



Orange Southwest Supervisory District

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To: OSSD Cabinet, OSSD Board, COVID Coordinators
From: Layne W. Millington, Superintendent
Subject: Plan to Return to Full In-Person Instruction
Date: Version Date: December 28, 2020

With the protocols required to support full in-person instruction now in place and the advent of increased mitigation in the near future due to viable vaccines, it is important to set specific, flexible goals that drive us towards this end. Ones that reasonably balance benefit and risk. It should be clearly understood that each step in the below plan should only be implemented if operational conditions safely support them; any step may be delayed, if necessary, to allow poor conditions to improve.

I. December of 2020

A. December 7th: OSSD School Board meets in special session to determine if conditions permit a return to the hybrid modality (**Completed**).

1. If conditions permit, the district returns to the hybrid modality on December 14th. This will give teachers time to plan for the transition and for those who did not follow the guidance or directives over the holiday to clear quarantine so that we have enough staff on hand to operate effectively.

B. Messaging to the community must go out that clearly states (**Completed**):

1. Our future depends on everyone following the State's health and safety guidelines
2. Those who do not follow the guidelines for whatever reason must not enter district grounds until they have met Vermont quarantine requirements: 1) seven days and a negative COVID test, or 2) fourteen days.
3. If the district reasonably suspects that a family or staff member has violated the health and safety guidance and needs to quarantine, the district will not hesitate to require them to quarantine from school.
4. Those seeking testing should have it done at a Vermont Department of Health pop up site for the quickest results.

C. Invite Medical Professionals from Gifford to run live remote sessions with the

community to talk about the known risks to begin easing the community's anxieties prior to the phased return to full in person learning (Completed)

Logic: Given the incubation period of the virus, by 12/7/20, the impact of the Thanksgiving holiday on the local community should be established and those needing to quarantine should be known by the district. This allows the district to prevent those who should be in quarantine from entering onto school grounds.

II. During the December Break (Completed)

A. We begin messaging the community that:

1. The district intends to begin a phased transition to full-in person instruction beginning mid-January.
2. The district will continue to offer full remote instruction to those who have a legitimate need (medically necessary as per the union MOU's as the model), with the understanding that once they go fully remote, they cannot change out of that mode until the end of the school year, or until the national and local states of emergency are lifted – whichever comes first.

Logic: Continuing to allow students and faculty with legitimate needs to go fully remote will free up much needed space in school buildings to provide for proper social distancing.

III. January of 2020 (Completed)

A. At a special meeting on January 4th, the Board will determine if a phased in return to the full in-person learning modality will begin (four days per week).

1. Grades K-2 return to full in-person instruction on January 11th to give teachers one full week to plan for the transition.
2. On February 1st, the remaining elementary grades (4-6) as well as the middle school grades (7-8) return to full in-person instruction.
3. Following February break, on March 8th, grades 9-10 return to full in-person instruction.
4. Tents are erected to push more activities outside.
5. March 22nd – return to five day a week schedule.

Note: Grades 11-12 are already operating under a nearly full in-person modality.

Logic:

- While Coronaviruses usually peak in February, the recent (November) rise in cases will continue through December. During this time, a general sense of dread and resignation will emerge caused by the Thanksgiving spike in cases and the district's time in remote session that will cause people to take the protective measures more seriously. This will result in dropping local case counts.
- The return to full in person learning begins with the least at-risk students who intentionally are also the ones who will benefit the most from this transition. More students are slowly brought in inversely to the decline in cases that should be happening at this time.
- By the end of March, vaccinations of the most at-risk populations acting as a protective factor further decreases the severe risks associated with the Coronavirus.
- By Mid-May, continued vaccinations allow a return to normalcy as long as schools continue to run as many activities as possible outside.