

Community Forum: August 13, 2020

- 1. It is estimated that 20% of the population has covid antibodies, but only 12% of the health care workers do. This provides evidence that masks are effective. We have to operate on that premise**
- 2. I have adjusted some questions to remove specific names.**
- 3. I arranged the questions by topic and have selected just one question to add to this presentation.**
- 4. Some questions are very specific and if I have not answered them, please contact your child's principal.**
- 5. Use the chat feature at the bottom of your screen if you would like to ask a follow up question and I will get to them if there is time.**

Masks

- Will masks be supplied by the school?
 - *Students may wear their personal cloth mask if they choose. Any student that comes to school without a mask will be provided with a disposable mask. I suspect students will want to have their own mask that they can reuse each day, but we have a supply of adult and child masks ready to go. (p. 16)*
- Are face shields acceptable?
 - *According to Onondaga County's Dr. Gupta, masks and social distancing are the best way to prevent contracting covid-19. Face shields don't protect as well and in some cases may spray any potential virus spread to the sides.*
- How long will students have to wear masks?
 - *With the fact that the health care professionals working directly with patients with COVID-19 contracted the virus less than the general population, this proves that masks and other PPE have been effective in protecting us all. When it is safe during instruction, the teacher may allow students to complete their work with masks removed.*

Medical Issues

- Almost all of the COVID symptoms can be caused by something else. If my child has a sore throat, headache, or runny nose (which are very common) I'm concerned they will be seen as a possible COVID case and have to be quarantined. How are those who are simply sick with the sniffles going to be treated during this time?
 - If a student is sent home for any illness related reason including a fever it will be recommended they follow up with their PCP or convenient care, however, we can not make them do so. If they are NOT seen, they can not return until symptom-free for 24 hours. If they are seen, the provider will determine if testing is necessary or not. If it is NOT recommended, the provider determines when

they may return to school. This may be immediate if they are diagnosed with say allergies or it may be days depending on symptoms. In this case, a note will be provided by the provider. The school policy still stands in regards to fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

- What will happen if a child's temperature is slightly above normal? Will the child be sent home?
 - A child with a temperature above 100 will have to go to the Health Office and will have to remain in the Isolation Room until a ride is available. When their parent or proxy arrives, the child will be escorted to the Visitor Center.
- Is COVID testing going to be required?
 - At this time, covid testing will not be required to attend school. Onondaga County is working directly with schools to test staff and some students, but Cortland County has not discussed anything with the local schools at this time.
- Is a vaccine going to be required?
 - When a vaccine is developed and is authorized by the FDA, I expect that it will be required to attend school.
- Would students be required to quarantine while waiting for results? What is the plan if a student presents with symptoms? If a student or teacher has a positive test, how long is required to quarantine or would negative tests results be needed prior to returning to school?
 - If testing is recommended and is negative, the student may return 24 hours after symptoms subside. If a student test positive OR has been exposed to a person who has tested positive, they go on "watch" with the DOH. In this case, they would receive a public health order to either quarantine with an end date for exposure to the virus or isolate if they themselves test positive. Isolation does not have an end date, this ends depending on symptoms. Any exposure to the virus results in a 14-day quarantine no matter the signs or symptoms. Students may be completely symptom-free, but will still be excluded from school for the 14 days. Because proof of a health care visit is not required, our screening procedures will be key. Students with ANY signs or symptoms of illness MUST be excluded from school. (and will receive remote instruction)

Quarantine

- If a child is diagnosed with COVID after being allowed in the classroom, will the whole class be required to quarantine?
 - Parents will be notified that there is a positive case in the classroom, school will be closed for at least 24 hours, the Teachers and students will have to follow instructions from the County Health Department, and rooms will be disinfected by the District Custodial Staff

- What is the plan if/when there is a positive case in the school?
 - Parents will be notified that there is a positive case in the classroom, school will be closed for at least 24 hours, the Teachers and students will have to follow instructions from the County Health Department, and rooms will be disinfected by the District Custodial Staff

- How will children be tested and where, if they need to be due to COVID-19.
 - PCP's will determine the need for testing and provide information to families on testing locations.

- As a parent, I want to be notified if there are kids in the school that have been tested positive.
 - Parents will be notified if there is a positive case per guidance.

Contact Tracing Plan

- What will happen if a class has an exposure?
 - The Cortland County Health Department will be responsible for all contact tracing as they would any positive COVID case in Cortland County. They will work closely with the school district and family to identify all close contacts (those who came within 6 feet of the positive case for at least 15 minutes without a mask). Those individuals will be notified and issued quarantine orders.They will receive daily follow up from Cortland County staff members to monitor symptoms and ensure compliance. The Cortland County Health Department will provide the school district with guidance related to cleaning and disinfecting as well as additional testing of students and staff. School buildings will be shut down for at least 24 hours for cleaning and disinfecting, and so that contact tracing can be done by the County

Instruction

- If my child does not feel safe or comfortable and I choose to homeschool, will there be that option?
 - We have set up our rooms to maximize space so that children will feel safe in school. We understand that not all of the students will return to school for in-person learning. If families commit to virtual learning, they will have the option to return to in-person learning at the end of each marking period, which is about 10 weeks. If a child is attending school, and chooses to start virtual learning, that may be an option. We will visit that on a case by case basis.

- How is the school going to allow the students to have the socialization that the students so desperately need?
 - Students will be able to interact with their classmates during class (as appropriate), during lunch, on the bus, and at other times throughout the day. As the year progresses, we will continue to monitor our reopening plan and edit our procedures as much as able.

- If the school has to reduce the occupancy, will having K-6 go in the morning and 7-12 attend in the afternoon be considered so all students can attend school every day?
 - I like the idea of having everyone in school every day but this particular idea will not be an option as we have too many staff that are shared between the elementary school and the secondary school. This would violate the contracts we have with teachers or we would have to add staff and we are not in a position to do that. There would also be additional transportation needs as well as stressing our child care systems, or impacting a parent's ability to go to work.

- School supplies for my son's class, are we still getting everything and having them take it into the classrooms? Is my son going to be able to meet his teacher before school?

- Will Grade 1 instruction be via Google classroom or papers?
 - *Instructional materials for grades UPK - 6 will be delivered in paper format due to a shortage of chromebooks across the nation. Our suppliers do not have any although we have a standing order.*

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Who is cleaning common areas and how often?
 - Our Cincinnati Custodial Staff will do all of the cleaning each day. All shared facilities will be cleaned and sanitized after each use. When children leave a classroom in grades 7 - 12, the teacher will have the necessary supplies to disinfect high touch surfaces, desks, and chairs.
- What chemicals are being used to clean, if it will be applied with students in the rooms and what possible effect on student's health when they breathe it in daily (MSDS sheets per chemical be available online).
 - We use Oxivir five 16 at the recommended dilution by the CDC. This product is recommended by the CDC and the EPA for CoronaVirus disinfection. We have been using this product for many years at the District and we only use Green Products
 - Chemicals will not be used with students in the classroom. The teacher or maintenance staff will use sprays after/before students leave the room.

Lunch

- For students in grades UPK - 6, they will eat lunch in their classrooms or outside. We will have recess outside as much as the weather allows. We understand the need that students have to move, relax, and interact with their friends. In grades 7 - 12, students will be able to use the cafeteria, outdoor spaces, or the small gym if the weather does not permit being outdoors. Full capacity of the cafeteria will not be allowed, per NYSED guidance. It is also possible that some students may eat in classrooms in the 7 -12 building if there is proper supervision available. Meals will be grab and go and no sharing of food among students is the expectation.
- Where will children be eating In regards to drastic food allergies to ensure safety and an allergen free classroom?
 - *Each child with an allergy has a care plan and the adults that work with that child are aware of these plans. There are occasions where we educate the children in these classes as well and we have made requests that certain classrooms remain nut free, when needed.*

Physical Education

- How will PE classes work?

- Outdoors as long as the weather permits, no changing of clothes because we cannot use the locker rooms at this time, fitness skills, backyard games, life-long sporting activities, less emphasis right now on team sports, physical distance between students during aerobic activities (try to maintain 12 feet of distance)

Athletics

- Will we have fall sports?
 - *The New York State Public High School Athletic Association will make the decision by September 21. They posted a letter which is posted on our school website. They have also posted options for running the entire year of athletics from January to June which is outlined in their letter as well.*
- How will regulations at sporting events be enforced for everyone's safety?
 - *We will follow the recommendations from NYSPHSAA, the Department of Health, and the CDC when sports begin.*

Remote Learning

- Will my child be allowed to do remote learning?
 - *I encourage all students to attend school for in-person learning, but I understand that is not likely for September. Any child that chooses to participate in virtual learning will be allowed to do so. Children can reevaluate their decision at the end of each marking period and can choose in-person instruction approximately every 10 weeks.*
- Will I have to pick up the school work or will it be dropped off?
 - *We are still collecting information from our surveys to determine how many students are choosing virtual learning. We will deliver the work to our students in UPK - 6. Students in grades 7 - 12 will have chromebooks to start the school year. If there are connectivity issues, we may utilize thumb drives to transfer assignments from school to home and back. Arrangements will be made case by case for students who require thumb drives.*
- Once the COVID is over can I send my children back to school?
 - *Yes!!!!!!*
- Can I opt for one of my children to attend school and the other to be online?

- *Each child is unique and families can choose options that fit those needs. You can have one child choosing virtual learning and one child attend school in-person.*
- If I choose for my child to learn through the home learning program in September and the guidelines change or are lifted can I then switch them to in school learning?
 - If we are able to stop practicing social distancing, stop wearing masks in proximity to others and are cleared to move to 'Condition Green', I anticipate we would open our doors to all students.
- And if I choose in school learning am I able to change my mind and switch to the home learning program?
 - *We can move from In-person instruction to Virtual learning one time. However, we won't allow students to switch from virtual learning to in-person learning except at the end of each marking period.*

Transportation

- We live very close to the school and I am aware of the amount of drop-off and pick-up traffic daily. I believe that there should be a better plan for both drop-off and pick-up, so that parents do not need to park, exit the vehicle, or enter the building, unless necessary. Several neighboring schools have much smoother plans regarding drop-off and pick-up. I anticipate that the number of students being dropped off and picked up will be on the rise this year.
 - *We are working on a plan to have alternate drop off locations for this school year as we anticipate there will be a significant increase in parent drop offs for this year. That plan will be shared with the community when it is ready.*