

Parent/Guardian questions/comments with Superintendent's response in red:

So, let's say a teacher or student becomes infected and then passes it on to those in their class, etc...will the entire class etc have to quarantine. I unfortunately see a lot of disruption having kids come back to school, for the kids and Staff. I just want my child to be safe as well as the other kids and Staff.

A. The district will take direction from the Rensselaer County Department of Health (RCDOH) in regards to any positive case or exposure identified in a school building. Contact tracing would also be deferred to RCDOH.

my child will not wear a mask for as long as you are asking all the students too.. not many students will wear one for that period of time nor is it fair to force them especially with anxiety and other issues

A. We certainly understand your concern but unfortunately this is a non-negotiable mandate. As of the guidance we have today, students will only be required to wear a mask on the bus, when in transition(moving to a different room) or in a common area such as a bathroom. Student learning will be socially distanced and they will not have to wear a mask. However, masks are always recommended when learning.

I will have a student attending Tech Valley. I am unsure how transportation to/from that school works. I will not be able to provide transportation to that school and would rely on district transportation. (But would drive her to Tamarac to transfer to a bus) My answer above relates to my 2nd grader - I will be able to provide transportation daily.

Additionally, I have no concerns with my 10th grader if a fully remote and/or hybrid learning option would be required.

A. As of right now, transportation is going to be a District challenge due to the limited number of students we can fit on a bus. We will make every effort to work with families to make this work.

I do believe our children need to be in the school setting for many reasons. For Academics and socialization . I want the children and teachers and all staff to be safe.

Also children need to be children, they need to be able to play and have as well.

A. Definitely a valid point. We are doing everything within the NYSED and DOH guidance we can to maximize these options for students.

I'm very anxious about school opening, like many others. My daughter's preference is to be at school with her friends but I'm not sure it will be safe. That's why I think a hybrid approach might be best. But we could also do fully remote if need be.

A. We understand your perspective. We hope to be able to offer this as an option with permission from the governing agencies.

Please consider as much time outside for children as possible. Tents with open sides can house specials like music, art and library, as well as reading, etc. while keeping kids covered from elements. I am not opposed to kids outside in their coats when the temp dips a bit as well. As much as you can have a class take place outside while the kids are socially distanced. the safer the kids will be, and there is proof that transmission rates are considerably lower out doors!! I believe it will work for all grade levels, k-12 and we have lots of beautiful green space around the school to spread out! Thanks for all you do!

A. Thank you for passing that along and encouraging this when feasible.

Thank you for taking parents' concerns into consideration. We would like to know what the district plans to do should a teacher, staff member or student test positive for the virus. What about if a family member of a student or teacher tests positive?. Also, will the district provide testing for students and their families?

A. According to DOH Guidelines, any positive case OR exposure would be referred to the Rensselaer Co Department of health for guidance and contact tracing. Currently the District would not be a testing site but would assist families in finding a test.

Regarding busses, I can get my child to school but would need bus transportation home. I am concerned about the plan for when a child / teacher tests positive. If it is a hybrid or modified situation how will 1 classroom teacher be able to provide quality education to both groups?

A. Thank you for the question and feedback. Any parent/caregiver assistance with transportation is going to be appreciated. We certainly understand your concern but unfortunately, this is a non-negotiable mandate. As of the guidance we have today, students will only be required to wear a mask on the bus, when in transition(moving to a different room) or in a common area such as a bathroom. Student learning will be socially distanced and they will not have to wear a mask. However, masks are always recommended when learning. We are still in the development stages for hybrid instruction. The feedback so far is about communicating expectations with parents. We will do everything we can to support students and teachers with different scenarios.

If a hybrid schedule is required or remote learning full-time will a staff person or stipend be provided to parents who work full time to pay for the person who has to keep the child (with ADD) on task to complete remote learning? Or are single and work full time? I am doubting this will happen but just asking because I have already begun looking at hiring someone to teach my son because my company doesn't allow child care while working. I can't really afford to do this so I am checking to see if there is something that will help parents out.

A. A stipend for parents is not permitted but we understand your concern. Any child with an IEP should contact Mrs. Hoot, our Director of Special Education (rhoot@brunswickcsd.org) to discuss the best options for your child.

Remote learning only is a huge barrier for this family. Both parents are essential employees. And can not be home. My children struggle with the remote learning as well. I strongly disagree with remote learning

A. This is certainly a challenge for both families and schools. I would encourage you to discuss the best options for your child with your principal. Our goal will always be to personalize the education as much as we can.

I don't believe wearing a mask for grades 2 and under is a realistic thing for the school day. Especially my child who wears glasses which fog often. I would love to see mandatory hand washing stations before children change rooms, prior to lunch/snack or come in from outside.

A. We certainly understand your concern but unfortunately, this is a non-negotiable mandate unless there is a medical reason for the child to not wear a mask. As of the guidance we have today, students will only be required to wear a mask on the bus, when in transition(moving to a different room) or in a common area such as a bathroom. Student learning will be socially distanced and they will not have to wear a mask. However, masks are always recommended when learning. Handwashing will be a big part of our safety plan and the education of students.

I think if we have to use remote learning it needs to be more structured especially if parents are working all day and can not be home to monitor their children attending classes. If possible I think even a limited in-person schedule would be very helpful. I also think the kids need to know if they will be taking a regents exam at the end of their course.

A. We hope that our HYBRID plan will be able to accommodate some in-person time for all students. As of today, there will still be Regents exams.

I would like to suggest several locations for parents to drop off and pick up students rather than having students all funnel through the one set of main doors. It is so congested there at dismissal time.

Then again, I am unlikely to send my child to school if our area's positive cases continues to rise.

I have faith that teachers, staff and admin will do their best, but frankly I do not hold much faith in the integrity of other parents.

A. Our plan will call for the use of multiple entrances in order to minimize congestion.

I would need a computer/Chromebook and printer unless the activities/worksheets were printed and mailed or there were pick up days

A. In a hybrid or remote scenario, we will work with all of the families to do our best to meet their needs in order to ensure that all students have access to their education.

Gym? Playground?

It gets hot in the school

Will there be air circulation?

- A. We will certainly have PE but our gyms may need to become traditional classrooms . Playgrounds may continue to be used when proper safeguards are in place. In the elementary school setting, we will stagger playground use rather than allowing multiple classes to play together, wash hands before and after touching play structures and keep 6 feet of space from other children as much as possible. The recommended guidance is that windows should be open as much as possible. Fans are not permitted.

Kids need to go back to school with no restrictions.

- A. There are certain guidelines that must be adhered to. For specific situations, please contact your building principal or the Superintendent.

My son will NOT be wearing a mask to school. Absolutely ridiculous that it's expected that CHILDREN will have to wear them all day long. There is no way my son will be involved in that nonsense. I have no problem with social distancing guidelines but my son has asthma. To expect him to have a mask on all day is detrimental to his health. He was really looking forward to going back to school and seeing his friends. It's incredibly disappointing that masks will be enforced, especially when there have been multiple studies showing masks are not beneficial and do nothing!

- A. The required guidance is very clear through NYSED: All individuals in school facilities and on school grounds must be prepared to put on a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot socially distance. All students and staff members must wear cloth face coverings:
 - a. Whenever they are unable to maintain a 6 feet of distance
 - b. In hallways
 - c. In restrooms
 - d. In other congregate settings, including buses.

Students with special needs or students who are medically fragile may not be able to maintain social distancing, hand or respiratory hygiene, or wear a face covering or mask. It is important for parents/ guardians to work with their child's healthcare providers so that an informed decision can be made on how best to meet the child's needs at school while protecting their health and safety.

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/reopening-schools/nys-p12-school-reopening-guidance.pdf>

While I fully agree returning to school is best for students from educational and emotional stand points I also feel that being that it will not be the same and kids will not be able to really socially engage.. such as eating lunch together, using playground, sitting close on carpet for reading, etc. it may actually be worse for them. I think this would be more upsetting to my child that they could not fully interact with friends at school and do most activities. She absolutely loves school and being at the desk separated from kids all day is not fun!! I also think wearing masks all day in the building will be challenging. I have had her wear them in stores for 30 min and while she does keep it on she says she is hot/uncomfortable. Being in the buildings in the fall will most likely be very hot and im worried about kids dehydrating... and drinking water constantly is a challenge w the mask.... are teachers going to be helping them put on/adjust them all day? And is that safe for teachers and kids to be doing so? Also, should remote learning be a part of all this I really believe daily LIVE interaction with teachers is necessary to teach a lesson or 2. I was dissatisfied with how little interaction we got from the teacher last year and how we were pretty much left on our own to teach from the links that were sent. I worry about my daughter falling behind despite it being early education.

- A. Thank you for your questions and feedback. As for masks, the student will not be required to wear them all day but we will be providing training to the teacher so that they can support their students.

https://youtu.be/PaENofVC_5w

We acknowledge your feedback on remote learning. We are working to improve the efficacy of all of our plans to provide the best education for students.

If we don't return to school, I believe online learning needs to be presented differently than it was the end of the year. I think it needs to be assigned times with the teacher teaching the lesson and not just random busy work.

A. We have task force groups that are working diligently to develop the best program for all students.

Need to talk to his oncologist.

A. We strongly encourage all families to speak to their medical providers on what is best for your child and family. Every child and family is unique.

I believe strongly that Special Ed students should be a priority in return to the building. My daughter's disability greatly affects her ability to learn anything in a distance learning or virtual mode.

A. Special education students, English Language Learners and students with connectivity issues will be prioritized for in-person learning in our reopening plan.

In light of recent directives for hospitals to turn over medical information directly to White House, I will need assurance that my children's confidential medical information is protected.

A. NYS Schools are governed by laws to protect student data and ensure privacy to safeguard the personally identifiable information of students.

School needs to reopen for the simple fact that students learn nothing via remote learning.

A. Thank you for your feedback. We will reopen as we are permitted within the guidelines we must use.

As much as my kids want to return to school, I do not feel kids are able to social distance accordingly. There is too much at risk.

A. Thank you for your feedback. We will be taking many measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

I witnessed a lot of teachers not wearing masks and not social distancing at the kindergarten graduation. No health and safety protocols were enforced or followed that day. I don't see how I could send my children to school and feel as though they would be safe.

A. Thank you for the feedback. We will certainly look at the new procedures and guidance as there has been changes since June. Additionally, all faculty and staff will have training on proper PPE.

I believe that our children need to get back to school, I think the school district should look into upgrading the air filtration system. I understand that costs money but I'm sure most would agree this is one thing higher taxes would be worth paying for.

A. We will use the experts at Questar Health and Safety to evaluate all our plans. Fortunately, the capital project included many health and safety upgrades, such as HVAC improvements and new bathrooms. We will be including new filtration in the nursing offices.

I have no confidence in the Brunswick school district to keep my child safe during the upcoming school year. During the "moving up" day drive through, I noticed masks were not being worn and social distancing protocols were not being enforced. If the district is unable to enforce these protocols for a casual school event, how can parents expect the district to enforce these safety protocols on a daily basis. I also have a major concern about how the district will enforce mask wearing during the upcoming school year. How can teachers and/or aides be expected to enforce mask wearing, when there are parents in the district that will not want their children to wear masks? Spitting was also a major concern last school year before the COVID-19 outbreak. The school district was unable to control the bullies spitting on children last year. What measures have the school district taken for this upcoming school year to prevent spitting? I am assuming none? Understanding that this is not an ideal situation for anyone, how does the school district propose to deal with parents that are cautious and have their children's safety foremost in their minds, as well as deal with parents that have no regard for science and don't believe that Covid-19 either exists or is harmful to anyone?

A. See above responses and any specific behavioral issues should be brought to the attention of the building principal.

Would love to have the option of distance learning from home everyday.

A. We are hoping that this is permissible and we can accommodate this with our staffing.

Thank you to Dr. Maloney, Mr. Pogue, Mr. Rizzo, Mr. White and the entire school district for fully weighing all options before making a final decision.

A. Your feedback is always valued. We are a community school that strives to make the best educational program for kids.

I feel it is very important for the children to return to school. It is important for their learning as well as their social well-being. Remote learning has been very difficult in my household as I work full time and I found it very hard to keep my child focused on school work.

A. Understood. Thank you.

My daughter is currently in her 3rd week of summer camp. Upon arrival she is wearing a mask and gets her temperature taken. Once cleared she is able to take off her mask and join her assigned group. There are no more than 10 kids in her group. They have assigned bathrooms per group and are not allowed to use other spaces unless wiped down/cleaned. There are some outside activities. It seems to be working.

A. This is great.

As much as I would love to see normal school, I do not think it is a good idea to rush students back. The school is not large enough to properly social distance. The school has a hard time monitoring children under normal circumstances but now want to add extra layers that will make it even more stressful and dangerous for all involved. What should be being thought of is how to make distance learning more conducive and how to work in very small groups. Masks all day should be out of the question.

A. Thank you, see above regarding the wearing of masks.

My husband and I are a nurse practitioner and trooper. We were unable to home school our children adequately. My son has ADHD and already struggles. I am genuinely concerned about his ability to remain on track with only having me available to give him educational instruction on weekends. In addition although all assignments were turned in, my son was given the lowest "grade" because his assignments were not turned in "on time" despite me being clear regarding what my situation at home was.

A. Thank you for sharing. As for the grades, I suggest that you speak to the building principal. As a go forward, the learning and grading expectations will be much clearer. This summer, we have several task forces looking at these issues.

If given the option I have the means to keep my child home and work with the teacher to do learning from home. If some parents can do this they should be able to and that way there are less kids in the school so that will help the kids that go be able to social distance better.

A. We are hoping that this will be permissible and that we can accommodate it with our current staff.

What will happen if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID? How will we adjust if we are using a hybrid type learning? How will there be enough staff to cover teachers that may be out on quarantine? On another note, if some students are virtual and others choose to be home will there be an option to live stream the lesson so that at home students are more engaged?

A. The district will take direction from the RCDOH in regards to any positive cases or exposure identified in a school building. Contact tracing would be deferred to the RCDOH. As for the other parts of your question, we are actively recruiting substitutes should this be an issue and the plan for remote or hybrid instruction is still in development.

One of my main concerns with distance learning was the lack of actual lessons being taught. I'd like to see daily lessons for the kids to participate in.

A. Thank you for the feedback.

Are the buses going to have aids to speed up the process of them getting on and off the buses. And I worry about the cars passing buses due to the impatience of the regulations that need to be done before getting on and being seated! This is an issue already and with the added time and temp checks that have to be done before getting on the bus and sanitizing before getting in their seats

A. The screening process as well as loading and unloading of kids is still in development. We know that everyone will need training and that there will need to be continued public education of the laws regarding schools bussing.

If masks are a requirement my daughter will not be attending school!! She can't breath without one N I won't have her passing out from one!

A. See above.

I am confident our amazing school district will make this work however I am severely concerned with having my child wear a mask all day for he already had breathing issues and use multiple inhalers at times.

A. Please consult with your family medical provider to get advice on what is best for your child.

I am terrified to send my child back to school. So many uncertainties though I know that you are working hard to make our building and students as safe as you possibly can. Many community members are not taking safety precautions and I'm afraid that students going back will expose everyone to the virus.

My child will need the bus for the pm run only.

How will work be differentiated for all students as it will need to be taught in an abbreviated form due to the time needed for safety protocols and possible intermittent closures?

How will rooms be disinfected in between classes to ensure a clean classroom?

Will backpacks need to be used so lockers are not utilized?

Many students are anxious about returning to school, how will that be addressed?

If there is an exposure or possible exposure, how long will students be out of school?

Will all assignments and grades be posted online? As a parent and teacher in another school district I find it ridiculous that all grades and assignments have not been posted in all classes (other than from March to June of this year). Technology makes this easy to do and with training it can be mandated by administration.

This is SUCH a stressful time and all of this calls for a level of executive functioning that students don't have at this age. Parents, staff, and students need to work together and from now on (grades and assignments) really need to be streamlined and easy to access for all.

Thank you for sending out this survey and I appreciate all of the work that staff and administration have taken to guide us during this difficult time.

A. Thank you for your comments and questions. We have several task forces that are working on all of the areas above. Our plans are still in development and will be shared with our community as soon as possible.

Without having some questions answered, it is hard for me to give a fully accurate opinion on some of the topics.

A. Hopefully the parent forums and resources help. Please reach out at any time.

I am interested in how children will have recess or gym while social distancing or when eating their meals. Also wondering how we will enforce mask wearing for younger grades.

A. These things will look different but we hope to use this as an educational opportunity

My true Opinion is that Tamarac SHOULDN'T open up Until the Pandemic passes or Until the New Year Surpasses

A. Thank you

The inability for younger grade levels to keep the mask on or constantly touch their face to adjust it

A. Thank you. We hope to use this as a teaching opportunity.

The online learning experiment left much to be desired. My daughter had classes that the teachers never taught except through handouts and assignments. Totally unacceptable

A. The remote instruction was done as a result of an emergency with almost no time to plan. We are learning and adjusting.

I do not want my children to wear a mask. I am not willing to accept this as a new normal for life. I would prefer to continue with remote learning until such time that things can go back to a more normal school experience.

A. See responses above regarding the wearing of masks.

Although my child is involved in multiple sports and is passionate about playing, I feel playing sports with other schools is a very bad idea.

A. The fall season has been delayed thus far.

Need more instruction not just a pile of assignments and more teaching. The remote learning was really remote doing. Just my two cents, with that being said you did the best given the circumstances. But definitely need more structure

A. Thank you for sharing.

I do not agree with distancing the children from each other. Yes school is about education but socializing is extremely important. I do have three children so they have built in friends but it is different than their close friends at school. I feel it will make them miserable, especially XXXX, to be told they have to stay 6ft away from the kids they normally spend their free time playing with during the day. In my opinion this will be emotionally damaging. God bless you all if they need to wear masks, they freak out 2 minutes in the gas station about not being able to breathe. Thank you all for your hard work. Tamarac Strong!

A. Thank you for your thoughts.

The district should not allow parents to confirm temperatures (too high risk of fraudulent reporting), IF the school mandates temp check, the ONLY time that makes sense is prior to stepping on bus, VERIFIED by bus aide, that said, many parents just give their kids tylenol and put them on the bus. (Bc most need to go to work)

A. Our procedures will be based on RCDOH regulations and Questar Health and Safety supports.

I just fear for the safety of the kids and teachers with the spikes going on again. Smaller class sizes would be best but then how do you remote teach on the "off" days because the teacher will be teaching in classroom, so she won't be available to help the remote learners if they have questions. I know you will make the best decision and really no decision will be the right one :(

A. Thank you for your perspective. There is no easy answer but we are working as a team to develop procedures and protocols to make this work.

As a teacher and mom, I am not sure how I would manage a schedule that is not daily...what if my teaching days are not the same as my children, how will I take care of them?

A. We definitely understand these challenges. As the plan is being finalized we hope to offer the support our families need.

Providing a safe and daily disinfected place of learning is all I need to be assured. Kids need to go to school to learn life lessons that cannot be achieved by online learning.

A. Safety is always the number one priority.

We know the school is doing everything it can to make all the students safe and we appreciate it. Our only concern is a set schedule if there is a home and school option. This Spring there was no schedule from the teachers and each teacher had a different plan. If we could have some sort of plan across the board would be great! Thank you for everything you are doing.

A. Thank you for acknowledging our efforts. We have a task force to work on those issues

Don't forget about the faculty and staffs safety

A. Most definitely.

I think that daily lessons should be recorded so that if students need to stay home they have access to the actual class lessons. Lessons should be live or recorded when not in school. I also think that if we have to go back to online only, that the school uses the gym for students that are unable to stay home alone or are not logging in. While, this doesn't apply in my situation, it will help the school as a whole. I believe in mask use only when not able to social distance, but don't like the idea of kids wearing them 100% of the day, they should be allowed to breathe freely when possible (most of the time). There are too many unknowns around breathing in too much exhaled air. The school should be able to proceed quickly to online if we have to with same level of teaching as if in-class. This might happen for just a few kids or the entire school. I think that teachers should meet and exchange Google Classroom best practices so that there is consistency. For example, when kids submit work there should be some sort of response for their record.

A. Thank you for your feedback. We are working on these issues. We have addressed some above.

Home schooling was extremely taxing on both mine and my sons mental health. It was a daily struggle for both of us as I have a full time job that requires my attention. Unfortunately I cannot be a teacher and an efficient employee at the same time. It was a struggle daily because being home they think it's a free for all no matter how many times you say it's not. Some days it would take hours for him to do the simplest of tasks and he hated trying to watch videos for learning. It just isn't the same and does not sink in for them. I feel moving into 5th grade the work is only going to get harder. They have lost all social and emotional skills and while I'm doing my best it's not enough. I will never in my life take school, teachers, or the amazing support this district has provided for granted as they have always been beyond supportive and wonderful to our kids! Here's to hoping for open doors in September.

A. We are taking the mental health and wellness of the students as well as the faculty and staff very seriously. We have a task force developing a plan to address these issues.

If remote learning does continue, for the middle through high school I would like to see google classroom calls for each "period". The remote learning we did in the spring was overwhelming for some kids and I expect teachers as well. If we keep a normalcy it may be easier for them to adjust.

A. We have received a great deal of positive feedback about that platform. We also hope to offer more professional development for teachers on this platform.

I feel strongly about a mask. But for short period of time. Having a mask on for hours for a school day isn't right. Cause breathing problems lack of oxygen levels and other health Prob. My son already has some health issues. He has a 30 40 ride on bus. And dont get home till 4ish. Way to long to have a mask. I think half days should b in place

A. There are some challenges with half days, mostly revolving around transportation. Please see above about the wearing of masks in school.

I am, of course, willing to take my children's temperature at home each morning before school and agree not to send them if their temperature is elevated. I would MUCH prefer, however, that health screenings/temperature checks be performed at school before entering the building. Not all parents/guardians can be depended upon to perform screenings and keep their children home when in doubt.

A. Thank you

I am very concerned about my children's health, and am unsure that any return to in person instruction can be done safely at this point. As challenging as it has sometimes been, I strongly believe that continuing online instruction is the only truly safe option for students and staff. I absolutely trust that the district will do everything it can to protect the health of students and staff if/when they return to school, but I am very uncomfortable with the prospect. As always, thank you for your efforts. They are truly appreciated.

I will provide transportation to school but can not provide the transportation home from school.

A. We will have a system for sharing this information in the future.

Bottom line, my kids will NOT be wearing masks, as they haven't done so yet, and remote learning isn't an option for us.

A. Please see above regarding the wearing of masks.

The taking of temperatures needs to be HIPAA compliant.

A. Yes, of course. We will follow all laws.

My really like the hybrid model! Our kids really look forward to returning to school, but obviously we are concerned about our community's health. Keep up the good work

A. Thank you!

We are not looking forward to reopening, I dont like the idea. This epidemic doesnt seem to be under control. If we are told to send our children to school. Must follow. That's why we pay taxes

A. We hope you will have confidence in our District as we share with you the final plan.

We work full time as essential employees for a local grocery store. We adjusted to the remote learning by adjusting our schedules however teaching is a downfall as we are not meant for teaching. Suggestion is to have lectures posted about the topics learned so that we have guides to provide teaching methods. The work itself was not hard to complete.

A. Thank you for the input.

Itorn between feeling most comfortable with remote learning only and a hybrid. Remote learning seems like the "safest" method from a health perspective, however, I'm concerned about the mental health impact and loss of social interaction (especially for my middle schooler) by adopting a remote learning option. He has very few friends and I believe distance learning had a negative impact on that. I think a hybrid or remote learning scenario would be most successful if the district worked o create activities to help facilitate interaction between students online. Also, I believe either a hybrid or remote learning model could be successful if (this is really important in my opinion) it provides STRUCTURE and ACCOUNTABILITY of both students and teachers. In a remote learning scenario, I'd like to see my child attend class as if he were in school where attendance is taken at each class, and he follows an hour by hour schedule. Utilization of one central tool or dashboard for assignments with parent access would be ideal.

A. Our task forces are working on these issues.

If remote learning teachers should use zoom for teaching vs recording videos and expecting children to watch them so they are still able to learn in real Time and ask questions as they arise

A. Thank you for the suggestion.

Remote learning was incredibly challenging and stressful for both of my children. Their teachers did a wonderful job given the circumstances however online learning is simply not an acceptable form of education for elementary and middle school children as it is not a viable replacement of in-person, hands-on learning. Children need to be in a classroom setting where they can more easily ask questions, hear the questions of their peers when they are too shy or nervous to ask themselves, hear the teacher explain it in different ways, see visual cues and expressions, use hands-on materials rather than a screen and experience the social aspects of the classroom. Both of my children who initially thought it would be wonderful to be home quickly changed their minds and despised every day of online learning. In addition, as a parent who was working full-time from home with the other parent working full-time outside the home, it was incredibly difficult to provide the necessary support and push/encouragement needed throughout the "school day". It was challenging all around. I understand that remote learning may be a necessity for this school year but I respectfully ask that the district keep remote learning to an absolute minimum and explore all options of getting our children into a safe classroom setting.

A. Thank you for your comments.

I think we need more information on this, possibly a meeting. I had a difficult time answering these questions. I have concerns about the emotional toll of our children not having a normal learning environment, as well as long term affects of wearing a mask daily. Thank you all for all of your efforts.

A. We have started our series of meetings. The plans are in the development process.

I am very concerned about my son wearing a mask all day even though I understand why it is necessary. I am also concerned about how his teacher will be able to implement social distancing and health protocols in a classroom of kindergarteners. The transition to kindergarten was already going to be difficult without COVID-19. I am concerned about how these very strict rules will be implemented at his grade level and whether this will cause my son even more anxiety and cause him to hate going to school.

A. Administration and the kindergarten team are working on a program that will be developmentally appropriate. We want all students to have a great experience but we recognize the significance regarding kindergarten.

I am a nurse and through this pandemic I have worked with both of my kids on wearing face coverings properly and proper hygiene. My children at 4 and 6 although it is easier with my 6 year old my 4 year old does grasp the concept. Working full time in a nursing home that has ZERO for our residents and only ONE staff member out of 200+ with twice weekly then once weekly testing I know this is possible and I also know it will come with its speed bumps as well. Proceeding with a proper plan laid out and precaution is the best way to handle this situation.

A. Thank you.

I am a parent to feels that you as a school district will do the best for our childrens interests and safety

A. Thank you for the support.

My wife and I both work full time. Remote learning was a failure, though I do not blame the school or the teachers. It was a challenge for all. A challenge that is unrealistic for working parents.

A. We understand the frustration and hope to improve on the systems going forward.

I believe that social interaction and in person learning is imperative to the way that children learn and grow, the stress of the kids being home is not healthy for the mental wellbeing. My family can make arrangements either way but I worry about the children that do not have the same support system that we have. We will do whatever is needed to keep our kids safe, but that also includes keepin them mentally healthy. If there is a committee of community members and parents that need to be developed to better talk about the reintroduction into the system I would like to volunteer if needed.

A. Thank you.

No mask will be worn by my children

A. Please see the above responses regarding the wearing of masks.

How will children that show up with temperatures be handled? Will they be brought into the building? I am aware of parents that routinely give their children fever reducers prior to putting them on the bus.

We can provide daily transportation to school but not daily on the way home.

I like the thoughts of the modified schedule but how would they get 180 days in without remote learning?

- A. There will be an isolation room in each building for those presenting COVID symptoms. Schools are still waiting for updated guidance on the 180 school day requirement.

I am worried that some parents and children will not follow the rules and guidelines, a small percentage of people who forget to take safety measures could make all the work done to reopen be for nothing as we could have to close down anyways.

- A. That is a legitimate worry so we will have to plan for these types of things,.

My major concern is a mask. I do not agree with a face mask being worn all day.

- A. Please see above responses regarding the wearing of masks..

I don't think we are in a safe place yet. The capital district is starting to rise again. It is at 2.1 % the highest in the state. As much as I would like for the kids to return to normal. I just don't think it is safe yet. The younger kids are going to have a really hard time social distancing, not touching their faces/ mouths and keeping their mask on. They don't know enough about this virus yet. It is not known to humans. They are finding new things everyday and the ones who survived have long term complications such as lung scarring, kidney damage and long term neurological effects. I don't think it is worth the risk to their health right now. we will get through this if it is not rushed. we need to be thinking of the damage this virus has the capability of causing and put their health first.

- A. Thank you for your thoughts.

I believe that the school district will do everything in their power to keep kids safe. Not mentioned was hand sanitizers maybe placed on walls in schools and buses. I believe its going to be a joint effort to be diligent in educating the children on hygiene and importance of masks and social distancing etc. It needs to come from both home and a school as a collaborative effort. Parents need to be reminded as well. O believe as a team Tamarac will be able to overcome this and give them the education, socialization and sports they need for proper growth and development.

- A. Our district already has several hand sanitizing stations with more on order. We recently received a 55 gallon drum of it and small bottles for wide distribution. Hand sanitizer cannot be on the bus per the regulations.

Live in a home with people that have underlying health issues how do you make Certain that they don't bring a illness home

- A. Please reach out to your personal health care provider to discuss the risks for you and your family.

I am also a teacher so I realize the difficult task before us. We must balance the benefits of in-person instruction versus everyone's health and safety. I watched the regression In my own children and my own students with remote teaching, however, we are healthy. It is especially difficult for my children because they are both athletes at school as well. This will be my daughter's senior year. Tough call.

- A. We will use the metrics we are given to maximize in person instruction.

If remote learning is necessary there will need to be more adult structure to the meetings and more online interaction vs assignments given with little to no guidance. Which will require teacher training.

- A. Yes. We are working on professional development for faculty and staff.

We have a high risk child and my wife is high risk. We are very adamant about maintaining our health. My child specifically has severe health compromises and exposure to COVID-19 may mean her death. We are beyond apprehensive to send her and her sister back to school

- A. Your apprehension is understood. Certainly reach out to your family physician for guidance.

As far as transportation, I can do the morning drop off but not the afternoon pick up as I have to work. Also because I work and how my son was with the online learning it will be a definite struggle

- A. See above responses.

If you do remote learning, have it set up like a regular school day. 40 minute periods with 3 to 5 minute breaks between classes with 30 minute lunch. To keep child on chrome book all day as if they were in school.

A. Thank you for your feedback.

If before care is offered, and I need to bring my child for 7am, I will be driving my child to school every day and no buses will be needed. However, if before care is not offered/not needed, I will need the bus to transport daily. I just want to bite this as my response to transportation depends on my situation.

A. Childcare will be part of our plan.

It is almost physically impossible for me to implement distance learning for four children at once, two of whom need almost 1 to 1 assistance one of whom needs frequent assistance (reading aloud for her because of her dyslexia) and one of whom is in kindergarten in my home. We did the best we could over the spring with only 3 in school, and even with the strong support of the teachers and aids, who were rock stars, it was a daily stressful battle to get them through even minimal schoolwork with two adults at home and working on it. This fall I will be without that extra pair of adult hands. There is not enough of me, not enough space, and not enough computers in the house to distance learn effectively. If it is unsafe for the children to return to school, we will do our best, but I do not expect success.

A. We always do our best to support our families.

I do feel that if we return to any form of remote learning that the administration needs to follow up that teachers are actually engaging with students for a class. (not just assigning work and evaluations). Both of my children had a some sort of actual call schedule to follow for 75% of their classes (google meets, zoom) however, some teachers never actually had a class. Why is it not possible to follow their same school schedule? Obviously, screen time is an issue but the class time can be reduced. I just feel that student participation was monitored and teacher participation was assumed.

A. There were many obstacles in the remote learning but we are working to overcome those and have communication for the expectations.

I am interested in how children will have recess or gym while social distancing or when eating their meals. Also wondering how we will enforce mask wearing for younger grades.

A. See above regarding the wearing of masks.

Much socialization is needed The parents, school staff will need to reinforce need for PPE. not all will follow whether in Pre-K or 12th grade as many may simply will forget. Could plexi glass be put around /on desktops .hand sanitizer when they walk into the room of course a mask . that way they could get a reprieve from the mask for a few minutes

A. Yes working on barriers and lots of hand sanitizer.

Re: transportation - is most important for our children to be bussed home each day. We could drop them off in morning but would prefer not to.

A. Transportation will most certainly look different in order to make sure we can safely transport students.

I believe this is completely over blown. I'm not at all concerned about covid. It's a cold with a 99% survivability rate. And kids rarely get it. Forcing kids to social distance will be impossible. And wearing a mask is more of a health risk than not. This is a political weapon not health epidemic. Constitutional freedom is on the line and you all are letting it be taken away because the government says they will give you safety. This is all wrong.

A. Your opinion is acknowledged.

It's time to accept and adapt to the remote learning at least for a hybrid model. The world has changed. Teachers and kids shouldn't be needlessly at risk.

A. Our District is adapting to the ever evolving needs of our students.

Tamarac is a small school, I believe we can manage this. For the parents that are skeptical maybe they should continue to homeschool/online teach, that is not effective for everyone. Maybe send half the alphabet M,W,F and the second half on Tues and Thurs, then change it up the following week? Kids needs social skills, they need interaction with others.. its healthy for thier minds to grow. Send them back.

A. Thank you for the feedback.

Remote learning was challenging on families. We look forward to students returning to school and know you all will do your best to keep them safe. Thank you for all that you are doing.

A. Thank you for the support.

Our family has a very low tolerance for risk and are extremely concerned with sending our children into school along side people who aren't taking this seriously, or refuse to follow any protocol to keep those around them safe. We are very concerned for the teachers and staff who will be put at risk. We've taken quarantining and social distancing very serious the past few months, and it would be a terrible shame for that dedication and conscientiousness to be wasted. Based on what we know now, we do not feel safe sending our children into groups of people anywhere, or inside public buildings where people assemble, for any purpose and for any amount of time. We attend church online. We visit family online. We order groceries online. Until the risk is gone, we don't see why distance learning should be any different for the foreseeable future.

We sincerely appreciate all efforts given to provide that through this past school year, and hope the option for distance learning is available for this coming school year to those who want it. We understand the importance of the social aspect of attending school in person. In our current climate, we can not have that social interaction that the children are missing safely. When you remove that, you are left with the core responsibility of education. Distance/remote learning is not a new concept and has been done for many years at the collegiate level but also in certain K-12 classrooms.

Our point being, this is not a new concept. We think that it is more realistic to be able to successfully implement a remote learning back to school plan than any other hybrid or in-person plan while the only defense against this deadly disease is avoidance of people. This is especially true for children, grown adults have a hard time following these rules.

A. Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Elementary can do online middle school can go to school a couple days a week and high school can go they can also do a couple of week just kids with special need should definitely be in school the most if parents think they struggling

A. Thank you for the feedback.

everyone should have temp taken outside before entering the building and sent home if they have a temp

A. Students with a temperature will be isolated and sent home as per the guidance.

I am concerned about mask breaks and the need to provide multiple masks for all students, knowing that reusable masks should be laundered before wearing again, transporting and storing used masks and general ability of the children to follow mask guidelines for extended time periods every day.

I am also very concerned about the district's ability to provide sufficient staffing to ensure our teachers stay healthy and have the ability to quarantine when needed. How will attendance be addressed if a student must quarantine for the required 14 days?

How will parent transport be managed in a reasonable way that does not seriously impact the length of time needed to drop off and pick up if parents are expected to provide transportation?

What happens if I send my child to school and the site screening indicates a different temperature that requires they be sent home?

A. We have a clear plan for masks that includes providing masks and washing cloth masks. We are working on the internal protocols about what this will look like. Hiring substitutes has been an issue and will likely continue to be.

We are aggressively advertising and recruiting. We will need to have staggered drop off times at multiple doors. These details continue to be developed.

This is a complicated process for tamarac to say the least. Thank you for including the parents' voices during this uncertain time.

A. We respect and appreciate parent input.

Full time remote distance learning does NOT work for my child. Also, if there is to be even partial online instruction, it needs to be INSTRUCTION and not a teacher emailing assignments without teaching anything.

A. We have learned from the emergency situation this past spring.

Concerned about the class sizes and how to keep students socially distant in lunch, specials and on the bus. Being back to school is so important for children socially and academically, yet it must be safe for all students, faculty and staff and at this time there are so many unknowns that it makes planning extremely difficult. Thank you for your hard work!

A. We are currently staging classrooms to determine occupancy. This will be a critical component to our plan.

We strongly believe that full remote learning is the best option until a vaccine is developed and administered to a majority of the population. After that time we support the hybrid model of remote and limited onsite learning.

A. Thank you. We are waiting to see if that will be allowed as an option.

The socialization factor is what stuck out for my kids the most, and the ability to be involved in clubs and sports. Also both myself and husband are essential workers unable to work from home. It makes staying on top of their remote learning harder, we did it but it's not easy. Safety first, but my kids are really hoping school starts semi-normally and we are too.

A. Thanks for the input. Safety is always first.

My son is immune compromised so I'm scared to death to send him back I'm not sure his doctor will allow it

A. We will be working with medically compromised students to provide a safe program. More information to come.

Is there an option for SOME kids to opt into distance learning with cameras in room ? To sign in and attend from home while others attend in person? Some may opt for this lessening the number in the building. Either for all classes every day. Or some classes... and allow for a midday bus ride? Or late in late leave... early in early leave option

What is being considered for specials like art or music? Will there be choirs or band?

Some classes offered in evening to allow for less kids on bus... more trips... drop 15 come back. Drop 15. Come back. Drop 15 come back. With first out taking an evening class distance learning to get out early.

Or some totally distance learn while others every other day...and some none at all?

Auditorium lectures ... one grade... teachers changing out... main subjects...

My daughter interested in distance learning.

My son will need to attend and has limited periods at tamarac due to votec. So his classes MUST be first periods of day.

I will transport both TO school. He will transport self home... but daughter will need bus home any day at tamarac. If part distance learn... possibly could get ride with him home...

I would be willing for daughter to do part or all distance learning. But i would not be willing for son to distance learn. She excelled. He struggled. And he only needs to do 2 or 3 classes at tamarac. So he deserves the few periods in person. And then are periods 1 2 3 . Our family will give up in person teaching for the other kid to makeup for it if needed.

A. Great ideas. Some are more feasible than others. We will definitely be using all of the large spaces. The plans will be developed based on the number of students we can fit into classrooms and are able to transport, with the priority being our youngest and most vulnerable students.

Remote learning option for medically vulnerable children/families.

A. Yes!

I've never seen anything like this. My kids want to go to school and I feel it's in their best interest to go to school. My kids strive on a routine. It is very difficult for us as parents to work full time jobs and then home school our children. I personally had to leave my job because it was too much to handle along with other responsibilities. So now I'm not getting an income because of this situation.

A. This has been an incredibly challenging time for our entire school community. We are working to support everyone to the best of our abilities.

I would much prefer the choice to do remote learning at least through the fall rather than have to send them to the building at any time.

A. We hope to have permission to have that option and the ability to staff it.

Re stress: I have 2 children one of which remote learning was extremely stressful and one who didn't mind it at all so that was an impossible question for me to answer completely using one selection.

Also my concern is students having to wear masks with little relief from it. I know when wearing one at work it's very hard to wear it for more than a hour or so without a break and with large class sizes they are going to have to wear them almost non stop. In addition to my concerns is gym class. The masks I feel restrict your breathing and adding exercise is only going to make breathing more restricted.

A. Please see above regarding the wearing of masks.

We would like some opportunity for peer contact and school attendance, but are flexible to allow for a hybrid or non-daily attendance schedule. We are not comfortable going back a full, normal day, at previous student levels.

A. Thank you

I am most concerned about my child moving through the school and coming into contact with surfaces and air that has been contaminated by asymptomatic people/children or children whose parents sent them to school knowing or not that they were sick. Think about how many people send their kids to school with Tylenol to bring their fevers down. Students would need to remain in very small cohorts or pods and remain together as a group to contain exposure, and contact tracing would be mandatory for me to be able to send my child to school. I would also be in favor of the school taking children's temperatures before they can enter the building rather than relying on parents/families to self report. We are taking Covid extremely seriously in our house and limiting exposure. As kids are often asymptomatic, we are concerned about our children either contracting it or being carriers.

A. We will be making every effort to minimize exposure by keeping the same groups together.

I don't feel right sending my kids it is too soon!

A. We respect your position and will work with you on a solution.

If it ends up being online schooling again. I think teachers should work as a regular school day. Be online and go through with class periods etc. The posting of just doing work didn't help my child learn.

A. This spring was a learning experience for all involved.

Being not only a mom but a nurse I am confident that the school district will make the right choices on moving forward to the new school year. I do believe that having the children back in school either full time or part time will play a huge part in their mental health and boost their morale. A thought I had was trying to limit belonging going back and forth to school. Maybe have the students do home work on line and email it to the teachers through the google classroom. Keep up the great work!!!!

A. Great feedback and thank you for the support.

I believe social interaction and face to face learning is imperative for proper social development for our children. If need be and we need more space could the district inquire about renting the Parker School from the Donnelly family? Just a thought.

A. The use of another building is complicated but we appreciate all ideas.

My children did not attend this school (Tamarac) last year during remote learning; They will be attending this year. They did attend an elementary and middle school (southwestern Vermont) at another school during remote learning. One of my children had an extremely hard time doing the remote learning. My other had a slightly difficult time. Either way none of us (in the family) felt as if they learned as much as they needed to. Both myself and my husband work full time M-F day shift hours and neither of us learned the common core way. This made it very difficult to give our children what they needed in order to be successful. I believe that if this carries on too long these children will not be ready for the next developmental steps that may be there when schooling is no longer remote.

A. Our plan includes assessments to determine student academic needs.

We sincerely appreciate all that you are doing to provide a safe environment during these turbulent times. Please know we trust your judgment and will support whatever decision is made regarding reopening. Thank you again and please stay safe.

A. Thank you for choosing Tamarac for your child's education.

My answers are dependent on whether or not work allows me to work from home.

I have a concern with modified schedules as my student in elementary school cannot not be left home without my middle schooler at home.

A. Childcare and student safety remain priorities in the development of the plan.

I am concerned about my son's special education needs with total remote learning

A. Special education students will be prioritized for in person learning.

When the hybrid model is chosen, the students that are learning remotely for the day (or week) should be actively engaged in the live classroom teachings. Students should not be directed to watch an instructional video in lieu of watching their teacher live. In essence, the students learning remotely should be required to participate and act as if they were physically in the classroom for that day.

A. Thank you for your suggestions.

If my children are remote learning, I believe it would help if the days were more structured. For example school attendance at 7:30am, math at 7:45-8:30, ELA 8:35-9:15 and so on. Thank You.

A. Structure will be very important to any remote learning.

I responded that distance learning only is my least preferred. I can support the idea of it if the virus numbers increase, NYS requires it, or the school district feels it's in the best interest of the students. However, I think there needs to be more training of the teachers and I'd like to see a regular school day done online, or even 20 min classes, but the students move online from class to class and there is no option of just posting materials only. Even if students are quiet, they need to see some live interaction and see the teacher. I think the clubs should continue to meet online as well if it's remote only. I know the school district did what they could in March and the teachers were wonderful (as well as the administration). Even so, that was temporary and as we move forward, there has to be more structure put in place. I am lucky that we have internet. However, there has to be a backup plan for students who don't but I don't think the majority should suffer by the lack of unstructured classes for those who can't participate live online. They may need to have more materials posted or delivered to them. My nephew's school, as part of a new orientation for all students, is going to devote some time to training the students in online delivery which would be a benefit as well, even if school starts as in person or hybrid mode. We can't tell yet if the school will have to go to all online delivery at any point. Thank you for all of your hard work. This is an enormous task to workout.

A. Great points and professional development is important for us to grow and learn from this past spring. Access to technology is critical to equity.

The children wearing masks for that length of time is dangerous and shouldn't happen. I'm in for remote learning and for children that need extra help I can drop off for the help class and pick up. As long as they aren't more than an hour with the mask. I will switch my work hours and stay home with my child.

A. Our guidance for masks comes from the RCDOH and NYSED.

We will follow whatever protocols required by the school district.

A. We appreciate your support to keep our students and staff safe.

If the kids are not able to return to school or have a modified schedule, teachers need to be held accountable for teaching and must have regular instruction/ google meets with the kids. I feel having the kids self teach, watch videos or just read articles are not good for the kids to learn. I have a good student, but he did struggle last year. He really needs to have the daily instruction/interaction with the teachers.

A. Thank you for your thoughts.

Both of my children are prone to bad asthma and pneumonia. They have been hospitalized for these things. They also have a long list of medical problems. I dont feel comfortable sending them to school in the fall. I would prefer distance learning for them.

A. Please consult your medical provider for the best course of action for your family.

As parents, we have mixed feelings about the possibility of our kids returning to school. While we understand in school learning is the preferred method of education, we still have many concerns. Assuming that kids return to some form of in school learning, illnesses are going to happen. We have questions about how student and staff absenteeism will impact continuity of learning, especially given the time it takes for the COVID-19 diagnostic test results to come back (and could possibly take longer during the flu season). Although our children miss their friends, teachers and activities they are also concerned about what will happen if they get sick. As parents we worry about the rise in the infection rate of COVID-19 and the community spread of the virus. As a result of these concerns, we are having a difficult time making a decision about the upcoming school year.

A. Thank you for your thoughtful response.

My main concern is my daughter struggles academically, she had remote learning for about half of freshman year, if her sophomore year is the same way, I am highly concerned about her going into her junior year one of the hardest years and her being so far behind. Her safety/health is my main concern however what would the plan be for extra help? She was in RAPP last year which helped immensely, she was starting to be tested by the special ed department prior to the pandemic so we were not able to complete the testing. What extra help could she receive remotely, if any? The positive of remote learning I was able to follow up with all her work as I received an email daily from google classroom but at the same time I am afraid she wasnt truly learning. ALL of her teachers were amazing and did all to help her and the other students its just as a parent of struggling student I m quite concerned.

I just don't understand how it can be justified to return to school when sports are already a NO. They are around many more students in school then in sports.

I feel as though this coming school year should be a "wash" and the following year they start the grade they should be entering this fall. No one knows what the winter months will bring with this pandemic. Too many uncertainties. These years are very important for her future. thank you

A. Student supports are very important to all of the educators. We will seek out student needs and apply AIS or other supports as needed. Special Education testing is being completed this summer. Contact Mrs. Hoot at rhoot@brunswickcsd.org.

If it is not permissible that the students return to the school for on-site learning and remote is the only possible way, I believe the teachers need to continue to teach as if in school, with all the students following their schedules as if in person. This would allow for accountability on both the student and faculty as far as attendance, grading and all students learning the same material at the same time. If the school will not be open to students then it would be safe for the staff to return and continue teaching from their classrooms as if in person.

A. Thank you.

I feel that there should be weekly testing provided on campus to ensure asymptomatic carriers are not spreading the virus without knowing and bringing it back to the vulnerable people in there homes and communities.

A. I'm not sure if COVID testing is possible at our schools. Will investigate.

My daughter really misses school and I feel really needs one on one instruction

A. We miss our students.

Infectious disease epidemiologist here.

It's hard to judge how confident I am with the district's plans when plans have not been shared yet. It might be helpful to deploy this survey or one like it again after reopening plans have been shared.

The school re-closing criteria of a 9% test positivity rate set by the governor's office is way too high to maintain community containment. I would strongly consider pulling my daughter from school long before it reached that rate.

My daughter would benefit from more live remote instruction - e.g., google meets several times a week or even several times/day. Live programs are much more engaging. A hybrid model or one that offered a rotating in-person schedule to ensure social distancing and all health guidelines are being exceeded, would also be a good choice. I do know that she misses interactions with her friends.

A. Thank you for your thoughts.

It is hard to say whether or not we are confident in any of the districts reopening plans as they are still being formalized and have not been announced yet. We recognize this is due to SED and Governor's office guidance being released just the other day. We are confident the district will thoughtfully review the state guidance and plan out all details related to reopening. However, we are concerned the school will have limited financial resources to do everything that is needed to keep kids and staff safe.

A. Thank you for your comments.

I am concerned about returning to school. There is a lot of talk on social media with parents saying they will not have their children wear masks. This makes me very concerned about the safety of my children if they return to school in person. If there was a hybrid model, I would need to know that social distancing and mask wearing is 100% compliant. If it is only remote learning, we need to know that there will be actual teaching going on. Some of the spring teachers were not actually teaching (giving lectures) and were simply having group gatherings with the students and just giving out worksheets. If they are learning online, they need to have actual lessons being taught to them, just like they are in school.

A. Your feedback is appreciated.