

I wanted to first tell you that the work that you both are doing in regards to the Covid pandemic is amazing and excellent. Except for a few minor changes I think that the decision tree that you created is by far the best one I have seen and I hope that you share this with Stephanie Knutsen for your Wednesday meeting and with Leah and Vijay.

Last night was the second medical advisor webinex and question and answer session which included the chief epidemiologist, Dr. Lynn Sousa, and the two American Academy of Pediatrics Ct. Chapter representatives, Dr. Dudley and Dr. Ziogas. I will include the highlights of the meeting:

1. The risk for reopenings are considered low, moderate and high based on the number of cases per day per 100,000 population. Connecticut is currently at 7 with low being <10 , moderate at 10-25 and high >25. That being said New London county is at 1.8. Dr. Sousa very specifically warned that this is just one metric and not the whole picture. Dr. Dudley and Ziogas both stated that what we start with may change rapidly.
2. No nebulizers to be used for asthma at all. Only the patient's inhalers. Only 15 day supply of medication should be kept in the nurse's office since there could be quick closure and not enough time for families to pick up their child's medications.
3. The state is working on a statement concerning the use of masks. They referenced the AAP website for guidance. Basically Dr. Sousa said that if a person cannot use a mask then use a face shield and if they cannot do this they should do virtual learning which is available to everyone.
4. 100.4 should be the temperature used for exclusion.
5. CIAC has a website for sports information.
6. School blue forms are good for 15 months.
7. No alteration of the vaccination requirements. Encourage flu shots early.

As far as hybrid versus full day I am in total support of the hybrid model. If we start out full and "see what happens" my feeling is that we will end up closing sooner due to a rise in cases. The hybrid model will reduce numbers in the school and bus and would allow for distancing and reduced exposure for the children and staff. Distance and mask wearing and hand washing are the only things that have been found to affect numbers infected. Hallways would be more manageable with lower numbers in the facilities. Dr. Anthony Fauci stated last night that the middle ground would be the most prudent way to move forward. I would agree with him.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Medical Advisor