



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LAST UPDATED 8/12/20

Below you will find a list of frequently asked questions. We will try to update this regularly as we move toward reopening.

WHAT ABOUT LUNCH?

- Students can pack their own lunch. Students in 7-12 will still have access to their lockers to store their lunch and belongings in during the day.
- All students will have three choices to purchase lunch daily: a hot meal, sandwich of the day, or an “Uncrustable” (PBJ).
- Elementary: Students will have lunch delivered to their classroom. The district has developed an app for teachers to submit their lunch requests. Cafeteria workers will prepare and deliver the meals.
- Middle/High School: Two-thirds (2/3) of the students will eat in the cafeteria spread out in both the High School and Elementary cafeterias. All meals will be prepared and packaged for students when they arrive (a hot meal, sandwich of the day, or “Uncrustable”). The other one-third (1/3) of students that are spread out in the building attending school online, will have an app that they will access in the morning to order their lunch for delivery later in the day.

WHAT ARE THE START END TIMES FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR

- Kindergarten-6th grade: 7:40 AM – 1:00 PM
- PreK Morning Session: 7:40 AM – 9:55 AM (No full day PreK for the 2020/21 year)
- PreK Afternoon Session: 10:35 AM – 1:00 PM (No full day PreK for the 2020/21 year)
- Middle/High School (7-12): 9:10 AM – 2:27 PM

WHAT IF I WANT MY CHILD TO STAY HOME?

- The Governor decided that schools may go back at 100% capacity, therefore, the district is asking all students to attend school 5 days a week.
- The infection rate is extremely low in our area; if that changes, we will reconsider giving families a choice of online or in-person learning
- If a student, family member or primary caregiver is part of a “vulnerable population” we will provide an online option for those students; documentation from a physician will be required.
- Having students stay home is in conflict with what the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends for school reopening in areas of low infection such as ours. <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- Juggling in-home and at-school learning for a large number of students may result in neither being very good.

WHAT IF THERE IS A POSITIVE CASE BY A TEACHER OR STUDENT AT THE SCHOOL?

- First and foremost, consistent with HIPAA privacy regulations, we will not disclose to the public which student or staff member has tested positive.
- If there is a single case of a teacher or student who test positive for COVID – 19, we will close down their Cohort For 24 hours: Middle/High School the Cohort will be the grade level and for Elementary the Cohort will be the classroom they are in. During that 24 hours, we will work with the Cattaraugus County Health Department to create a thorough plan of testing and tracing. Bringing the Cohort back will be a joint decision between Dr.Watkins (Cattaraugus County Health Director) and the Superintendent.
- If there are multiple cases, we will close the entire school building (MS/HS and/or Elementary) down for 24 hours and we will work with the Cattaraugus County Health Department to create a thorough plan of testing and tracing. Reopening the school will be a joint decision between Dr.Watkins (Cattaraugus County Health Director) and the Superintendent.

WILL IT TAKE A LONG TIME TO TEMPERATURE CHECK STUDENTS AND GIVE THEM A MASK?

- No, it will not take long at all. It takes only seconds to test a temperature using a touch free thermometer.
- The District plans to use multiple entrances in each building to filter students through. We have 70 touch-free thermometers in the district.
- A student's and staff member's temperature must be below 100 degrees Fahrenheit to stay in the building for the day.
- We have ordered, and have in stock, 125,000 disposable masks. When students enter the school, there will be a staff member who will hand them a clean, new mask for the day which the staff member will put the student's name on. They will discard their mask from the day before (which they will wear on the bus) and be issued a new one when they enter the building. Weather permitting, we will be stationed outside as well.

IF MY CHILD'S TEMPERATURE IS TOO HIGH WHERE WILL THEY GO TO WAIT FOR ME?

- A student's whose temperature is too high to enter the building will wait in the Board of Education conference room across from the nurse's office. The nurse will re-check their temperature with an ear thermometer. If it is high, they will be sent home. There will be a staff member who waits with them until a parent or guardian picks them up.
- A lot of factors can cause someone's temperature to rise. We suggest contacting your child's physician if their temperature is above 100° F.
 - It is up to your child's physician to determine if your child should be tested for COVID-19. The district will need proof that you have contacted them and what course of action they recommend (including if they feel your child can return to school if your child is sent home with a temperature or other symptoms of COVID-19.)

HOW WILL PARENTS BE ABLE TO SYMPTOM CHECK THEIR CHILD

- We are working with Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES to develop an online app for parents to use to do the daily symptom check. This is the exact same process that all employees will be required to do as well.
- The District will keep a record that parents have symptom-checked a child at home.
- The District's records will indicate the following:
 - Did the child's parent answer "NO" to all of the symptom check questions? (Yes or No)
 - Did the child have a temperature above 100° F? (Yes or No)
- Under DOH and NYSED regulations, it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their child is symptom-free when coming to school.

SYMPTOM CHECK QUESTIONS

- Potential Exposure
 - Has your child knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19? YES/NO
 - Has your child tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days? YES/NO
 - Has your child traveled internationally, or from a state, with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days? YES/NO
- Symptom Check
 - Has your child experienced any symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours? YES/NO.
 - A temperature of greater than 100.0°F
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Has your child had a temperature over 100° F in the past 24 hours? YES/NO
- **If you respond YES to any of the above questions, your child should not come to school and you should follow up with your child's physician prior to returning.**

CAN A CHILD COMPLETE THE SYMPTOM CHECK ONLINE?

- The District will not know who fills out the online symptom check form. But, it is the Parent's responsibility to ensure that it is done daily and accurately.

IF MY CHILD IS IN GRADES 7-12 WILL THEY HAVE A LOCKER STILL AND IF SO HOW WILL THEY SOCIAL DISTANCE?

- Students in grades 7-12 will have access to their lockers. They will be required to wear a mask when in the hallways. Their *Cohort* is considered their entire grade level. Therefore, they can use their locker between classes with their **mask on**. Anytime students cannot social distance, they must wear a mask.
- Students from other grade levels will have a lane marked out with social distancing markers to pass by students at their lockers. They will have a **mask on** when in the hallways, and all hallways will be ONE-WAY.

HOW WILL STUDENTS SOCIAL DISTANCE WHILE EATING LUNCH?

- Elementary students in their classrooms will be spaced out 6 feet apart.
- Students attending class online in a large space (gym, library etc.) at the 7-12 level will be spaced 6 feet apart.
- Students eating in the cafeteria will sit in seats clearly marked so they are 6 feet apart.

HOW WILL STUDENTS SOCIAL DISTANCE ON A SCHOOL BUS?

- There has been conflicting information about students' need to social distance on a school bus.
- PCS is relying on the guidance that was cited in the DOH guidelines around public transportation.
- We are having all students on a bus wear a mask and sitting one per seat (unless from the same household) staggered inside the seat (aisle side of the seat) to the outside of the seat (window side of the seat) alternating through the bus.
- We ask that parents who can drop their student off and pick them up from school do so to help us keep our ridership low.

HOW WILL I KNOW THE DETAILS REGARDING BUSSING

- The District will be sending an app specific to transportation so we can create bus route seating charts and ensure that we have only one student per seat.
- The transportation supervisor will make sure that communication gets out to the community about route times prior to the start of school. This will largely be dependent on the results that we collect from the app.
- Questions have been raised about bus drivers taking a temperature of passengers prior to riding. (1.) NYSDOT specifically states that drivers can not be distracted by doing temperature checks. (2.) **EVERY PARENT – EVERY DAY MUST TAKE THEIR CHILD’S TEMPERATURE BEFORE SENDING THEIR CHILD TO SCHOOL.** We will temperature check at school as an extra *secondary* precaution.

CAN MY CHILD IN 7-12 STAY HOME ON LARGE GROUP DAYS

- We would like all students in school every day. Getting materials, tests, and support to individual homes every three days is beyond our resource capacity.
- Letting some students stay home while others come in can be an equity issue. Not all students have support, food, technology and a conducive learning environment at home.
- We plan to make the large group instruction days a fun active day for students; they will not just be in their seats all day.
- After school starts we will frequently reevaluate how this is going and make necessary changes.

WILL THE ENVISIONEERING CENTER BE OPEN

- Yes, the Envisioneering Center will be open. Students will have less time to go to the center because of the shorter school day, but it will be open.

WHAT ABOUT ATHLETICS

- At this point the only information the District has is that the Fall season has been delayed until September 21st.
- The David Waugh Fitness Center will be closed until further notice.

WILL SENIORS HAVE TO BE IN SCHOOL ALL DAY

- Seniors will only be required to be here for their scheduled classes.
- To avoid gaps in their schedules, seniors have been encouraged to take as many classes as possible during the 5-hour school day.
- If there is a gap in their schedule, they will not have a space in the building to “hang out” such as senior lounge.

FEEDBACK

- The District had to establish detailed plans for both the NYS Department of Health and New York State Education Department. These plans, in all of their detail, are posted on the school website.
- If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding PCS reopening measures and would like them considered or addressed, please EMAIL reopen@portvillecsd.org.
- We appreciate your patience as we move through this reopening process. We recognize that not everything will go off without a hitch and changes will need to be made.
- Lastly, we cannot thank enough the community, teachers, aides, secretaries, cleaners, maintenance staff, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, managers, principals and the Board of Education for doing the hard work to bring students back and provide the education, social emotional support, and general care our students need. There were easier ways, but we choose to do the hard work to provide the best option for the children in this community.