

CDS PAC Questions

Please be reminded many of these responses may change as additional information comes from the state and additional guidance is provided by the District physicians.

1. My son is a student at Paxtonia Elementary which has no A/C. How will they handle the students having to wear masks?

Parents are encouraged to contact their building principal for information specific to each building.

2. Will the school be supplying masks? If so what type, I have read that the school doctor recommends N95 masks? Will staff be issued N95 masks?

All school nurses and staff who assist students with personal care needs are being provided with N95 masks.

Generally speaking, students should supply their own mask. However, a supply of masks will be available at each building as well as on the busses. Due to supply limitations, we are not able to supply all masks to students. We are aware that at some buildings the PTA may provide masks to staff and students. Bottom line, if a student and or staff member needs a mask, we will make sure that they are provided with one.

3. If the students don't have masks, who will provide them? I understand the school will have a limited supply. A limited supply will not help those that do not have access to the masks?

A supply of masks will be available at each building as well as on the busses. Due to supply limitations, we are not able to supply all masks to students. We are aware that at some buildings the PTA may provide masks to staff and students. Bottom line, if a student and or staff member needs a mask, we will make sure that they are provided with one.

4. What will lunch/recess look like? And my son is social, what is going to happen when he tags someone or forgets and touches his friend or his friend's book?

Students will be explicitly taught healthy hygiene practices and will wash their hands before and after lunch and before going out to recess and again when they return to the building. We understand that it is impossible to expect students to never touch a peer at recess and will work to monitor as best as possible. School staff will frequently remind students of the expectations and signage will be posted in every school.

5. What will bussing look like? Will masks need to be worn? Who will enforce this on the bus. The driver should be concentrating on safely transporting the students.

Students will be expected to wear masks when on the bus. They will be reminded upon entry to the vehicle and, if they need a mask, will be provided one. Family members will be encouraged to sit together and, when at all possible, students will be encouraged to sit as far apart as possible.

6. My spouse teaches at CDHS, what is the school district doing to make sure the teachers are safe? At retail establishments, where customers interact with cashiers for a short time, there is plexiglas to prevent cross contamination, what is the district doing to protect teachers who will be in the classroom with 120+ students in a confined space for 45 minutes at a time?

At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn. Additional ventilation procedures have been put in place by maintenance. The District is also implementing additional cleaning protocols to help sanitize the facilities.

7. Should teachers quarantine their papers that they receive from students for 3 days like retail stores are doing with returned clothing? If not, why?

Digital resources will be utilized as much as possible. At this time will not be quarantining materials for students or staff.

8. Should students take handouts from teachers or should they be quarantined for 3 days?

Digital resources will be utilized as much as possible. At this time will not be quarantining materials for students or staff.

9. Is it safe for those students and staff in air conditioned buildings to be breathing the recycled air?

In buildings that are air-conditioned, there is a minimum of 10 to 20% outside air introduced into the spaces for additional ventilation. This is the standard minimum percentage of ventilation of occupied spaces. In addition, we are utilizing our HVAC partnership with Trane to maximize the percentage of outside air being brought into air conditioned buildings.

10. I understand that if one case is confirmed the whole building will be quarantined for 14 days. Does that mean that if CDHS is quarantined, and my husband works there, my son will also need to stay away from his elementary school for 14 days.

Is no, why? Doesn't this policy cause continued disruption in the student and staff's mental state?

Generally speaking, in the case of a confirmed positive, a letter notifying all staff guardians in that school building will be sent home. Students attending the building where there is a confirmed positive will move to remote learning for a 14-day period.

If a person is living with a family member from another school who has been quarantined due to potential exposure, and has no symptoms, that person will be permitted to continue in-person learning.

11. Why would we allow sports to happen if we are going to have "virtual band and choir performances? If the football or soccer team plays a team that ends up having a Covid diagnosis, will the school be notified? And, will the whole school be required to quarantine for 14 days. If not why?

At this point in time there will be no audience/fans for any District performance or sporting event.

12. Is it possible to set up town hall meetings regionally or by class so that these questions and many more can be answered by the Administration and the district.

At this point in time we are asking parents to contact the principal of their child's building with any questions or to clarify expectations.

13. Athletics currently requires 14 day quarantine if a student athlete returns from one of 14 states. Will students and teachers have the same requirement during the school year?

We are adjusting practices as new information becomes available.

14. Substitute teachers often move around from building to building and district to district on a daily basis. Will there be any changes to how substitutes are used in an effort to maintain a "bubble" within a building or the district as a whole?

As much as possible, substitutes will be assigned to support one building.

15. What happens if a teacher tests positive, do they then quarantine for 14 days? Will the district's sick leave policy change to accommodate this?

In the case of a confirmed positive, a letter notifying all guardians in that school building will be sent home. Students attending the building where there is a confirmed positive will move to remote learning for a 14-day period.

The Human Resources Department is working closely with impacted staff to determine the best possible direction to take in the case of a confirmed positive or mandatory quarantine.

16. If that is a high school teacher who might see 120-150 students tests positive, do all student quarantine? Do all students need to be tested and if so who pays for that?

If a person in a CDSB building tests positive, all students and staff in that school will quarantine for 14 days and move to remote learning during that time period.

17. Is there a way for the students to go a hybrid style of learning, such as the possible option that was provided in the survey that parents completed? It could be split up by grade and cycle days (9th/12th. Cycle days 1,3,5 & 10th /11th. Cycle days 2,4,6) This would give the opportunity to have alternate days in school and at home.

In discussion with District physicians, the recommendation was full return as the risk of infection is about the same regardless of attending 3 days a week or 5 days a week. A hybrid schedule may be a reality in the future depending on the mandates put out by the state.

18. Now that masks are mandated, will they be required in schools by students and staff?

At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn.

19. If masks are being made mandatory for when the kids cannot be 6 ft apart (all day), what is the plan for hydrating and keeping these kids cool in schools with no air conditioning?

Parents are encouraged to contact their building principal for information specific to each building. All staff and students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day.

20. How many students do you foresee being in an elementary classroom?

The goal is distancing students at six feet in the classroom setting. Principals, along with buildings and grounds staff, have reviewed the classrooms in the buildings and are working with staff to set up classrooms where students are seated six feet apart. At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn. The ability to maintain the six feet is also dependent upon the number of students in the classroom and will be impacted by

the number of students who opt for remote learning. Contact your building principal for specific information regarding your child's class.

21. In the reentry plan, it states that the district will socially distance where possible. How far will students actually be spread out?

The goal is distancing students at six feet. Principals, along with buildings and grounds staff, have reviewed the classrooms in the buildings and are working with staff to set up classrooms where students are seated six feet apart. At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn. The ability to maintain the six feet is also dependent upon the number of students in the classroom and will be impacted by the number of students who opt for remote learning. Contact your building principal for specific information regarding your child's class.

22. Are students eating in classrooms or the cafeteria (elementary level)?

Students are eating in the cafeteria at the elementary level. They will be seated with their homeroom class. Principals are working to limit the number of students in the cafeteria, adjust the procedures for waiting to get student lunches, decrease the number of students at a table and spread out tables as much as possible.

23. Will students be sharing supplies?

Student sharing of supplies will be limited as much as possible. Students will be provided with personal supplies, labeled with their name, that are kept in location designated for them. Students will be explicitly taught to not share these supplies for hygiene reasons. When supplies must be shared (example – paintbrush in art class or a math manipulative) the materials will be disinfected after use and before another student uses them.

24. Are students going to be split for specials (elementary level)?

No. Students will remain with their homeroom cohort for specials. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

25. Is the district providing staff with PPE?

All school nurses, staff who assist students with personal care needs, custodians and maintenance staff are being provided with N95 masks. Additional PPE is being provided as necessary.

26. What happens when a staff member or student, test positive for COVID or comes in contact with someone that has?

In the case of a confirmed positive, a letter notifying all guardians in that school building will be sent home. Students attending the building where there is a confirmed positive will move to remote learning for a 14-day period.

27. How is recess going to be handled?

Students will be explicitly taught healthy hygiene practices and will wash their hands before and after lunch and before going out to recess and again when they return to the building. School staff will frequently remind students of the expectations and signage will be posted in every school. Students will be encouraged to participate in “low touch” games and in addition to games they may already know will be taught games that are low risk. Playground equipment (balls, etc.) will be designated for an individual grade level and will be frequently cleaned. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child’s class.

28. What is the process for switching from in-school learning to distance learning?

If a parent makes the decision to move their child from CORE to in-person learning they will need to contact the school building that the student attends. The secretary and principal will then make the necessary changes to the student’s schedule as well as arrange for transportation (if necessary). Once that has been completed, the child will move to in person learning.

If a parent makes the decision to move their child from in-person to CORE they will need to contact the school building that the student attends. The secretary and principal will then make the necessary changes to the student’s schedule and schedule a time for the parent to come to the building to pick up materials necessary for remote learning.

29. What state or local dollars has the district applied for to help with the needed educational changes for the schools.

COVID-19 GRANTS & ASSISTANCE APPLIED FOR

1. Pennsylvania Department of Education -Equity Grant Application. Applied for \$574,058.87 for technology assistance. District was not selected for this grant.
2. Pennsylvania Department of Education - Cares Act Funding \$1,577,243.00. Funds to be utilized for mandatory Non-public assistance, chrome books and laptop purchases at Title I. Buildings, educational training cohorts, etc.
3. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency -Cares Act Funding \$576,334. Funds to be utilized for chrome books and laptop purchases at non-Title Buildings.
4. Dauphin County Office of Emergency Management -Requesting a limited quantity of masks, face shields, sanitizer, etc. Deadline July 20, 2020.
5. PEMA -FEMA Assistance -Will be applying for reimbursement for PPE items. Will be applying in August -September when PPE items are received, invoiced, and paid by District.

FOOD SERVICE ASSISTANCE

1. Summer Food Service Program -The District participated /participates in the waiver program of the Summer Food Service Program to provide meal assistance (Breakfast and Lunch) at the District's designated feeding sites (Swatara Middle School, Central Dauphin East High School).
2. Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program -The District provided its data on students attending the CEP designated schools and students who have qualified for Free and or Reduced Price Meals at non-CEP designated schools.

30. For those households that borrowed Chromebooks, but received the older models that do not work well, will there be an opportunity to obtain better ones?

For concerns regarding borrowed devices, please contact the CDSD Help Desk. Staff will then assess the needs of the student and provide assistance, or a new device if necessary. <https://cdschools.sysaidit.com/servicePortal>

31. What will the communication process be if/when there is exposure in a school or classroom? Will there be some form of contact tracing?

In the case of a confirmed positive, a letter notifying all guardians in that school building will be sent home. Students attending the building where there is a confirmed positive will move to remote learning for a 14-day period.

32. How are counselors and staff being trained to talk to the students and address their concerns about this pandemic?

The CDSD Return to Wellness committee, comprised of counselors, social workers, school psychologists, nurses, teachers, and administrators has been meeting with a goal of establish a reentry plan that will support student and staff mental health and wellness as we transition from COVID-19 school closures into the 2020-2021 school year. In addition to counselors providing support to students/groups as needed, all schools will be increasing school wide supports through ongoing classroom lessons.

33. Is there a possibility for parents to work with the teachers or counselors to create their own hybrid schedule for their child in which in some days they learn from home using the CORE system?

This option is not possible at this time. When a child opts out and chooses to participate in CORE, their schedule reflects this change. In the elementary school there are specific CDSD teachers who will be providing virtual learning and a CORE student's classroom assignment will reflect this. In the middle and high school, students will have specific virtual classes and will be assigned to these class periods only if opting for CORE.

34. What is the plan to make more, if not all of the teacher skilled in the CORE curriculum?

Professional learning during our summer academy for all teachers focuses on providing staff with the training on blended learning, specifically providing remote learning to students. If we were to need to return to all virtual learning in CDS, staff will be prepared for a seamless transition. In addition, the Curriculum and Instruction department, in collaboration with CDS teachers, has developed a schedule for remote learning, which includes regular live lessons. Both options follow the same CDS curriculum.

35. What does the cleaning process look like? It cannot just be left up to the custodians in the evening.

The maintenance department has updated their procedures to reflect increased cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing measures. In addition, staff will be provided with disinfectant wipes and or spray to clean high touch areas and shared supplies throughout the day.

36. For grades that usually switch for classes, is there any way possible to have teachers come to the class, and kids stay stationary?

Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

37. In the event that our schools are shut down again, is there an exception made for children whose needs are unable to be met via distance learning? If not, is there a discussion being held surrounding this?

There has been discussion as to different scenarios regarding students in low incidence disability programs (autism support, life skills support, MDS, and supplemental/full-time learning support) and the potential for future school closures. The source of the school closure as well as student and staff safety will guide all decision-making in this regard. There are circumstances under which it would not be advisable to have the students continue to attend in person; therefore, we cannot guarantee that these students would never return to remote learning at some time in the future.

38. It seems one of the biggest hot topics is mask wearing. With new guidelines being passed down on a daily or weekly basis, what is the plan for kids that are unable to wear them? And will their teachers need to wear them, considering much of what they do is Speech related and the visual of their mouths is important?

Masks will be required consistent with governmental directives and orders. If students are unable to wear masks, they will not be required to do so. Consideration is being given to using face shields in lieu of masks for certain students during instruction, especially those who are deaf/hard of hearing or speech-language impairment. We are reviewing programs and making recommendations on a program-by-program basis. Teachers and staff members will be required to wear masks at times when social distance cannot be maintained and students are not engaged in instruction – feeding, toileting, arrival/dismissal, etc.

39. Social distancing in a typical classroom is almost impossible. Social Distancing in an autistic support classroom IS actually impossible. They tend to use a lot of manipulatives and hands-on learning. I know the teachers have a rigorous cleaning routine already. I am wondering if this type of learning is being taken into consideration when adapting protocols and reimagining what the classroom is going to look like? This type of learning is important in this classroom, as well as early education classrooms.

The District is taking precautions to ensure social distancing to the extent feasible throughout all District buildings and programs. Please contact special education with specific questions.

40. Can you give us a sense of the number of families that are choosing the various options for this year (maybe % of families)?

At this point in time, approximately 15% of our student population has chosen to opt out of in-person learning. Please know that this number will fluctuate.

41. As a PTA, how can we support our teachers and families this upcoming school year?

Please contact your building principal for ideas to support the school this coming school year. In addition, encourage families to contact the building principal with questions or concerns.

42. How will student activities be impacted?

All student activities, including field trips, will be virtual during the 20-21 school year. Musical performances, Back to School Nights, and other family events will be done virtually.

43. Is the school supplying masks etc. to the teachers and/or students?

A supply of masks will be available at each building as well as on the busses. Due to supply limitations, we are not able to supply all masks to students. We

are aware that at some buildings, the PTA is providing masks to all staff and students.

44. Will parents/volunteers/PTA be permitted in the schools?

At this time nonessential volunteers or visitors will not be permitted in the buildings. Parents will be able to enter the office area to drop off items etc. but will not be permitted in any other location of the building.

45. Given a survey that 1 in 5 teachers are not willing to return nationwide; what's the percentage of teachers willing to return to CD?

At this time all vacancies have been filled.

46. What is the percentage of students opting out of in-person classes in CD?

At this point in time, approximately 15% of our student population has chosen to opt out of in-person learning. Please know that this number will fluctuate.

47. Will the students opting out of in-person classes receive the same amount of teacher & peer interactions?

At least 30% of the school day for students in CORE will be online learning through live and prerecorded video lessons. The remainder of their day will be independent work and small group direct instruction (through zoom) as needed. The same CDS curriculum will be followed for CORE as is followed in-person.

48. Is there enough space to social distance in the schools?

The goal is distancing students at six feet. Principals, along with buildings and grounds staff, have reviewed the classrooms in the buildings and are working with staff to set up classrooms where students are seated six feet apart. At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn. The ability to maintain the six feet is also dependent upon the number of students in the classroom and will be impacted by the number of students who opt for remote learning. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

49. Any plans for outdoor classes (in school grounds)?

Teachers will be encouraged to take their classes outdoors for learning when possible. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

50. Will classes be shorter to allow for more time between classes if movement is necessary in order to maintain social distancing?

Bell schedules at some of the secondary schools have been modified to allow for less students in the hallways at dismissal time. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

51. If students will be eating in the cafeteria, how will lunch times be coordinated so that there is social distancing but also not kids eating lunch at 10AM and others eating at 2PM?

Students are eating in the cafeteria at the elementary level. At the middle and high school level students will utilize the lunchroom with overflow to the library, gym or classrooms. Principals are working to limit the number of students in the cafeteria, adjust the procedures for waiting to get student lunches, decrease the number of students at a table and spread out tables as much as possible. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

52. For students who have trips planned to one of the recommended please quarantine upon your return states, can any accommodations be made if that quarantine period overlaps with the start of school?

We are adjusting practices as new information becomes available. In a situation where a student needs to quarantine due to travel we recommend opting for CORE during the 14-day quarantine.

53. What steps will be taken by school staff/administration if it is realized that students are being sent to school with symptoms rather than being kept home?

If a child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 a parent or guardian will be contacted to pick the child up. While the child awaiting pickup they will stay in the nurse designated isolation area.

54. Where the protocols indicate allowing for 6 feet of separation to "the maximum extent feasible", what are the minimum standards that would apply for social distancing? We've had classes as large as 24-25 and that doesn't leave much room to distance the kids.

The goal is distancing students at six feet. Principals, along with buildings and grounds staff, have reviewed the classrooms in the buildings and are working with staff to set up classrooms where students are seated six feet apart. At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn. The ability to maintain the six feet is also dependent upon the number

of students in the classroom and will be impacted by the number of students who opt for remote learning. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

55. Have any further plans been made regarding bussing/transportation for students? What authority will bus drivers be given to enforce wearing masks while on the bus?

Students will be expected to wear masks when on the bus. They will be reminded upon entry to the vehicle and, if they need a mask, will be provided one. Siblings will be encouraged to sit together and when at all possible, students will be encouraged to sit as far apart as possible.

56. Why the decision not to do temp checking? Rather than doing it when kids walk in the door, is it possible that it could be done upon entry into the classroom? Once seated at the desks? etc?

At this point in time, at the recommendation of the district physicians, the district has decided to not do temperature screening. If that were to change, we have purchased the supplies necessary to do so. At the middle and high school level we are looking at having an online self-screening for students to submit each morning.

57. Is there a change in the original plan to move from masks being recommended to mandatory?

Masks will be required consistent with governmental directives and orders..

58. Will parents receive back to school lists that include not just the "usual" items but also items that usually would be provided by the school but with a restriction on sharing, students should have their own of certain items?

We are encouraging students to leave personal items at home. School supplies will be provided by the district. Please contact your building principal with questions specific to your child's class.

59. If a student/teacher tests positive, what is the protocol for that classroom? The rest of that school?

In the case of a confirmed positive, a letter notifying all guardians in that school building will be sent home. Students attending the building where there is a confirmed positive will move to remote learning for a 14-day period.

60. Is there specific off-the-shelf cleaner (ie: Clorox vs. Lysol) and Hand Sanitizer/Soap that parents should attempt to find/buy for their classrooms/teachers.

While brand names are preferred, we ask that any donations are in the original, sealed packaging labeled with list of ingredients.

61. Can you give additional detail on how the online program will run, especially for the elementary as they require increased parental assist. What online formats will be used? Will it be consistent across the classrooms per grade, as I know last spring was not?

At least 30% of the school day for students in CORE will be online learning through live and prerecorded video lessons. The remainder of their day will be independent work and small group direct instruction (through zoom) as needed. The same CDS D curriculum will be followed for CORE as is followed in-person.

62. What was the decision process in determining the current options of in the building and full online school, with no split-time option?

In discussion with District physicians, the recommendation was full return as the risk of infection is about the same regardless of attending 3 days a week or 5 days a week. A hybrid schedule may be a reality in the future depending on the mandates put out by the state.

63. How has education and training with the teachers and staff been going (both online teaching education and safety for in the classrooms)? It is a lot of information to absorb and they have to be stressed right now.

Professional learning during our summer academy, for all teachers, focuses on providing staff with the training on blended learning, specifically providing remote learning to students. If we were to need to return to all virtual learning in CDS D, staff will be prepared for a seamless transition. In addition, the Curriculum and Instruction department, in collaboration with CDS D teachers, has developed a schedule for remote learning, which includes regular live lessons, that will be consistent across the district.

64. When can we expect more information on classroom sizes (ie: CV has stated no more than 20/class for Elem)?

The goal is distancing students at six feet in the classroom setting. Principals, along with buildings and grounds staff, have reviewed the classrooms in the buildings and are working with staff to set up classrooms where students are seated six feet apart. At any time that students and staff are unable to maintain a six-foot distance, masks will be worn. The ability to maintain the six feet is also

dependent upon the number of students in the classroom and will be impacted by the number of students who opt for remote learning.

65. If the district/state shuts down, will iPads/other systems work for online programming, or will Chromebooks be needed?

For questions regarding compatibility of devices, please contact the CDSD Help Desk. Staff will then assess the needs of the student and provide assistance or a new device if necessary. <https://cdschools.sysaidit.com/servicePortal>

66. If teachers/staff test (+), do they have paid sick leave? Is there additional leave allowance for (+) cases not including their normal allowance?

The Human Resources Department is working closely with impacted staff to determine the best possible direction to take in the case of a confirmed positive or mandatory quarantine.

67. How will a student/staff showing symptoms without a (+) result be handled?

The CDSD School board approved an attachment to Policy 203. In this it states,

“COVID-19: At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and, at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. There is also a 14-day quarantine period for anyone living with someone who tests positive or has a significant positive exposure.”

This information will be included in the 2020-2021 CDSD Handbook.