



News & Updates

Compiled by Elsa Nuñez, D14 Field Support Liaison and Lydia Ruiz-Ferreira, D14 Family Support Coordinator

October 8, 2020

Dear D14 Parents and Family Members,

Last week marked the “last” First Day of School for our students whose families opted in for blended, in-person learning in elementary, middle and high schools. For all of us this school year is different and unprecedented.

I wanted to thank each one of you for your patience and support during the reopening phases and for your love and dedication to your schools.

Our principals, teachers and staff members have been working hard to provide the best student and teacher schedules for the remote and blended learning cohorts. We are examining instructional resources for all students and making them accessible for students and families. Our Parent Coordinators and many of you have attended workshops about the new guidance on holding PA/PTA Elections (please see below for the opportunity to attend one on Friday).

Safety and health are in the forefront of the planning for in-person student cohorts and staff. Our schools have been revising and updating their safety plans and Building Response Teams are trained and responsible for following all safety and health protocols. Principals inform families in a timely fashion about any COVID-19 related occurrences in their schools. Our schools have plans to “go fully remote” in case the Mayor or the Governor decide to close schools due to increased COVID-19 cases in the immediate neighborhood.

My team is assisting individual schools in obtaining additional devices for students that need them. The DOE ordered 100,000 more devices to ensure that every student has access to technology. In partnership with the



Brooklyn North Borough Central Office, we are also working on developing a series of workshops for our families. The use of technology, Title I and SLT trainings, understanding special education and evaluation process will be some topics available to our district families.

I am asking you to continue offering us your feedback by sending an email to askatD14@gmail.com

Please review the information and resources below. Lydia Ruiz-Ferreira, the D14 Family Support Coordinator compiled them for you in response to questions we received. Do not hesitate to contact her if you need help or assistance. You may contact her at LRuizFerreira@schools.nyc.gov

I want to thank our CEC 14 and the Presidents’ Council for lifting your concerns to my team and to me. We are District 14 Strong!

Yours truly,

Alicja Winnicki, Superintendent

Brooklyn Family Welcome Center:

The Brooklyn Family Welcome Center office at Brooklyn Tech has closed. Families in Districts 14, 19, 23 & 32 who need assistance from the Family Welcome Center can email them at the following email address: stmarksFWC@schools.nyc.gov. **All Family Welcome Centers are still currently closed and are functioning online only.**

Free and Low-Cost Internet Options

There are several free or low-cost internet options available to New York City students and families:

Comcast – Offering free public Wi-Fi for 60 Days to families who do not have a subscription already.

Call: 1-855-846-8376 for English Enrollment

Call: 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish Enrollment

<https://corporate.comcast.com/press/releases/internet-essentials-low-income-broadband-coronavirus-pandemic>

Charter Communications/Spectrum - Charter will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps.

Call: 1-844-488-8395

<https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>

Charter offers **Spectrum Internet Assists**, a plan that starts at \$14.99/month. To qualify, one or more members of your household must be a recipient of one of the following assistance programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the NSLP
- Supplemental Security Income (for applicants age 65+ only)

<https://www.spectrum.com/browse/content/spectrum-internet-assist>

Altice USA - Altice offers Altice Advantage, a plan that starts at \$14.99/month. For households with K-12 and/or college students who may be displaced due to school closures and who do not currently have home internet

access, we are offering our Altice Advantage 30 Mbps broadband solution for free for 60 days to any new customer household within our footprint.

To qualify, you must be:

- ✓ eligible for--or participate in--the National School Lunch Program (NSLP); or
- ✓ a New York City resident who attends a New York City public school; or
- ✓ eligible for--or receive--Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and 65 years of age or older; or
- ✓ a veteran and receive state or federal public assistance.

Call: 866 – 200 – 9522 to enroll in Optimum Region

Call: 888 – 633 – 0030 to enroll in Suddenlink Region

<https://www.alticeadvantageinternet.com/>

Verizon - Verizon offers the Lifeline Program, a plan that starts at \$19.99/month. To qualify:

- ✓ Your annual income is at 135% or less than of the U.S. federal poverty guidelines
- ✓ You, or someone in your household, participates in a qualifying federal assistance program:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as food stamps), or
 - Medicaid, or
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Tribal Programs (and live on federally-recognized Tribal lands)

For more eligibility information,

visit <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/do-i-qualify/#programs>

Free Internet Sites in NYC

There are many places across the city where you can connect to internet for free. Locations include:

- ✓ All branches of the New York Public Library – <https://www.nycgo.com/attractions/new-york-public-library/>
- ✓ Several public spaces in Lower Manhattan - <https://www.downtownny.com/wifi>
- ✓ LinkNYC kiosks - <https://www.link.nyc/>

Meal Service

Beginning on Tuesday, September 29, students learning in-person will receive both breakfast and lunch in school. For students who are learning remotely full-time or students who are at home during their remote days in blended learning, families can pick up free grab-and-go meals from whatever school is most convenient to them from 9am to Noon, Monday through Friday. No signup or registration is necessary, and meals will be set up near entry points for easy access and pickup by students and families.

In addition, **Grab & Go meals for NYC adults** will also continue at approx. 200 sites across the city- including some dedicated kosher locations and those serving the halal protein options - and the info is available at nyc.gov/getfood or the DOE website. Meals will be available from 3pm to 5pm, Monday through Friday. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/contact/services/COVID-19FoodAssistance.shtml>.

PA/PTA Virtual Elections Guidance

PA/PTA Virtual Election Guidance

Please be reminded that PA/PTA Virtual Guidance has been issued. You may find this and other helpful documents in the PA/PTA Resource folder on the DOE website.

https://nycdoe.sharepoint.com/sites/FACESupports/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FFACESupports%2FShared%20Documents%2FPA%2DPTA&p=true&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9ueWNkb2Uuc2hhcmVwb2ludC5jb20vOmY6L3MvRkFDRVN1cHBvcnRzL0VvYTI2cVpuNEtaSmp6eFNzZ3ZiZ0NRQnNyZVNzc0xla0tUVkpRN1NuZTFoVWc_cnrpbWU9T20weVZqQnAyRWc

The next training will be held on Friday Oct. 9th at 5PM.

Please [click this link](#) to join the webinar. The passcode is: 285745

You may also join via telephone (dial either number listed below, based on your current location):

646-558-8656, 301-715-8592, 312-626-6799, 253-215-8782, 346-248-7799, 346-248-7799,

Webinar ID: 868 6762 4172

Passcode: 285745

Health & Safety

Daily Health Screenings - As always, the health and safety of our students, families, and school staff remain our top priority. All DOE employees, students, families and visitors seeking to enter DOE buildings must complete a health screening before entering DOE facilities. This health screening must be completed on each day of arrival and results will reset at midnight of each day. Upon entering the facility you will be asked to provide the results of your screening either by showing your phone or a printout of the result. Everyone is encouraged to use the Online Health Screening Tool.

DOE Employee, Students:	Students, Families & Visitors (with no sign in)
https://healthscreening.schools.nyc/	https://healthscreening.schools.nyc/?type=G

COVID Testing

It's up to all of us to keep our school communities and families safe by wearing face coverings, keeping our distance, washing hands frequently, and getting tested!

- Help us keep our schools open and school communities healthy by getting tested for COVID-19. It's safe, free, and easy for everyone, regardless of immigration or insurance status.
- ✓ Find a testing site near you – <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>
- ✓ Students in 3K through twelfth grade can get priority testing at 22 Health + Hospitals testing sites throughout the school year. Find a site near you: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/doe-employee-testing.page>

UPDATES - COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Monthly testing of randomly selected staff and students is a vital part of our efforts to prevent COVID-19 transmission in our buildings, because it helps identify positive COVID-19 cases when symptoms are not present. As with other health and safety measures we are requiring to keep our staff and students safe, the success of this testing initiative relies on the partnership and cooperation of staff and students.

DOE has partnered with NYC Health + Hospitals, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the NYC Test & Trace Corps to arrange for testing of NYC DOE students and staff for COVID-19 infection. Testing will be provided by, among others, school nurses, City staff, and our partners: SOMOS, Bio Reference Laboratory, and Fulgent Genetics. Our testing partners will test a randomly selected group of staff and students in schools once per month. The number of children and staff to be tested each month will depend on the size of the school population.

Instead of the “long swab” that goes in the back of the nose, this test is a short, small swab (like a Q-Tip) that goes just in the front of the nose. Later this school year, it is possible that tests will be administered by collecting a small amount of saliva (spit). If a child is selected for testing but is uncomfortable or unable to be tested, the child will not be tested and the school will work with the family to address any concerns so that they can participate in future testing.

If your child is tested, we will let you know they were tested and when and how you will receive the results, which will typically be provided within 48-72 hours.

We know you likely have questions, and we are sharing more information on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page. Please review this with your child.

Testing in schools will begin in October. You can reach out to your school at any time with any questions or concerns.

- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety/covid-19-testing>
- <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/student-covid-19-testing-consent-form---september-27-2020>

Daily COVID Case Map

On September 14, the Situation Room—a multi-agency partnership between the Department of Education, Department of Health and Mental Health, and the Test & Trace Corps—launched to facilitate a rapid response to positive COVID-19 cases in public schools. Since then, it has operated six days a week from 5:30AM-9:30PM Monday – Friday, and 11:00AM – 9:30PM on Sundays. Staff communicates with school principals, quickly confirming positive cases, taking swift action where necessary, and clearly communicating to the school community.

This week, the Situation Room is launching an online map updating families and the public on which buildings have active confirmed cases of COVID-19 and which require either temporary classroom or full-building closures. This map will be updated once daily with the latest information from the School Reopening Situation Room.

The online map can be accessed here:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety/daily-covid-case-map>

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school community, school leadership works closely with the Situation Room and the Test + Trace Corps to confirm the case, identify close contacts, and provide immediate next steps for the entire school community. Schools will communicate this information and next steps to all families and students when the case is laboratory confirmed.

COVID-19 School-Based Testing Programs

School staff and DOE students in grades 3k through 12 receive priority testing at 22 Health and Hospital (H+H) testing sites. Please see the COVID-19 School –Based Testing Programs page for a list of the 22 priority sites and additional details.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-year-20-21/return-to-school-2020/health-and-safety/covid-19-testing>

COVID Alert NY Contact Tracing App

New York on Thursday launched a new contact tracing app that alerts users when they've come into close contact with someone who tests positive for the coronavirus. The app is called "Covid Alert NY." It's free and available through Apple's App Store and Google Play for both iPhones and Android phones.

State Health Department issues guidance on who is healthy enough to be in school:

Today, the State Health Department today issued a nine-page document to help parents, school employees and school officials make decisions regarding who belongs in school when symptoms associated with COVID-19 arise.

The Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit includes many decision trees with green and red arrows. One page for employees is labeled: "I have COVID-19 symptoms. When can I go back to work at the school?"

The toolkit states that school officials should call 911 if a student or staff has:

- Trouble breathing or is breathing very quickly.
- Severe abdominal pain, diarrhea or vomiting.
- Change in skin color - becoming pale, patchy and/or blue.
- Racing heart or chest pain.
- Lethargy, irritability, or confusion.

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/prek-gr12_toolkit.pdf

Technology Support

If you have issues with technology for learning at home, visit DOE support pages: (ex. DOE Accounts, NYCSA, iPads, Zoom etc.).

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/learn-at-home/technical-tools-and-support>

If you still have issues, fill out the Technical Support for Families form:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/techsupport> and we will get in touch.

Fundraising Guidance for Outdoor Learning

The DOE released guidance on fundraising for outdoor-learning equipment purchases, including information for donors interested in supporting schools in the 27 neighborhoods most impacted by COVID-19. Please note that:

- ✓ PA/PTAs can fundraise for their school's own outdoor learning equipment, in accordance with their established rules and by laws and Chancellor's Regulation A-660.
- ✓ Parents/donors who would like to make a matching donation to COVID-19-impacted schools visit:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BHGUlCEUcPJEDeyYRBBfhFUx9tTd2mhXPNhQJ6_F_u8/edit
- ✓ The DOE will assist the FPS in reporting and tracking funds from parents/donors for outdoor learning.

For questions, email outdoorlearning@schools.nyc.gov

New York Public Library (NYPL)

NYPL After School – Find new activities, resources & top tips every week

https://www.nypl.org/education/remote-learning-resources/after-school?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NYPLKids_20201004&utm_campaign=NYPLKids

Grab & Go – Visit 50 library locations for safe & easy returns, holds, pickups & returns

https://www.nypl.org/about/grab-and-go?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NYPLKids_20201004&utm_campaign=NYPLKids

Hispanic Heritage Month

https://www.nypl.org/blog/2015/09/15/five-ya-hispanic-heritage?utm_source=eNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NYPLKids_20201004&utm_campaign=NYPLKids

Additional Resources:

Child care in NYC – Find a licensed child care program in your neighborhood visit:

<https://a816-healthpsi.nyc.gov/ChildCare/ChildCareList.do#>

Visit The Children’s Museum of Manhattan website for suggested daily activities.

<https://cmom.org/learn/cmom-at-home/>

Adapt Community Network is presenting a free Virtual Family Connect Summit on October 19, 2020.

The conference will cover a variety of subjects: family support services, creating a sensory environment, benefits and entitlement eligibility, activities and community involvement, behavior management, guardianship, supported decision making and advance directives, advocating with your care manager, and tools for “the talk” .**Captions in English, Spanish and Chinese will be provided. To register:**

<https://secure2.convio.net/ucpnyc/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=100421>

Voter registration

The deadline for voter registration is October 9, 2020. Please help remind clients and constituents of this important deadline. Individuals can sign up to vote here: <https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote> . To confirm voter registration, call 866-868-3692. All New York voters are eligible to vote by mail/absentee ballot this November. Individuals can sign up to vote by mail: <https://nycabsentee.com/> or by calling 866-VOTE-NYC. The deadline to register for an absentee ballot is October 27. Early voting is also available between October 24 and November 1.

Census

The preliminary injunction issued this week permits the census count to continue through October 31, 2020. This provides an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum toward reaching the prior deadline to engage as many New Yorkers as we can, particularly those in traditionally underrepresented communities. An undercount jeopardizes New York’s ability to receive our fair share of Federal funds and political representation. We can’t risk these important resources. It is critical that we dispel myths and encourage all New York City

residents to complete the census. Please help the City reinforce to clients and constituents the critical importance of completing the 2020 census. The Census asks just 10 simple questions that can be answered in just a few minutes online by visiting my2020census.gov or calling 844-330-2020.