

Back to School Plan

July 23, 2020

Mask Clarification

The PA Departments of Health and Education this afternoon jointly issued its *"Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools."* That guidance can be found on the PDE website at - <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>. This new guidance appears to modify earlier statements contained in the DOH Order, and PDE's July 3, 2020 guidance on the the face covering requirement in schools, regarding the ability to ask for medical documentation to support an employee's or student's request to be exempted from wearing face coverings in schools.

Medical Condition "loophole" - The DOH Order provides individuals can be exempted from wearing face coverings, if they *"cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, mental health condition or disability."* The DOH Order, and the July 3, 2020 PDE Guidance for Schools, both stated that *"individuals are not required to show documentation"* to demonstrate they suffer from a medical condition that triggers this exception. That prohibition against the need to show supporting documentation created concern that school district would be powerless to question suspicious claims from employees or students that medical conditions prevent them from wear face coverings in schools.

Substantiating Medical Need for an Exemption – The *"Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools"* issued this afternoon walks back the above statements that school districts cannot ask employees or students for medical documentation to support any exemption claims for the face covering requirement while in school. Specifically, this new guidance provides as follows:

Mask Cont...

- **School Staff** – The new guidance states school staff *"must wear a face covering (mask or face shield) unless they have a medical or mental condition or disability, **documented in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act**, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in a school."* As explained below, the American with Disabilities Act ("ADA") permits employers to ask employee to produce medical documentation to support any requests for workplace accommodations.
- **Students** – The new guidance states *"children...are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental condition or disability, **documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA**, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in a school."* Again, both Section 504 and IDEA permit school officials to ask for medical documentation to demonstrate a student's need for an exemption from any face covering requirement.

Bottom line, the "Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools" issued this afternoon provides a basis for school officials to ask for medical documentation to support an individual's claim that he/she can wear a face covering while in school for medical reasons.

Phone Survey (In addition to an online survey)

- Parental contact made to collect hard data

1070 total students on survey sheet

Face to Face -383 yes, 84 no, 603 no response recorded

Attend Virtually- 102 yes, 60, no, 897 no response recorded

Internet Access-214 yes, 13 no, 843 no response recorded

Bus- 263 -yes, 173- no, 643 no response recorded

Options to be considered by the Board

- Regular School Day- (Green/Yellow) Measures in place to limit transitions
 - Self contained at elementary and middle schools
 - Limit/ prohibit locker use
 - Staggered/ lunch in classrooms
- Hybrid- (Green/ Yellow)
 - Split district in half/ will help to promote social distancing in classrooms
 - Alternate days by region
 - Students will attend in person/ and remotely
 - Attending with siblings will help parents/ child care
- Remote Learning-
 - Live instruction w/teachers
 - Students to follow a regular schedule
 - Synchronous (Live) instruction
 - Student Support/ Teacher Planning will be built into school day
 - Will help with social/ emotional issue

What are we planning for????

- On-Line (Remote) Virtual Instruction -
 - Live synchronous instruction, via Zoom, Google Meet
 - Regular student schedules(meeting times)
 - Regular grading scale
- Hybrid Model- Students will attend by region
 - Two days per week/ per group physically in attendance
 - Two days per week/ per group students will attend remotely
 - 1 day per week all students attend remotely (Deep Cleaning Day by Custodial Staff)
 - Social distancing will easier to achieve to ensure student/ staff safety

Students will have the option to learn remotely regardless of the phase we are in

Additional planning items...

- We would like to provide parent trainings and tutorials to support our parents and guardians
 - Virtual trainings,(In person if possible)
 - Recorded for reference
 - Handouts
- Easier access/ navigation for students
 - More consistent across district/ per school/ grade
- Notification to school community
 - Will be subject to change
 - Distributed after Board discussion

Professional Development

- I credit staff for what they accomplished with little notice by changing their instructional delivery model last school year
- Surveys-Parent, student, teacher feedback
 - More live instruction-face to face
 - Consistency with delivery, design
 - Parent training on Google
 - PD for virtual instruction/ Google Suite
- Improvement for 2020-2021
- Modern Teacher
 - PD focused on Virtual and Blended Instruction
 - Seamless Transition between classroom, virtual, and blended
 - Enhanced learning with rigor, alignment to standards, and personalization
 - Consistency throughout the district for virtual and blended instruction

Professional Development Cont...

Viewsonic Viewboard

- Face to Face Interaction via webcam
- Share teacher's screen for instructional purposes
- Host a live Q and A session
- Record a lesson to be viewed later with parent/ or for review
- Manage resources
- Import lessons and documents

Proposed Calendar Change

- We are going to recommend moving the start of school back a week
 - Provide additional professional development time for teachers
 - Training opportunities for parents and students
 - Technology distribution if needed
 - Additional planning for transition periods throughout the year
 - Brick and Mortar
 - Hybrid
 - Remote

Phased School Reopening

Health and Safety Plan Template

Each school entity must create a Health and Safety Plan which will serve as the local guidelines for all instructional and non- instructional school reopening activities. As with all emergency plans, the Health and Safety Plan developed for each school entity should be tailored to the unique needs of each school and should be created in consultation with local health agencies. Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, each plan should incorporate enough flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. The templates provided in this toolkit can be used to document a school entity's Health and Safety Plan, with a focus on professional learning and communications, to ensure all stakeholders are fully informed and prepared for a local phased reopening of school facilities. A school entity's Health and Safety Plan must be approved by its governing body and posted on the school entity's publicly available website prior to the reopening of school. School entities should also consider whether the adoption of a new policy or the modification of an existing policy is necessary to effectively implement the Health and Safety Plan.

Each school entity should continue to monitor its Health and Safety Plan throughout the year and update as needed. All revisions should be reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the school entity's public website.



School Plan for Employees, staff, and students

Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools

This page was created on July 16, 2020

- Employee, student screening, monitoring guidelines
- Return to school/ work guidelines
- Attendance Policy adjustments
- Cleaning, Disinfecting
- Communication/ Awareness
- Visitor/ staff
- Cafeterias
- Transportation

*This resource draws on a resource created by the **Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)** that is based on official guidance from multiple sources to include: the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, **the White House**, **American Academy of Pediatrics**, Learning Policy Institute, American Enterprise Institute, Rutgers Graduate School of Education, the World Health Organization, the Office of the Prime Minister of Norway as well as the departments of education/health and/or offices of the governor for Idaho, Montana, New York, Texas and Washington, DC*

Example School Symptom Screening Tool- Employee/ student

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
Fever (100.4 or higher) Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing	Sore throat Runny nose/congestion Chills New lack of smell or taste Muscle pain Nausea or Vomiting Headache Diarrhea

Stay home if, you or the student:

Have one or more symptoms in Group A **OR** Have two or more symptoms in Group B **OR** Are taking fever reducing medication.

Pre-K to 12 schools are reminded to contact local DOH or CMHD staff before acting in response to a known or suspected communicable disease. Call DOH at 1-877-PA Health (1-877-724-3258); a representative is on-call 24 hours a day. Pre-K to 12 schools located in a jurisdiction with a CMHD should call the CMHD. DOH and CMHDs will provide guidance to schools regarding disease information, appropriate letters and communications, identification of high-risk individuals, appropriate action and treatment, and on-going support and assistance.

- If the person is present on school property when DOH or CMHD staff notify the school of the positive case information, the person should immediately, but discreetly, be taken to the COVID-19 related isolation space for pick up (if student) or asked to return home (if staff).
 - Establish procedures for safely transporting home sick individuals.
- Contact DOH or the CMHD for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.
- The entire building does not need to be evacuated.
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If not feasible, wait as long as possible. If seven days have passed since the sick individual was in the affected area, cleaning is not needed.
- Close off areas used by the sick person and do not use again before cleaning and disinfecting. Follow [CDC Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)

Changes to guidance...

Summary of Recent Changes

Updates as of July 20, 2020

- A test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except in certain circumstances.
- Symptom-based criteria were modified as follows:
 - Changed from “at least 72 hours” to “at least 24 hours” have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - Changed from “improvement in respiratory symptoms” to “improvement in symptoms” to address expanding list of symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- For patients with severe illness, duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset may be warranted. Consider consultation with infection control experts.
- For persons who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

Last Updated July 20, 2020

Direction to open for 2020-2021

- Regular School Day- (Green/Yellow)
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