the HIPPA law with regards to confidentiality,

however, I am not asking for the persons name at all, nor do would I ever expect this, but I do feel strongly, as a parent of a child with a compromised immune system, that we, as parents should be made aware as soon as the school is made aware so we can make our own decision whether we want to get our child tested or keep them home temporarily. The 3 prong approach that was discussed, in my opinion, is just not realistic to determine with children at the elementary level in particular.

Answer:

If a student has a documented compromised immune system, then we have more options about sharing information without giving students' names. The notification procedures is based on students without compromised immune systems.

HAND SANITIZER/WIPES

Question:

Will families be asked to provide Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer at the middle school and elementary as part of the school supply list?

Answer:

The H&S Steering Committee recommends that schools ask for these supplies as usual, but make it clear that families should provide those only if they can find it and afford it. We will not likely be able to get a large number of wipes. Disinfectant spray and paper towels are the more likely option.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

Question:

Will changes to drills (fire, weather, ALICE) be updated and disseminated to staff?

Answer:

We will need to modify the drills while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

MASK REQUIREMENT, EXCEPTIONS AND REFUSAL

Question:

How will we ensure approved masks are being worn by students?

Answer:

As long as the student is wearing a face-covering over his or her nose and mouth, it is acceptable. Schools cannot specify the quality of the mask per the Department of Health. The face shield supplied to each student may be worn in addition to a cloth face covering.

Question:

What is the protocol if a student refuses to wear a mask?

Answer:

Response will vary depending on the age of the student if this is the first time or the fifth time. Not wearing a mask is a safety issue and it would be a serious violation. If a student refusing to wear a mask, we can mandate that they attend virtual only.

Question:

Should the student conduct policy be changed about face coverings?

Answer:

It has been added to the policy.

Question:

If you are forcing us to mask our children, we would like to be provided with some Scientific data/research that proves why they are necessary??? We have data showing they are harmful to the health of our children.

Answer:

We are following the guidance of the DOH, the Governor, PDE and the CDC.

Question:

Why is the district proposing that a face shield can be used instead of a face mask to protect our children from Covid-19 since the CDC states that 'It is not known if face shields provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings (www.cdc.gov)?'

Answer:

Update 10-11-2020--we are requiring masks.

Question:

My biggest concern is the amount of time my children will spend in a mask/face shield. With this hybrid model, will students be able to be at that 6ft distance to be able to remove masks/face shields while seated during instruction? I hate that they will have to wear them at all, but would feel better if it wasn't for the entire day. I would appreciate any and all efforts to reduce the use of face coverings.

Answer:

We appreciate this feedback. What you are suggesting is permitted by PDE, but the H&S Committee will need to consider whether or not we will hold a higher standard than the minimum mask wearing set by PDE. We expect to propose minor revisions at the August Board meeting.

QUARANTINE

Question:

Will students and staff who come back from travel to recent "hot spots" be asked to self-quarantine for any length of time?

Answer:

As of 10/11/2020 the travel advisory are only recommendations. Staff/students returning from travel areas on the list will need to wear masks, stay socially distant and follow the other procedures that are already in our plan.

Question:

Similarly, what if the student was in contact with someone that is waiting for test results, etc. Should they quarantine at home for 14 days?

Answer:

Per the plan, DOH will determine who needs to quarantine at home.

Question:

What are the guidance if say for example my son's classmate test positive, will you continue to require students to go to school or will it be distance learning?

Answer:

The DOH will direct if classmates need to quarantine based on the DOH criteria.

RETURN TO SCHOOL/WORK AFTER ILLNESS

Question:

What is the protocol for a student to return to school after presenting with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19?

Answer:

If a student has a documented fever and is sent home from school, to return they need: 1) either a doctor's clearance/explanation, i.e. strep throat 2) a negative COVID test or 3) wait 10 days after symptom onset if the child is not evaluated by a physician.

Question:

When students/staff can return to school after a COVID-19 diagnosis, do they need DOH clearance AND medical professional clearance (doctor note) or just one of the two?

Answer:

Just one of the two.

Question:

How will the common cold, cough, viral and flu symptoms be differentiated by that of Covid-19 among the children, especially during this coming winter, where almost every other child will have one of these???

Answer:

Admittedly this is difficult. We will rely on the guidance of the DOH to train our school health professionals on how to distinguish. We will also be looking to student's medical practitioners as well. We will err on the side of caution. We certainly do not want students with the flu or other respiratory infections in school without monitoring from a medical professional.

SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Question:

How is the district supporting the mental health of the students through this pandemic?

Answer:

We are fortunate to employ seven full-time social workers across the district who are our first line in making sure that families have access to housing, food, technology, and other resources. We also have an enviable number of school counselors and school psychologists who are also available to assist students in person, via phone, or via online sessions. We will continue to provide counseling services as delineated in students' IEPs. We also work frequently with local resources such as Neighborhood-in-Need to provide additional resources to families.

Question:

Has the board done research on the psychological, social and emotional downfall of sending a child into the school at a young age with so many barriers both physical and social? Can you let the parents know the research you found that resuming ANY in person education would benefit them Even a little when going back being segregated as such for a potentially long period of time? SARS in China started in 2003. Ppl were wearing masks sporadically up until this very SARS outbreak there in 2020.

Answer:

This Q&A is monitored by and responded to by the administration and not the Board. However, first, and foremost, the administration relies on the guidance of the Bucks County DOH, PDE, the CDC, and the state and not personal research. Although the administrators working on this plan do keep abreast of current articles, our recommendations are based on the recommendation of public health experts.

CHILD CARE CONCERNS

Questions:

- What are the parents whom are working going to do if the school opens partly? That's not fair to us.
- How do you expect working parents to leave their children at home three days a week? Not many people are able to have sitters and can afford to take off to home school their children. Many people are fortunate. Also please take into consideration the people that have day care now the day cares will be pushed to teach these children. We need to come up with a plan of smaller classroom sizes and to keep the children confined to a room to learn . I am a single mother . yes i have day care but what happens if the daycare closes again .?we need a better plan for the majority....
- How are families with elementary age children, where both parents work, going to be able go back to work if one had to stay home because you won't open schools 100%? I'm sure you won't answer my question but I really hope you thought about that aspect of this ridiculous plan.
- How is a single working parent supposed to send their child to school part time?

Answer:

Almost all of the administrators, Board Members and committee members are working parents as well. The impact of our decisions on our District families, and our Pennsbury families' ability to continue their employment weighs heavily on us. At the same time, we have to consider the seriousness of the pandemic and the guidelines we are receiving from various levels of government. Our ultimate goal is to have students in school five days a week for the families who want that, but we cannot do that until we can do it safely and within recommended guidelines.

HYGIENE/CLEANING

Question:

How will the mouth rinse/ blowing noses can be monitored inside the bathrooms considering the cleanliness and possible spread of covid-19 due to a bathroom??

Answer:

Bathrooms will be cleaned as frequently as possible; students will receive training on safe hygiene practices. Signs in the bathrooms will remind students of hygiene best practices.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Question:

Aside from reminding the students to practice social distancing, why not put a marker already on a seat that the student shouldn't sit on that to avoid the student sitting next to another student?

Answer:

Yes if there are places students should not sit, we will make every effort to mark that with signs and/or tape.

Question:

Will teachers be allowed to congregate, in a teacher lounge or other areas, without wearing protective face coverings? The health and safety plan, assuming that kids will be required to wear protective face coverings indoors, I think it fantastic. You're minimizing contact and will likely be able to contain outbreaks within classes, that is provided that Covid-19 does not spread among teachers, who can then pass it along to students.

Answer:

No, teachers will not be permitted to gather without masks or without social distancing.

Question:

For elementary children, will they each have their own desk, as I'm concerned about my child sharing their belongings in the desks? If classrooms are set up with desks 3 feet apart, children at every other desk can attend alternating days to allow for 6 feet social distance.

Answer:

Elementary students will not be sharing school supplies or belongings. Activities will be reconfigured to eliminate the sharing of items such as glue, scissors, books, etc. We agree that if we leave all of the current furniture in place, it is possible to assign different desks to different students. However, there will be thorough cleaning each day regardless.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Question:

Will the District continue to use outside agency substitute teachers and will substitute teachers receive safety protocol training?

Answer:

The district uses ESS for substitute teachers and other employee groups. Our HR director has been working closely with ESS to prepare for the school year. Our substitutes will be required to complete the same training that our contracted staff members are required to complete.

HEALTH MONITORING

Question:

What study was reviewed that shows temperature screenings were ineffective? Many places of employment, gyms, and hair salons are doing the temperature screenings.

Answer:

This recommendation came from the Bucks County Department of Health and was based on the data of Bucks County cases.

Question:

Do you think it's premature to open when one irresponsible parent can send a child that has been exposed to school and potentially shut down the school or district should that child initiate a viral cluster which would also cause more harm than good when children once again have to be ripped out of school when some parents may have just secured new employment to which they cannot leave or worse cause irreparable harm to others trusting in this decision?

Answer:

Again, the administration relies on the guidance of the Bucks County DOH, PDE, the CDC, and the state and not personal research. If the recommendation of these groups is for schools to close, then we will

more than likely follow that recommendation. Currently (as of July 25), the recommendation is to open school with precautions and safety measures in place.

Question:

You noted that the CDC guidelines state that if a child is around someone that has been exposed to a positive or around a diagnosed positive person that as long as they were not less than 10 feet for more than 10 minutes they are allowed to continue attending school. Do you think the data behind that guideline, if any, which I admit I have never seen, is a benefit that outweighs the risk? One child lost is too many. One person lost is too many.

Answer:

Again, this guidance comes from our local DOH. "A close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated." The sources is here: [HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan](#)

Question:

As a parent, I think I would have felt a whole lot better if I knew for a fact that the boards decisions were not being made out of their own personal opinion, speculation or with the other 22 schools in our surrounding conference are doing. I would feel much better if the schools consulted with a panel of non-biased unaffiliated pediatricians, psychologists, mental health counselors, academic advisers, professors, teachers, etc. Anything more than making a significant decision for the lives of children that are not yours based on your personal opinion, interpretation of the viral projection of this disease or what everybody else is doing in our surrounding districts would make me feel better when you are deciding the fate of my child that I absolutely want back in school because it is necessary. Has the district even contacted or consulted and posted the findings of any conversation with pediatric immunologists and virologists specific to our region? I'm curious of the findings and what they would suggest the board does.

Answer:

Our recommendations come from public health experts, including the local and state Departments of Health as well as the CDC. Our superintendent confers with Bucks County superintendents multiple times per week and with a four-county group of superintendents at least once as week. We are not operating in a vacuum.

Question:

What happens when Sesame Place opens and all the New York/New Jersey people stay here, used our atms, restaurants, hotels, stores etc... and cases go up?

Answer:

If the governor, PDE, and/or the DOH recommends or requires that we close schools, we will.

Question:

What are the specific steps that will be taken when a student, teacher, or administrator 1) has illness-related symptoms, 2) is awaiting covid test results, and 3) receives a positive test result? Who will be notified when and by what method? What are the expectations for all people who have been in contact with that person?

Answer:

This is addressed in the Health Monitoring section of our plan, pages 24 through 27.

Question:

I would also like the district to revisit temperature checks on arrival especially at the elementary level. In my experience, it has been quite common for children in our district (elementary age) to be dropped off at school sick because some parents do not have any other options for child care. I have no doubt that those same parents who are in that kind of situation will do the same thing this fall and winter, but the consequences will be more severe. Again, I don't think this is an issue at middle school and high school levels as these children can stay home alone if ill. I do believe a system can be put in place that wouldn't bottleneck students to get this done efficiently each morning if it became part of the routine once they entered their classroom. Less damage would be done if the fever was caught at the beginning of the day then throughout the day.

Answer:

We rely on the DOH recommendations as well as CDC. CDC's latest guidance on this is here: Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations. The current recommendation from both levels is not to have the school screen upon entry.

Question:

Will parents be immediately notified if a classmate/teacher has COVID? If they quarantine, will they need to show proof that they tested negative before returning like other city agencies?

Answer:

DOH will determine who needs notification. Any teacher or staff member who tests positive would need clearance from the DOH or a medical professional. They will determine the criteria (e.g. negative testing).

Question:

Have you considered having the families that are opting for in-person instruction to quarantine the 2 weeks before the first day of school?

Answer:

This is not part of the current guidance from PDE and the DOH.

Question:

I would like to know how you will handle it if even one student gets sick. They will have to quarantine for 14 days. What happens to the rest of the class and the teacher regarding contact tracing. Will they all have to quarantine? Will the teacher get paid for having to stay home for 14 days all because just one student gets sick/tests positive?

Answer:

This is addressed in the Health Monitoring section of our plan, pages 24 through 27. This reviews the procedure for contact tracing and quarantining.

POTENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSURES

Question:

Also, for those students that physically go to Pennsbury SD for the fall 2020 what happens when a student gets COVID 19? Does the school itself close down, or the school district?

Answer:

We will take direction from the DOH about the need to close schools. However, it is unlikely that the infection of a single student would lead to the DOH recommending the closure of the District

Question:

Will distance learning be implemented at that time for the quarantined school or school district at that time?

Answer:

Yes, if an emergency school closure is recommended by the DOH, the District will implement virtual learning. This would be a more rigorous model than what was implemented last Spring.

MISCELLANEOUS

Question:

Will there be a refund of some portion of school taxes?

Answer:

At this time, there is no plan to refund taxes.

Question:

Can PHS provide a letter to me stating that they will be accountable if my son gets exposed to COVID for pursuing to reopen schools even if we see surge in cases?

Answer:

No, we will not provide such a letter. However, if you are uncomfortable with sending your child to school, you do have an option for entirely online learning.

Question:

My only question is how are you going guarantee my child's safety???

Answer:

If you are uncomfortable with sending your child to school, you do have an option for entirely online learning

Question:

We know that many enhancements like field trips, assemblies and other activities will be prohibited. Are there ways that we can rally Pennsbury partners and families to provide content support, virtual speakers, etc?

Answer:

We would be more than happy to partner with families and Pennsbury Partners for virtual opportunities for our students. We appreciate this unique suggestion.

Question:

If day cares are open everyday why cant't regular school be? School age children should be able to practice social distancing and good hygiene better then day care children.

Answer:

While we cannot address the specific situation of each day care, the capacity of our buildings do not allow us to have all students present and social distant at six feet.

Question:

Can we utilize the outside space for outdoor instruction (weather permitting)? I'm sure we can rally and get donations for tents. As a parent, I would be happy to help set up/take down. This would eliminate the need for children to be inside all day. Feel we need to be creative and this would eliminate the lack of clean ventilation Inside schools for teachers, staff and children. My children are Afton and William Penn.

The middle schools have plenty of outside space. Again, I'm Not a teacher, scientist or doctor and I know this doesn't solve all the problems and may create more issues - just a friendly thought.

Answer:

On pages 14 and 15 on the plan we do discuss uses outside areas. Thank you for offering to support us!