



**Flushing Community Schools  
Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan  
Reconfirmation Meeting  
Required Every 30 Days After Initial Plan Approval**

**Agenda:**

- Reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 20/21 school year
- Public comments from parents and/or guardians on the Extended Learning Plan
- Review weekly 2-way interaction rates

**Reconfirmation Meeting for March, 2021 (March 9, 2021)**

**Reconfirm how instruction (Return to Learn Plan) is going to be delivered during the 20/21 school year:**

(Recommendation: Explain in narrative form any modifications to the original Extended Learning Plan)

As you are aware, we have continued to be in constant communication with the Genesee County Health Department, and they have been fully supportive of the learning plans that we have adopted. We continue to meet extensively with the health department, with our most recent meetings taking place on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our learning plan continues to be supported by the GCHD and follows their guidance.

As a district, we currently have roughly 72% of our students that have elected to attend school in-person under our 4 day a week model, and 28% that have continued with our 100% online learning option. Our elementary buildings remain between 18-23% online, our middle school remains roughly 30% online (70% in-person, average class size 18 - 22), with our High School 100% remote learning percentage at 40% (60% in-person, average class size of 15-18). It is important to note that we have not and do not intend to force students back into the school building at any time, if they, or their families are not comfortable with having more students in the building. Students and families can continue to choose our 100% online option for their students, and will be able to do so for the remainder of the year. That remains a viable option for our students.

As you are aware, we were able to bring our K-12 students back into the classroom four days a week, M,T,Th, F, beginning Monday, March 8, 2021. During the last two and a half months that we have had students back in the building at least two days a week, it has been incredibly encouraging that we have been able to keep our

students and staff members safe and in school by successfully adhering to the necessary mitigation strategies within our school buildings.

If this new learning model is to remain successful, it is important that mitigation strategies, such as mask wearing, social distancing, proper hygiene, and strict cleaning protocols continue to be followed to the greatest extent possible in our buildings. Although all of our buildings currently have less students in them due to the high percentage of 100% online learners, and in most cases, much lower class sizes, 6-feet or more of social distancing will not be as easily achieved under this four day format. It was much easier to do with 8-10 students in class as opposed to 15-20. Despite the larger numbers of students in attendance, podding of students and other strategies will continue to be used to ensure the greatest amount of social distancing possible. Mitigation strategies will continue to be enforced and implemented to maximize safety. **We continue to ask that you do not send any students to school if they or any other family member is symptomatic, awaiting test results, or believe they have been exposed to someone that is Covid positive.** We need everyone's cooperation and strict adherence to these protocols if we are going to be able to successfully maintain this learning model for the remainder of the school year.

The health department recently shared with us that they are beginning to get less cooperation from families because families do not want their children or friends of their children quarantined. For the good of all, I hope that is not the case in our district. Hopefully, we can all commit to being as transparent as possible if we have sick children or if we have been exposed so that we can keep the masses as healthy as possible. Quarantining close contacts will remain a mitigation strategy per the health department, although we are encouraged by the absence of any of our students that have been considered close contacts becoming ill. We have quarantined hundreds of students due to close contact this school year, and so far have been able to keep others from getting sick. That remains incredibly positive news.

Based on ongoing information from and dialogue with the GCHD, there are currently incredibly low numbers of Covid positive Flushing Community School students and our staffing levels continue to be positive, at this point making it possible to sustain a consistent and highly effective in person product four days a week. As we have previously stated, our ability to staff appropriately for in-person learning is directly related to community spread and correlates with county data. When there have been rising numbers in our county, we have had more staff members impacted and vice-versa. As we have consistently shared, we want to continue to do whatever we can to keep our students and staff members safe while ensuring a highly effective learning environment. While we are committed to continuing our four day in-person model at this time, we remain committed to revisiting this decision daily/weekly as science, data, and guidance evolves, and making any changes necessary as soon as

we need to. This has been the case all school year, and will continue to remain the case. Should the data and guidance from the GCHD suggest or dictate a necessary change to our learning plan, we will not hesitate to change it as soon as necessary. We will need your cooperation to be able to maintain this learning plan through the end of school year. Thank you for continuing to do your part, as we are only as strong as our weakest link. Many have asked me specifically about Spring break, and the fact that many will be traveling out of state during this time. The district and the health department have the same concerns. It will be disappointing if this learning plan is derailed by another spike in positive cases, and that probably has a lot to do with all of us continuing to do our part to keep ourselves and each other healthy in the weeks ahead.

As stated previously, we work very closely with the Genesee County Health Department and despite a slight increase in the positivity rate and the positive cases per million in Genesee County over the last two weeks, they remain very supportive and encouraging of our current 4 day in-person plan. The first reason they are so supportive is the fact that they are not seeing widespread infection amongst students in our county. The second reason is that they have seen very little to no known spread of the virus in our buildings. The third reason is that as of Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, every one of our school employees that work with students has had the ability to get their first vaccination if they desired it and were medically able. This is important, as the Covid amongst and passed from staff members is more prevalent than what they are seeing passed amongst and from students currently. While there are certainly a variety of other factors that they consider, these are major factors that they have shared with us.

We are consistently and thoroughly aware of how hard any change or transition has been on our students and on our families. The physical, social-emotional and mental health of all of our students is incredibly important, and we are aware of the toll that this is taking on our kids and on our families. Through the many personal interactions and by having student in our buildings on a regular basis, we are doing everything possible to address students academic needs as well as their mental and social-emotional needs. We have been able to connect struggling students to additional supports, and have continued to make that a priority. We have responded to individual requests for support or help with students, and have tried to keep the communication wide open from our families to our buildings. Again, if there is a need, I encourage anyone listening to please reach out to our buildings, to our teachers, to our principals, and to our support staff, and we will work to continue to address the growing needs of our students. It is important that school officials are aware of your students mental health struggles so that we can be part of the solution, as opposed to being left in the dark.

As we have consistently stated all school year, the decision to modify our learning plan, like all other changes this school year, is based strictly on data, science, and

guidance from our local health department. While the health, safety, and education of our children is easily the most passionate topic imaginable for any of us, carrying with it a wide range of various opinions and perspectives, this learning decision follows the most recent guidance and data, and is made with an abundance of consideration given to the academic needs and physical, mental, and social-emotional health of our students. We did not make this decision lightly, and we will not make it lightly as we move forward. With 4100 students, over 12,000 parents and step-parents as well as thousands of interested and involved friends, grandparents and extended family members, we've heard from a great number of people with passionate opinions, thoughts and perspectives, many shared both individually and collectively organized. As we enter into further public comment tonight, we do so with an understanding that because of the sheer number of people represented and the thousands that our learning plans impact, there are a wide variety of well thought out perspectives and opinions. There are individual circumstances that have impacted everyone on this call. There are gut wrenching and heartbreaking stories shared with me daily on how families have been impacted by this virus, or been impacted by our learning plans and the different state of schools this year. These decisions are agonizing because they impact people, people that we love, respect, and want to do right by. We appreciate the passion and viewpoints shared, but please continue to understand that this is not an issue that lends itself to being decided by anything other than the data and the guidance provided by the health department. The decisions made in the district will continue to be based solely on the most recent data and guidance available to us and with the support of the Genesee County Health Department. Again, we greatly appreciate the feedback, perspectives and opinions that have been received from many students, parents, teachers, employees, and legislators. Despite the various "wants" and perspectives on every side of this issue, and they are all well represented, we will continue to follow the guidance and the data from the Genesee County Health Department regarding our learning plans.

Finally, it is certainly not lost on us that this virus may continue to make an impact on our learning plans for the foreseeable future. It is our hope and our intention, should it be supported by the health department, to be able to start the 2021-2022 school year in a more normal fashion, with students in person 5 days a week. That said, those families opting to keep their student 100% online will have the option of a 100% online program for their students next school year, with the ability to share with us their preference later this school year so that we can schedule students and staff members appropriately.

To our parents and students, on behalf of our teaching staff, support staff and school district, we thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of making the most of this school year, and again, we know it has not been easy at all.

This evening, I will once again share with you the most recent data reviewed with us by the health department, as well as take you through the data available to us at

[www.mistartmap.info](http://www.mistartmap.info), the website used to capture the most recent data available to us. As mandated by law, I will also briefly share our weekly attendance / two-way interaction rates for the last 4 weeks, which remain strong. We will then open our meeting to any public comments regarding the confirmation of our Extended COVID 19 Learning Plan.

**Document Public Comments during this portion of meeting: (If applicable)**

1. Student concern regarding 4 days of in person
2. Parent concern regarding petition and being encouraged to bring students back into school
3. Student concern - supported keeping it the way it was with hybrid
4. Parent concern - Do we need to have the same system K-12 or can it be different based on ages
5. Parent concern regarding 4 days of in person and rising rates
6. Student concern - petition started, busy hallways, lunchroom etc.

**Review Weekly 2-Way Interaction Rates**

**FEB 8-MARCH 5, 2021 All Students**

- Week 1** February 8 - February 12 - ECC - 95.66%, Central -95.18%, Elms - 94.97%, Seymour - 96.64%, Springview - 95.14%, Middle School - 93.60%, High School - 94.60%.
- Week2** February 15 - February 19 - ECC - 93.21%, Central -95.05%, Elms- 94.53%, Seymour - 95.77%, Springview - 94.99%, Middle School - 91.32%, High School - 93.71%.
- Week3** February 22 - February 26 - ECC - 94.62%, Central -97.08%, Elms- 94.47%, Seymour- 97.19%, Springview- 95.77%, Middle School - 93.30%, High School - 94.79%.
- Week4** March 1 - March 5 - ECC - 97.86%, Central -97.52%, Elms - 95.21%, Seymour - 97.63%, Springview - 96.87%, Middle School - 94.77%, High School - 96.18%.