

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN TO REOPEN SCHOOLS

August 3, 2020

UCF | Unionville-Chadds Ford
School District

INTRODUCTION

On July 13, 2020, the administration presented a draft Health and Safety Plan to the public. The plan was based on feedback from the Continuity of Education Plan survey which indicated that the majority of our stakeholders wanted to be back in brick and mortar instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. The draft plan was grounded in the current medical guidance from the CDC and the Chester County Health Department. On July 16, 2020, Governor Wolf and the Department of Education released new guidance for the reopening of schools. Significant changes included the need for 6 feet of social distancing in classrooms and to minimize the number of students on the school bus. Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics also released new guidance that encouraged schools to reopen for students for in-person learning with sufficient health and safety measures. Administration also received feedback from parents and staff regarding the proposed plan that was predominantly negative towards the July 13 proposal. As directed by the school board, the administration reviewed additional options for the reopening of our schools. We conducted a series of Town Hall meetings with parents, staff, and students to present these reopening plans. Additionally, we formed a task force of parents, teachers, medical professionals, students, Board members and administrators to review possible plans and get feedback. We also surveyed our teachers and our parents to get additional insights on their comfort levels regarding the proposals.

After a careful review of the feedback and the health and safety guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the administration brought forward a new proposal outlined below. This proposal was discussed July 29 at the Curriculum and Instruction meeting, and there was support to move this forward for further discussion and board action at the August 3, 2020 special board meeting.



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OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#1 KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

UCFSD Pandemic Team utilized the following information
To develop the Health and Safety Plan:

- [CDC Guidance](#)
- [PA Pre K-12 Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Chester County Health Department Guidance](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance](#)
- [Task Force Survey](#)
- [Survey Data from Parents](#)
- [Survey Data from Teachers](#)
- [UCFSD Athletics Health & Safety Plan](#)
- [Summer Reopening Guide For Staff](#)
- PA Department of Health Guidance Regarding 6 feet of Social Distancing

#2 PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Prepare our instructional program to meet the educational needs of all students both online and in-person
- Maximize as much brick and mortar instructional time as conditions will allow
- Create a schedule that allows for a possible transition back to everyday brick and mortar instruction
- Provide live, synchronous remote instruction for all students
- Commit to continuous improvement and professional development

#3 SUPPORT STUDENTS AND STAFF SOCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY

- Connect students to their teachers and classmates
- Commit to building school community
- Provide mental and behavioral health support
- Preserve meaningful in-person and virtual events
- Offer athletics and extracurricular activities as conditions allow





GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

UCFSD will actively monitor staff, students, and visitors for COVID-19 like symptoms in accordance with guidance from the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). A plan to monitor, isolate, and refer to outside agencies has been developed in partnership with our school nurses, human resources department, and District solicitor based on information provided by a variety of medical organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Ongoing communication with the CCHD will occur to ensure UCFSD is implementing the most up to date practices.

Though there is no national consensus on what specific COVID-19 data to focus on while looking to reopen schools, there is considerable thought by medical professionals that a testing positivity rate of 5% or less is one indicator of a relatively safe environment for the reopening of schools. Chester County is currently hovering around this benchmark with rates of 4.9% and 6% in the past weeks. It should be noted that the state of Pennsylvania is in the bottom five of states in total testing. Therefore this positivity rate is based on the testing of the most at risk population to a large degree.

Families and employees are encouraged to monitor symptoms prior to participating in activities on school grounds by completing the daily [School Symptom Screening Tool](#).

Individuals showing COVID-19 like symptoms will be assessed by District nurses using [symptom monitoring guidelines from the CCHD](#).

An isolation room will be designated to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 like symptoms until the individual is able to go home or to a healthcare provider.

Individuals who are sick or have a temperature will be sent home or to a healthcare facility depending on the severity of their symptoms. Guidance for self-isolation at home and guidelines for returning to school will be provided to caregivers - see [Home Guidance](#) and [Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements](#).

If an individual is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or is thought to have COVID-19, the District will immediately contact the CCHD per current [reporting guidance](#). The District will follow CCHD guidance for contact tracing and closure of schools.

UCFSD will consult with the CCHD on each positive COVID-19 case. If there is a positive case in a school, the CCHD will do contact tracing. Students and staff who have been in contact with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow the [Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements](#) outlined by CCHD. This will include quarantining at home for up to 14 days. Additionally, the District will consider closing a school once there are two positive cases of COVID-19. To make this decision, administration will consult with the Chester County Department of Health, and our school district physician.



SCHOOL CLOSING AND QUARANTINE GUIDELINES



In the event of a COVID positive teacher or student, we will work with the Chester County Health Department and PA Department of Health to establish a case investigation and conduct contact tracing. Based on health department guidelines, students and staff who have come in contact with the individual will be quarantined. See [Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements](#) from the Chester County Health Department.

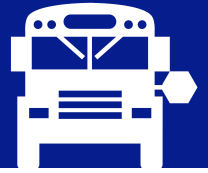
Potential actions include:

- Student quarantine
- Staff quarantine
- Cohort quarantine
- Closing school

Additionally, if you have traveled, or plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID cases, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania. If you travel to [the following states](#), it is recommended that you quarantine for 14 days upon return.



TRANSPORTATION



PPE:

- All passengers on the school bus are required to wear a mask at all times. Extra masks will be available if a student forgets his/her mask.
- Drivers can pull mask down while driving, but must wear masks while students are onboarding and offboarding (bus stops and schools).

SANITIZING MEASURES:

- High touch points will be wiped down and/or disinfected in between each run.
- Entire fleet will be thoroughly disinfected at mid-day and in the evenings by a team of transportation staff members.

ILLNESS MITIGATION MEASURES:

- At-home screening: To protect everyone, we respectfully request that parents perform all necessary screening measures of their children at home before sending students to the bus stop.
- Screening at the bus stop: with some training provided by our district nursing staff, drivers will be able to identify symptoms of the virus. Students exhibiting these symptoms will not be permitted to board the school bus. Parent/guardian will be responsible for seeing a sick student back home from the bus stop.
- To minimize contact, students will board the bus by filling up back-to-front, sitting one student per seat. Similarly, students will exit the bus from front-to-back. The exception to this is siblings - *siblings are required to sit together*. This will help save room for others.
- School platforms: buses will fully unload at schools one at a time.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- Parents are still encouraged to drive students to and from school.
- Grades 6-12 passengers in AB/CD/EF model can achieve one student per seat on the bus as long as most seniors and juniors drive to school.
- K-3 are in full-time and 4-5 are in the AB/CD/EF model - buses can only achieve one student per seat if about 65-70% of students are driven to school by parents. However, this percentage may be reduced if some students access instruction remotely from home.



BUILDING CLEANING/MITIGATION MEASURES



CLEANING, SANITIZING, DISINFECTION

- All frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- Student and staff toilet rooms will be disinfected regularly throughout the day. Toilet rooms to be closed and detail cleaned once during the day, and then cleaned and disinfected in the evenings after school.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting of all spaces will be performed each night.
- Disinfecting wipes will be provided in all classrooms for routine disinfecting of high touch items: computers, phone, etc.
- Water fountains will be turned off and spouts will be covered. Bottle filler stations will remain operational. Students will be encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home.
- Increase daytime custodial staff to support the routine cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces and other building areas throughout the day.

HVAC MITIGATION MEASURES:

- American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommendations for additional outside air will be implemented as feasible.
- Our HVAC systems will be operated for longer periods of time and possibly through the night to increase air exchanges in the building spaces.
- HVAC Equipment filters will be upgraded to MERV 13 where possible. Filters will be changed monthly.

HAND HYGIENE MITIGATION MEASURES:

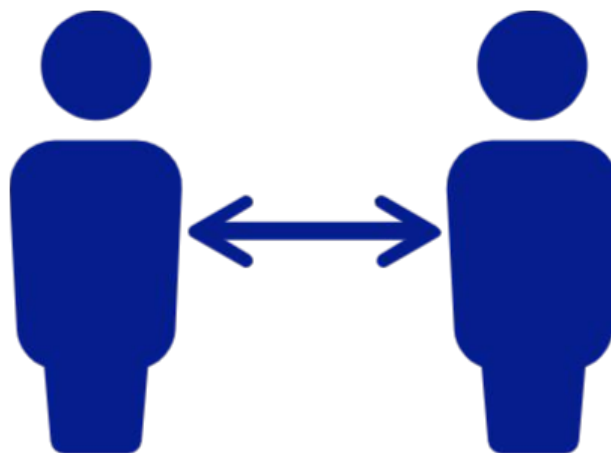
- Promote good hand hygiene measures with public service announcement posters throughout the building.
- Install additional soap and paper towel dispensers at sinks that don't typically have them: science rooms, FCS rooms, etc.
- Install additional hand sanitizer dispensers in all classrooms and public spaces.
- Set up bulk hand sanitizer dispensers at all entrances to buildings and cafeterias.



STUDENT AND STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS



- All students and staff will wear masks when on school grounds and in buildings, with the possible exception of students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and students and staff who have trouble breathing.
- Students who refuse to wear a mask must participate in remote learning.
- Mask breaks will be allowed when outdoors and at least six feet apart.
- Six feet of social distancing will be established in classrooms with desks appropriately placed to achieve this.
- Procedures to maintain six feet of social distancing in hallways, cafeteria and other common areas will be implemented.
- Traffic flow in hallways and in stairwells will be established in a one way direction to avoid congestion.
- Procedures for the arrival to and dismissal from school will be developed to maintain 6 feet of social distancing
- Locker usage will be minimized.
- Frequent hand washing will be promoted throughout the day for all students and staff.
- All physical education classes will be outside to the degree possible.
- Music instruction will not be able to include singing unless students are able to go outside and have six feet of social distancing.
- Staff may use outdoor spaces when appropriate.





EDUCATION PLAN

All students in everyday K-3. AB/CD/EF schedule for grades 4-12
Would require the hiring of up to 21 teachers to reduce class sizes so that there would be 6 feet of social distancing.

ELEMENTARY

K-3

All Students in Every Day

- All students brick and mortar
- Live, synchronous remote instruction (option)
 - Teacher discretion regarding the amount of live screen time needed each class period based on the nature of the assignments and activities being completed.
- Students can flex in/out of all live synchronous remote instruction

Special Areas Instruction

- Instruction occurs in the homeroom classroom
- Special area classes for each classroom will rotate approximately every six weeks
- All physical education classes will be outside, weather permitting

4-5

AB/CD/EF Schedule

- All students will be assigned a group (AB/CD/EF)
- In-person Instruction - Two consecutive days
- Live, synchronous remote Instruction - Four consecutive days
 - Teacher discretion regarding the amount of live screen time needed each class period based on the nature of the assignments and activities being completed.
- Students can flex in/out of all live synchronous remote instruction

Special Areas Instruction

- In-person Instruction occurs in the homeroom classroom
- Some classes may be remote learning when at home
- Special area classes for each classroom will rotate approximately every six weeks
- All physical education classes will be outside, weather permitting





EDUCATION PLAN

All students in everyday K-3. AB/CD/EF schedule for grades 4-12
Would require the hiring of up to 21 teachers to reduce class sizes so that there would be 6 feet of social distancing.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

AB/CD/EF Schedule

- All students will be assigned a group (AB/CD/EF)
- In-person instruction - Two consecutive days
- Live, synchronous remote instruction - Four consecutive days
 - Teacher discretion regarding the amount of live screen time needed each class period based on the nature of the assignments and activities being completed.
- Students can flex in/out of all live synchronous remote instruction

Special Areas Instruction

- Some classes may be remote learning when at home
- All physical education classes will be outside, weather permitting

HIGH SCHOOL

AB/CD/EF Schedule

- All students will be assigned a group (AB/CD/EF)
- In-person instruction - Two consecutive days
- Live, synchronous remote instruction - Four consecutive days
 - Teacher discretion regarding the amount of live screen time needed each class period based on the nature of the assignments and activities being completed.
- Students can flex in/out of all live synchronous remote instruction
- All physical education classes will be outside, weather permitting





EDUCATION PLAN

All students in everyday K-3. AB/CD/EF schedule for grades 4-12

Would require the hiring of up to 21 teachers to reduce class sizes so that there would be 6 feet of social distancing.

RATIONALE

- Supported by administration
- 82% of our parents support some kind of brick and mortar plan in the survey
- Majority of the task force support a brick and mortar plan
- Follows mitigation recommendations and requirements outlined by State Dept. of Health, Chester County Dept. of Health, CDC, e.g.:
 - 6 feet of social distancing
 - Face masks
 - Hand-washing
 - Frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces
 - Transportation safety measures
 - Maximum occupancy limitations
- Provides an effective way to transition students back to school in a safe and careful manner
- Flexible, can quickly scale up or down
- Provides live, synchronous remote instruction





EDUCATION PLAN

All students in everyday K-3. AB/CD/EF schedule for grades 4-12
Would require the hiring of up to 21 teachers to reduce class sizes so that there would be 6 feet of social distancing.

REOPENING TIMELINE

August 31, 2020 - September 3, 2020 - Staff training and preparation

Learn to work with both in-person and remote students using educational technology

Prepare for Health and Safety protocols and instruction

- Cleaning
- Arrival and Dismissal
- Handwashing
- Movement in the building
- Instructional materials for students

September 8, 2020 - September 16, 2020

K-3

- September 8th and 9th - Bring in ½ of students to class
- September 10th and 11th - Bring in other ½ of students to class
- September 14th - K-3 fully starts

4-12

- September 8th and 9th - Bring in AB group, no remote learning
- September 10th and 11th - Bring in CD group, no remote learning
- September 14th and 15th - Bring in EF group, no remote learning
- September 16th - Start Regular Rotation with in-person and live, synchronous remote learning

*Groups will be divided by alphabet/family



ADDITIONAL IMPACTS TO BUDGET

	K-3 In-person Every Day 4-12 AB/CD/EF
Loss of Revenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Fees • Rental Income 	\$ (210,000)
Increase in Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Staff • Custodial Staff 	(1,825,000)
Decrease in Personnel	-
Increase in Other Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE & Sanitation Supplies • Technology • UCFVA 	(630,000)
Decrease in Other Costs	-
Net Change	\$ (2,665,000)

*Increase in expenses will be funded by our fund balance.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Full-Time special education students will have an opportunity to be assigned every day status for brick and mortar instruction if they choose. This is primarily students with disabilities in the District operated Life Skills Support (LSS) and Autistic Support (AS) programs located at Chadds Ford Elementary School (LSS), Hillendale Elementary School (AS), Patton Middle School (LSS and AS), and Unionville High School (LSS).

Supplemental and itinerant level special education students may be assigned more frequent status for brick and mortar instruction based on Individualized Education Program (IEP) team decisions to address students' needs. This includes students being provided any of the District's special education supports. Recommendations could include additional days of brick and mortar instruction or daily brick and mortar instruction for a time period less than the full day on days not assigned. Examples include being assigned four full days of brick and mortar instruction instead of the two days under the AB/CD/EF base plan or daily brick and mortar instruction for two full days per the assigned base plan and additional period(s) of brick and mortar special education on the four remaining live synchronous instruction days.

Related services, such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language therapy, vision support, hearing support, and orientation and mobility, will be provided as much as possible when students are in the brick and mortar setting on their assigned days (AB/CD/EF). For students selecting live synchronous remote instruction each day, related services will be provided via Zoom. Service delivery and frequency will be discussed and documented in IEPs as appropriate.

For students requiring one-one support from a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) or Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), these supports will be provided in-person and/or via zoom. IEP teams will review available data, discuss options, and make recommendations as appropriate for the delivery of these related services.

Section 504 Accommodations

Students with Section 504 Plans will have their accommodations provided in both the brick and mortar and live synchronous remote instructional programs. Plans may need to be revised to address accommodations specific to these diverse educational environments.

Gifted Education

Students with Gifted Individualized Education Plans (GIEPs) will have their programming provided in both the brick and mortar and live synchronous remote instructional environments. Students will participate in brick and mortar gifted programming on assigned days and live synchronous gifted instruction for the other days per the current frequencies identified within students' GIEPs. Students may also choose live synchronous remote instruction each day and continue to receive GIEP supports and services.

GIEP teams may reconvene as needed to address specific students' plans across educational environments.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Students receiving direct support from our English Language Learner instructional program will be assigned every day status for brick and mortar instruction if they choose this option. Students that have exited from the program, but are still being monitored can be considered for every day status.

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD VIRTUAL ACADEMY (UCFVA) ONLINE CYBER SCHOOL

- This will be CCIU teachers and CCIU curriculum.
- [UCFVA Website](#)
- Is UCFVA right for me? - [Decision Tree](#)
- [Unionville Chadds Ford Virtual Academy transcript](#)
- [Course catalog for UCFVA](#)
- Informational session for parents - August 10, 2020





Student and staff behavioral health and social-emotional well-being is critical to our district. The pandemic has put tremendous stress on all stakeholders and our staff is working on plans to support our learning communities in the fall.

The behavioral health team, which consists of school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and school social workers, has devoted most, if not all, of their 24 hours of summer professional development to creating strategies to support students as they return in the fall.

Areas of focus include an increased emphasis on building classroom learning communities at the start of the school year. To do this it is important to acknowledge the changes that we are all experiencing during the pandemic and to help students and staff feel safe and supported. Dr. Terri Erbacher, renowned school psychologist, author, distinguished speaker, and consultant, whose expertise focuses on crisis management, trauma and PTSD, school mental health, threat assessment in schools, suicide prevention and risk assessment, and complicated grief/loss is providing targeted training to our behavioral health team members on returning to school after COVID-19, including access to a comprehensive Mental Health Toolkit for Returning to School.

The District plans to implement a new social-emotional data collection tool, the Devereux Students Strengths Assessment (DESSA). This tool is a standardized, strength-based behavior rating scale that will allow staff to quickly gather information on students' social-emotional competencies in a variety of areas. The information will inform instruction and supports for students. Additionally, the DESSA aligns with the Educator Social-Emotional Reflection and Training (EdSERT) program. EdSERT is designed to:

- Increase social-emotional learning (SEL) knowledge and practices to prepare educators to effectively teach social-emotional skills
- Enhance ability to model social-emotional skills for students
- Develop practices to manage stress, the demands of teaching, and the needs of students

Behavioral health team members will partner with classroom teachers to meet students where they are emotionally and to provide positive reinforcement and praise. District Human Resources will support principals and supervisors as we work with our teams to reopen schools.

Staff will be provided time to meet with each other to offer support and guidance. Principals will prioritize team building with staff and will dedicate time to meet with staff members individually to offer support and guidance.

The priority district-wide is to build strong resilient relationships between staff and students and to promote trust and support within the district staff.



ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Our athletic program offers opportunities for approximately 1,300 student-athletes each year. While the opportunity to play and compete is undoubtedly an exciting component of our program, we have a deep belief in the higher purpose of sports that lies within the game itself, and extends off the field and in the classroom. Participating in athletics promotes teamwork, social interaction, a fun experience, and an opportunity to exercise and be well. These are critical components of our program, especially during a time of isolation and uncertainty. Additionally, our program teaches valuable leadership lessons and promotes a strong set of values and standards.

[Our Fall Sports Health and Safety Plan](#) is intended to guide athletes and staff on recommendations, mandates, and expectations for our athletic program during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Currently, [Governor Wolf's Guidance for All Sports to Operate during the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency Document](#) states that Pre-K to 12 (PK-12) school sports under the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (PISAA) are permitted to resume in counties designated in the Yellow and Green phases. Plans to resume sports must be in alignment with the [PDE Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) and the [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#).

Additionally, non-athletic extracurricular programs are highly valuable and important to our students. Participation in these activities will be critical, especially in any online learning environment. While there are a wide-variety of benefits to extracurricular activities, we know that loss of social interaction is a concern. These activities may not look the same, and we will have to be creative, but we do support the continuation of clubs and activities under the guidance and expectations of our health and safety plan.

