

March 11, 2021

Dear Keeneyville District 20 Families,



***We are excited to share the news with our families that due to changes this week in state and local health and safety requirements, District 20 's plan to bring all K-8 Students back to full day in-person learning will begin after Spring Break.*** The D20 Return to In-Person Learning Plan will be presented to the School Board on Thursday, March 25 at 7:00pm. Please [sign-up here](#) if you would like to attend this meeting virtually. We will share the presentation with our staff and families following the Board Meeting, as well as letting you know of additional plan details as they are finalized (including schedules, lunch protocols, transportation schedules, etc.) In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school or email [info@esd20.org](mailto:info@esd20.org) with any questions.

## **NEW PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES**

- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) jointly released the [Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools](#) on Tuesday, March 9, supporting the return to in-person instruction as soon as practicable. This does not mean a complete return to pre-pandemic operations. The updated guidance reflects what has been learned about the transmission of COVID-19 in school settings over recent months. The CDC, IDPH and ISBE have stated that regardless of community transmission levels, schools can bring students back to the classrooms with the following essential, layered mitigation strategies in place:
  1. Require universal and correct use of face masks;
  2. Require social (physical) distancing be observed, as much as possible;
  3. Require contact tracing in combination with isolation of those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and quarantine of close contacts;
  4. Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection, and maintenance of health environments; and
  5. Require promotion and adherence to handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- District 20 has strictly implemented each of the above mitigation strategies since the Fall. The District has further protected our school community by offering the opportunity for all staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. With these mitigations efforts firmly in place across our schools, and due to the updated definition of social (physical) distancing to mean 3 to 6 feet for students, District 20 schools are now able to accommodate all K-8 students for all day in-person classes.

## **IN-PERSON LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS – BEGINS MONDAY, APRIL 5**

- ***All Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students will return to in-person classes following the regular full-day school hours (no longer AM/PM) starting Monday, April 5.*** There is no action required by District 20 families as all K-8 students will be returning to in-person learning.

Elementary Hours: 8:30am to 3:20pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays  
8:30am to 2:30pm on Wednesdays

Middle School Hours: 7:45am to 2:35pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays  
7:45am to 1:45pm on Wednesdays

- District 20 will offer remote instruction for those students and families who are at increased risk of severe illness (including those with special health care needs). Parents must complete the **Medical Exemption Form for Remote Learning** ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)) and attach a medical note from a health care provider. Please submit to your child's school by next Thursday, March 18 for your Principal's consideration.
- Preschool students at the Early Childhood Center will continue with the Return to Learn Hybrid Model that starts on March 15.

**PLANNING DAY, NO CLASSES – FRIDAY, MARCH 26**

- There will be no classes (in-person or remote instruction) on Friday, March 26. This day will be used as a Planning Day for teachers and staff to adequately prepare for the transition to in-person learning.

The last year has been a very long, challenging one for our entire Keeneyville community. We are very excited to be moving back to full day in-person learning for our students and we are grateful for your support as we make this positive transition together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo  
Superintendent of Schools  
Keeneyville ESD 20