



CSD14 School Re-opening Family Forum – August 2020 Frequently Asked Questions from Parents and Families

Dear D14 Families and Community Members,

We appreciated your participation and engagement in the D14 Family Forum. My team and I partnered with our CEC 14 and with D14 Presidents' Council in the efforts to deliver to you the updates and information all families are eager to access.

In response to the questions you have asked, we have prepared this FAQ document which will be updated weekly with new information we are receiving from the NYC DOE and from schools. Please continue emailing us your questions at askatD14@gmail.com

Soon, you will receive an invitation to the North Brooklyn Family Forum and we will have one for District 14 in the following weeks to provide you with updates, ask for your feedback, and partner with you in our September reopening efforts.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, your feedback and your active participation in our schools' efforts to successfully reopen in September.

*Yours truly,
Alicja Winnicki, Superintendent*

Busing/Transportation:

Q. I would like to know how safe the bus ride will be for students. I been in two meetings with the Chancellor Mr. Carranza and they have not spoken about busing safety and measures.

A. Consistent with State-issued public transit guidance, protocols and procedures, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on any DOE school transport vehicle (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated), and should maintain appropriate social distancing, unless they are members of the same household. Protocols and procedures will include how DOE school transport vehicles will be adapted to keep students and staff safe (e.g., how face coverings will be provided to students in need, how members of the same household will be seated together, how social distancing will be conducted on buses, whether bus schedules will be adapted to accommodate reduced capacity, whether any health screening will be conducted at home before students board buses, and how parents/legal guardians will be encouraged to drop off or walk students to reduce density on buses).

In the event that a child does not have a face covering when attempting to board a bus, protective face coverings will be available for distribution at the bus door inside the bus. Social distancing requirements will reduce the typical school bus capacity to approximately 25% of its normal operating passenger capacity. The only exception to this will be students from the same household who will be seated with each other and will still be required to wear face masks. Seating on the bus will be clearly marked to designate which seats may be used and which seats will be blocked off for social distancing. Families will be notified prior to the start of school as to what the seat designators will look like so that they can instruct their children prior to boarding the bus. Wherever possible, individual bus route rosters will be scrutinized to attempt to seat individuals in proximity to the rear emergency exit that are capable of operating it. Parents should screen their children prior to boarding a bus to make certain that their child is well enough to board a bus and attend school, which may include temperature checks as needed. Bus personnel will not be administering screening prior to buses being boarded. All DOE school transportation vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected each day using CDC recommended cleaning and disinfection protocols, the specifics of which will be provided to parents prior to the start of school. Parents will need to read these specifics prior to the start of school to assure that the materials being utilized will not have an adverse reaction on their children. Upon arrival at a destination where a passenger(s) will be exiting the bus, the bus operator/aide will direct students to exit one row at a time in order to avoid students from being in close proximity to one another. Students exiting a bus at school should continue to wear their face covering. Each individual school will establish specific procedures for students as to where/how they are to assemble, and these specifics will be communicated by the individual schools prior to the start of school.

Q. Are any alternative transportation options being given to families with students who commute via public transportation? This is an increased risk population due to subway/bus crowding.

A. While it is widely recognized that the current pandemic presents unique challenges to providing school bus service and that it may not be possible to provide service in all cases, to the extent possible, DOE will provide school transportation, as required, to include all public, non-public, charter schools, students with special needs and students in temporary housing situations. Because of this unique situation, it may not be possible to provide transportation through a conventional mode such as a bus, and may require other modes to be employed to satisfy transportation needs, such as MetroCard. Likewise, this also applies to any after-school transportation needs as well. The DOE is actively engaged in a complex routing exercise that is attempting to account for new parameters around a mix of socially distanced in-person learning and remote learning... In recognizing the impact of this pandemic, the DOE is recommending that families, wherever possible, help reduce the number of students in need of busing by either transporting their children to school on their own, walking, or biking. In cases where parents are utilizing public transit to transport their children, families should have their children wear a face covering and practice social distancing while en route to and returning home from school to the extent possible.

Childcare:

Q. Will there be centers for students that can't stay home?

A. From City's RFP to DYCD: "The City of New York ("the City") is seeking to create additional opportunities for supervised out-of-home time for 100,000 preschool and school aged children to complement NYC's partial school and early childhood education reopening for the 2020-2021 School Year."

Facilities:

Q. What measures will be taken for cleaning the school?

A. Daily daytime disinfecting checking bathrooms, handrails, door knobs, touch surfaces, vending machine buttons, elevator buttons.

Night time disinfecting high touch surfaces, light switches, restrooms fixtures, partitions, student desks, chairs, we are also providing custodians with electrostatic sprayers.

Q. Will a HEPA Air Filtration system be installed in every classroom, office and general use spaces?

A. Not at this time, however upgrade of filters on HVAC equipment has been completed.

Q. Will sanitizing stations be provided outdoors?

A. Teachers will be provided with bottles of hand sanitizers.

Q. Where will the excess furniture be stored?

A. Furniture does not need to be removed. Can be neatly in the corner of the room, in cases chairs can be moved and tables left. Depends on the school.

Q. Will sanitizer stations be provided for all corridors and classrooms?

A. Yes

Q. Will hand-washing stations be installed for rooms that do not have a bathroom inside or near by?

A. There is a strong focus on repairing all hand-washing sinks.

Q. Will partitions or barriers be installed in the main office, safety desk?

A. Yes, they are in the process of being shipped,

Q. Will PPE supplies be provided all school year for students and staff?

A. Yes custodian will have all supplies.

Q. What disinfectants and cleansers will be used? What are the cleaning procedures?

A. All CDC approved disinfectants top combat COVID-19.

Q. Knowing that cleaning staff is short staffed, how can we ensure that every single classroom, nook and cranny of the building will be thoroughly cleaned every night?

A. Electrostatic spraying, cleaning of all horizontal surfaces and desks and chairs , light switches, door knobs.

Q. What ventilation work has been done within the school building? Is the work on target for completion? When will the work be completed? Please distribute communication regarding plans and work completed to school families.

A. Window repairs, supply and exhaust on HVAC equipment, upgrading of filters on HVAC equipment to Merv. 13.

Q. A large majority of our school families are not confident in the custodial work undertaken within the school buildings. What accountability measures will be put in place to ensure that increased sanitation requirements and protocols are being met/followed?

A. Disinfecting will be logged and monitored closely by Custodians and Deputy Director of Facilities.

Health and Safety:

Q. Will staff be tested prior to opening and how often will they be tested?

A. All School staff will be asked to get testing in the days leading up to school opening with expedited results. They will be asked to test monthly.

Q. Will the students be tested for covid-19 and/or anti-body?

A. If students have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 then they will be asked to get tested.

Q. What will happen if there is a student that is infected?

A. If a confirmed case is present, NYC Health will investigate and all those in close contact will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Students will continue remote learning during any self-quarantine period

Q. How and who will monitor the infected student?

A. Schools will have a school based team that will respond to health concerns

Q. If the student tested positive for covid during the pandemic, would they need a clearance letter to return back to school?

A. Specifics are still being worked out

Q. If someone test positive during school what is the protocol after that? Will the school close for cleaning? Does the student quarantine, will the teacher and classmates have to quarantine? What will be done on the schools end to stop the spread?

A. If a student begins experiencing symptoms in school, they will be isolated and monitored by a dedicated staff member until they are picked up by their family. Staff members who become

symptomatic at school are asked to immediately leave the building. If a medically documented case is present, NYC Health will investigate and all those in close contact will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Students will continue remote learning during any self-quarantine period. In some cases NYC Health Dept may deem it necessary to have the entire school self-quarantine.

Q. Who will monitor and assure parents that the children will be washing their hands and keeping to themselves?

A. School staff will monitor students.

Q. Accommodations can be made for students who cannot wear a mask because of asthma or sensory issues? Partitions? Barriers?

A. Accommodations will be made depending on the medical or developmental needs of students.

Q. Will students who cannot wear a mask be allowed to come to school with a face shield only?

A. All staff and students will be required to wear face coverings.

Q. Will dividers and partitions (ex. plexiglass or other) be provided for students' individual desks in every single classroom, as well as for large areas where multiple groups of students could be?

A. Students and staff are asked to maintain six feet of physical distance throughout the day.

Q. What if a student refuses to wear a mask or keep social distancing?

A. The school will work with the guardian to ensure full cooperation.

Q. What if a student weaponizes the threat of the virus by spitting on students and teachers?

A. The school is equipped with multiple guidance interventions to address various incidents and the NYCDOE Citywide Behavioral expectations is designed to address issues like spitting if they arise.

Q. What happens to students who are defiant of protocols? Will they be dismissed from school? Will parents be called to retrieve their student?

A. Safety is our priority, issues of non-adherence to protocols will be addressed on an individual basis.

Q. Will CDC/Federal guidelines be followed? Are these guidelines interpreted by NYC DOH and implemented within schools?

A. The DOE is working in tight coordination with DOHMH to identify, isolate, and prevent spread of COVID-19.

Q. Will thermal scanning be required for all individuals entering the building daily – students and staff? Who will be responsible for checking temperatures?

A. Screenings on all staff, student and visitors will be done. The DOE is still working on the particulars.

Q. If someone's temperature is too high, will they be immediately turned away? What happens to students who walk to school alone?

A. The DOE is still working on this, but no students should be turned away

Q. What are the protocols and procedures for required student movement around the building? For example, bathroom use... For elementary school aged children, will students be escorted/monitored to ensure that they are practicing social distancing, mask use, hygiene?

A. Schools will redesign building movement protocols to keep people in cohorts and allow for physical distancing. Schools are being required, to the extent feasible, to:

- ✓ Designate one-way direction stairwells and single file routes
- ✓ Address elevator usage policies
- ✓ Requiring students to stay on campus during lunch periods

Q. What will school arrival/dismissal look like? Will sidewalks and/or streets be closed to allow for safe distancing while students await entry into the building?

A. The DOE is discussing this issue with DOT. The guideline is to maintain 6 feet of distance at all time

Q. What will be protocols for visitors to the building? Will visits be limited? How will their presence be tracked should there be concerns with a particular individual's health ?

A. It is strongly recommended that nonessential visitors do not enter the school building. Schools should limit the frequency and duration of all other visits.

Scheduling

Q. Will the entire district be on the same schedule? Many families have several students in district schools.

A. Schools will collaborate with the SLTs and parents on identifying a program model that can best accommodate all students attending a blended learning model and students attending full remote learning, while adhering to all city and state guidelines regarding square footage required for social distancing. The model and corresponding schedule chosen by schools will depend on the number of students participating in blended learning, full remote learning and the space available in each building.

Q. Parents are concerned with scheduling and keeping up with both in person and remote learning. Will students have two different teachers, one for in-person and one for remote learning?

A. Students engaged in remote learning will, for the most part, be taught by teachers from their school community. While there may be limited exceptions on a school-by-school basis, parents can expect their children to be assigned teachers from their school community when they receive their children's full schedules before the school year begins.

Q. How many days will they attend school? What will the daily program for students look like?

A. Schools will post class schedules and schedules for live instruction for all students—those fully remote as well as those participating in blended learning—online. You will have access to these schedules in advance so you can plan your work and family commitments. Schools will also ensure students have sufficient time for high-quality interactions with their teachers and classmates.

Q. Will there be any group work/collaboration?

A. On in-person days, students will have the opportunity for whole class, small group, and individual work and collaboration with classmates and teachers.

School Foods

Q. Will the lunchroom tables have dividers or will students be eating in classrooms to maintain their separate cohort status, as masks obviously cannot be worn while eating?

A. OFNS is working with each school to develop a plan that fits its needs. Meals will be grab and go style and students will either eat in classrooms or cafeteria, depending on capacity etc.

Q. If students have to eat in the classroom, will this mean increased cleaning of the classroom because of food and increased likelihood of bugs in the classrooms which will need to be treated?

A. Yes. Note that there is already experience with this given that many school already have breakfast in the classroom.

Q. How will hot lunch (and access to free/reduced lunch meals) be handled for students if lunch is eaten in the classroom?

A. Meals will be grab and go style, not on a serving line. All meals are free to all students, all the time.

Q. Will the usual menu of choices be available?

A. A grab and go menu will be published closer to September

Q. Will meals be delivered to students in the classroom and who will be doing the delivery?

A. OFNS is working with each school to develop a plan that fits its needs. Meals will be grab and go style and students will either eat in classrooms or cafeteria, depending on capacity etc.

Q. How will lunch be scheduled?

A. Lunch scheduling has always been, and will remain, a school function, not OFNS,

Special Education

We received several questions regarding special education and are waiting for the release of guidelines from the Department of Education. We will update the FAQ document once guidelines are released.