

Pine-Richland School District Healthcare Leadership Council

June 25, 2020

“Working Draft...an Iterative Process”

Introduction

- PRSD is required to develop a **Health and Safety Plan** that outlines the return-to-school plan for instruction in 2020 - 2021
- As part of a continuum, PRSD is now focused on the details for a traditional in-person approach AND a virtual approach with the idea that flexibility is critical to meet the needs of each person.
- This presentation outlines the **traditional in-person approach** informed by: CDC guidance; PDE guidance; AIU task groups with ACHD participation; PRSD Healthcare Leadership Council input; Parent/Staff input; and international examples.
- The Health and Safety Plan must be board-approved and submitted to PDE.

Agenda

- Preliminary Survey Results
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) and Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD)
- Health and Safety Plan (School Reopening and Athletics/Activities)
- Practical and Disciplined Fundamentals
- **Traditional In-Person Instruction Focus Break-out Groups**
 - Facilities/Transportation/Cafeteria
 - Classrooms/Hallways/PPE
 - Home/Health Office/Contact Tracing/PPE
 - Athletics and Activities
 - Social/Emotional and Special Education

Preliminary Survey Results

We had 2,960 parents respond to the survey balanced across all grade levels. Results include the following:

- Parents Traditional In-Person (81.41%)
- Parents Virtual (9.74%)
- Parents Not Sure (8.85%)
- Parents Willing to Provide Transportation (61%)

When asked if parents would reconsider traditional in-person instruction if a confirmed case occurred in the school, almost 63% said "no." When asked if parents would reconsider traditional in-person instruction if a confirmed case occurred in his/her child's classroom, 39% said "no." **Approximately 54% of parent respondents indicated that they plan for their child(ren) to wear face coverings.** In terms of summer activities, 85% of parent respondents indicated that they would permit their child to participate.

Preliminary Survey Staff Top Concerns (Prioritized)

Teachers/Counselors/Nurses

1. Logistics of unstructured or high population areas.
2. Individual student interactions/support
3. Concern over whether health and safety plan will be effective
4. Cleanliness of rooms, equipment, etc.
5. Managing the classroom (instruction) and new protocols (health)

Paraprofessionals/Secretaries

1. Logistics of unstructured or high population areas.
2. Cleanliness of rooms, equipment, etc.
3. Individual student interactions/support
4. Concern over whether health and safety plan will be effective

Other Updates

- AIU and ACHD
 - Regional Approach
 - Functional Work Groups
- ACHD
 - ACHD Director “wants students back in school but wants to reduce risk.”
 - Masks or Face Shields Required for Staff and **Strongly Encouraged for Students**
 - Masks or Face Shields **Required for Students** on Bus, Hallways, Bathrooms and Other Similar Settings
 - Lag Time Between Symptoms and Test Result/Notification
 - Contact Tracing (isolation and quarantine); Reality of Student/Staff Mobility (1 degree)
- Health and Safety Plan Board Approved (Eventually) and Sent to PDE
- Health and Safety Plan for Athletics/Activities
- **The goal is to “reopen” and “stay open” (more restrictive first)**

Practical and Disciplined Fundamentals

(1) symptom/temperature checks;

(2) stay home if sick;

(3) correct and frequent hand washing;

(4) coughing/sneezing into elbow followed by washing/cleaning;

(5) maintain physical distancing to the extent possible;

(6) eliminate or limit touching of face and others;

(7) eliminate or limit sharing of equipment with cleaning;

(8) appropriate PPE*

*Experts agree that masks/face shields reduce risk for self and others (students and staff). They are especially important in dynamic, social environments (i.e., schools). ACHD may reach a point where it is mandated based on the infection rates and community spread.

Considerations for Reopening PA Schools

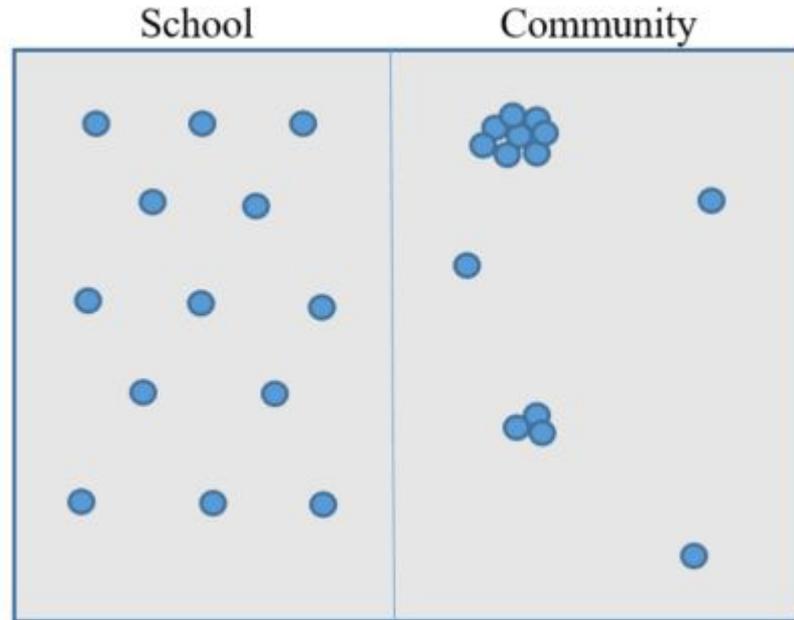
The return to school presents enormous challenges to Pennsylvania's education system, necessitating a balance between health and safety practices to reduce transmission and the potential learning losses from school closure and remote learning. **Local education agencies, families, and educators should be aware that the virus presents relatively low risk to children, but schools might nonetheless be vectors of community transmission, posing larger risks to the adults with whom infected children come into contact. Evidence suggests that practices such as physical distancing, masking, ventilation, cleaning, and hygiene have the potential to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including in school settings.** Less evidence is available on the effectiveness of different approaches to remote and blended learning in education, but the evidence that does exist suggests the importance (and the challenge) of keeping students engaged when much of their learning must occur outside of school (p. 11).

Considerations for Reopening PA Schools

Based on published research cited in the accompanying evidence review and interviews with medical experts, communication to families regarding the risk of COVID-19 should clarify that adults in the community (including teachers) are more likely to be at risk from infections from school than students themselves. Many respondents recognized that protecting the health of staff is likely to be a more serious challenge than protecting the health of students, particularly in schools with a large percentage of staff older than age 50 (p. 13).

Another Note About Masks/Face Shields

- Reopen and stay open
- About self but about others
- Politicized nature of masks
- Potential statement by PRSD
Healthcare Experts
- Role of ACHD in potential
mandate on masks/face
shields



Next Steps

- The next PRSD Healthcare Leadership Council meeting will be scheduled for **Thursday, July 9th from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

- After a big picture update, we will split into two main groups:
 - Health Precautions and Healthcare Experts final review for traditional in-person model
 - Virtual instruction model and dynamic transition of students or staff impacted by illness, isolation or quarantine.

Break-out Groups

Breakout Group #1 Facilities/Bus/Cafe

Mr. Zimmerman
Mr. Gruber
Mrs. Bucknum
Dr. Kristofic
Mrs. Kirk
Mr. Stoebener
Mrs. Charney
Mrs. McAndrew
Mr. Hartman

Breakout Group #2 Classroom/Halls/PPE

Mr. Vins
Mr. DeVinney
Ms. Kohler
Mr. Bichler
Ms. Stone
Dr. Justus
Dr. Pasquinelli

Breakout Group #3 Home/Health Office/PPE

Mrs. Schonbachler
Dr. Miller
Dr. Mantella
Ms. Hathhorn
Ms. Misback

Breakout Group #4 Athletics/Activities

Mr. Simmons
Mrs. Bowman
Mrs. Williams
Mr. Amr
Ms. Giran
Mr. Kenney

Breakout Group #5 Student Services and Intensive Needs

Mr. Hustwit
Dr. Paczan
Mrs. Noble
Mrs. Kcehowski
Ms. Kuzilla

Healthcare experts/parents distributed across groups.