

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ALLEN PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES • SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

DRAFT ☐

APPROVED ☒

The virtual special meeting of the Allen Park Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020. The district live streamed the meeting via the district YouTube account.

Virtual Regular meeting called to order/Instruction for Public Comments: Mr. Gordon Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call/Present: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren

Absent: None

2020-100	Motion by Moynihan, supported by MacDonald, that the September 17 agenda be approved as presented: Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: None Motion carried.
	<i>President's Communications:</i> Mr. Miller received 26 emails regarding the district's Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans, thanked citizens for reaching out, and did his best to respond.
	<i>Reading of Communications:</i> Mrs. Filipiak also acknowledged receiving a number of emails on the same topic and did her best to respond accordingly.
	<i>Citizens Comments:</i> The following citizens provided comments and/or asked questions regarding the district's Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans: ▪ Laura Elkins, Shannon Hunter Alison Crawford, Jes Brown, Megan Somers, Heather Winter, Erica Saville, Jennifer Harris, Chelsey Bianchi, Amy Crawford, Megan Rader, Amy Becks, Stefanie Douglass, Anne Drinkhert, Barb Pushman, Mary Reinhard, Kate Pearson, Dan Smith, Joan Watson, Alysse Ferrante, Justin Housley, Teri Simonds, Nancy Yepez, Nicole Dzikowicz, Beth Rosman
2020-101	<i>Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans</i> ○ <i>Reevaluate and Reconfirm Mode of Instruction-COVID-19 Preparedness & Response to Learning Plan</i> Mr. Darga and the Administrative Team presented the plan, required by law, to the board using a power point presentation, which is incorporated into these meeting minutes. The governor signed House Bill 5913 into law as Public Act 149 on August 20, 2020. Section 98a states that in order to receive state aide for 2020-21, districts must provide for instruction under an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The Plan does not replace the district's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, it is an additional plan that includes new assurance and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading and equitable access. PA 149 does not apply to districts that operate as a cyber-school. District Administration, in consultation with the local health department, determined the key metrics that the district will utilize to consider a safe return to in-person learning. Every 30 days after the approval of the Extended Plan, a board meeting will be held to reconfirm delivery of instruction, solicit public comment on how instruction is going to be delivered and to publicly announce 2-way interaction rates. A Special Meeting will be scheduled in two weeks to share more in-depth details of plan and provide a full understanding of safety protocols. Motion by MacDonald, supported by Warren, that the Allen Park Board of Education approve the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as described in Public Act 149, Section 98a, which includes the continuation of remote learning. And further, the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan will be reviewed every 30 days by the Board of Education.

	Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer Nays: Warren Absent: None Motion carried.
	Due to the length of the meeting, the Board adjourned for a recess from 9:20 p.m. until 9:29 p.m. All board members present upon resuming open meeting.
2020-102	<i>Purchase of Student Chromebooks</i> Motion by Moynihan, supported by MacDonald, that the Installment Purchase Agreement dated August 24, 2020 and financial obligations with Huntington Bank be cancelled, the existing order through FireFly for 1,600 touchscreen chromebooks be upheld; and further, that the Board of Education authorize the purchase of 2,250 non-touchscreen chromebooks from Stratix in the amount of \$764,325.00 to be paid from Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds. Yeas: Filipiak, Klein, MacDonald, Miller, Moynihan, Shearer, Warren Nays: None Absent: None. Motion carried.
	<i>Reports of Officers:</i> ▪ Mr. Klein thanked all the amazing teachers, noting that amazing teaching and learning is going on amid the pandemic. ▪ Dr. Warren shared appreciation to educators for all they do, and needs to see a better plan in order to vote. ▪ Mr. Moynihan thanked Adam Michalak (Director of Technology) for his hard work and efforts and is glad to continue to work on definitive answers and concrete decisions/protocols. ▪ Mrs. MacDonald conveyed that this meeting shows the Board of Education is committed to students. They are what is in our hearts when making decisions. Mrs. MacDonald also thanked administration and the Focus Groups for their efforts and said AP teachers are superheroes! ▪ Mr. Shearer thanked community members for sending emails/concerns and responded to all. He asked the school community for patience as the plan is coming together. In closing, Mr. Shearer thanked Adam Michalak for his extraordinary efforts. ▪ Mrs. Filipiak echoed comments expressed by Mr. Shearer. She also shared she is a 'data junkie' and will closely follow the COVID Act Now data. ▪ Mr. Miller let Adam Michalak know that he is appreciated. Mr. Miller also appealed to the school community to do their part – wear a mask, wash hands frequently and practice social distancing. In closing, Mr. Miller thanked Dr. Sokol and building administrators for their work on the Extended COVID-19 Plan and for attending this evening's presentation.
2020-103	Motion by Warren, supported by MacDonald, that the meeting adjourn at 10:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Sarah C. Filipiak, Board Secretary

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans

2020/2021



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- **Return to Learn plans**
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Allen Park Indicators

Data for Allen Park will come from multiple sources, but Wayne County data must be used as the primary source.

- We are 29% school of choice (enrollment) meaning students and parents report to our schools from surrounding communities
 - Wayne County data is the most accurate and available data. See the next slide for area rates as of September 15/16
- Definitions:
 - Community Spread- Positive test rate in the community (Wayne County)
 - Infection rate- Also referred to as R_0 . It is the number of people 1 infected person passes the infection along to. Above 1 means it is spreading, below 1 means the virus is going away.
 - Daily new cases %- Controls for population based on 100,000 people in an area.



COVID Dashboard

https://covidactnow.org/us/mi/county/wayne_county?s=1047224

Wayne County, MI



COVID THREAT LEVEL

At risk of outbreak

Wayne County is at risk of an outbreak. COVID cases are either increasing at a rate likely to overwhelm hospitals and/or the state's COVID preparedness is below international standards.



NEW FEATURE

Explore COVID Trends. View raw case, death, and hospitalization data for Wayne County and compare it against other locations in our new Trends chart. [See it below](#)

DAILY NEW CASES

● **10.1** PER 100K

Very large number of new cases

INFECTION RATE

● **1.07**

COVID is still spreading, but slowly

POSITIVE TEST RATE

● **5.6%**

Indicates adequate testing

ICU HEADROOM USED

● **9%**

Can likely handle a new wave of COVID

TRACERS HIRED

● **Unknown**

Insufficient data to assess

Beta

Beta

Updated September 15, 2020 * County data is currently in beta. Because counties don't report hospitalizations, our forecasts may not be as accurate. See something wrong? [Email us](#).



Community Spread

(darker areas indicate higher number of confirmed cases and/or deaths)

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
(29% are SoC)

- Lincoln Park
- Southgate
- Taylor
- Dearborn
- Dearborn Heights



Indicator for Return # 1

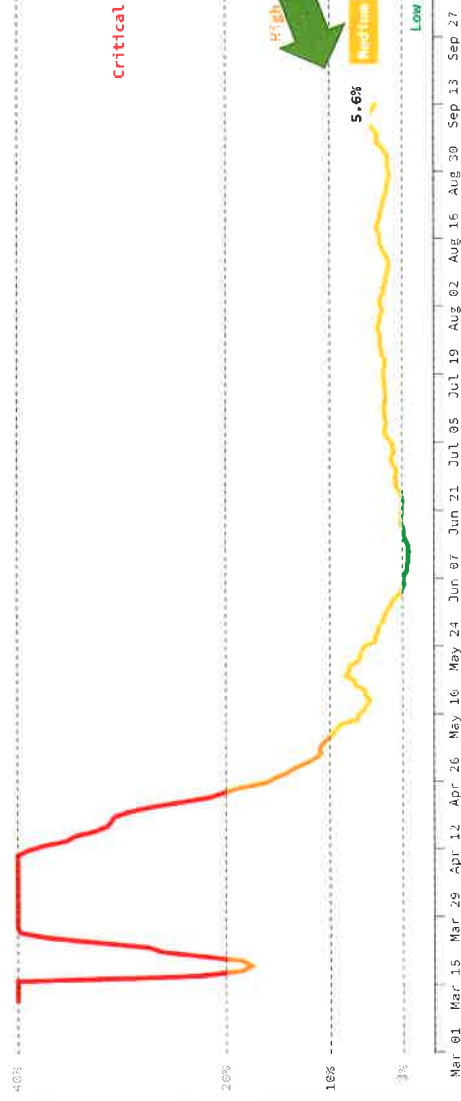
Positive Test Rate- This is a 7 Day Average

Positive test rate

WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN

Save Share

A significant percentage (5.6%) of COVID tests were positive, meaning that Wayne County, Michigan's testing meets WHO minimums but needs to be further expanded to detect most new cases. Identifying and isolating new cases can help contain COVID without resorting to lockdowns.



Last updated 9/15/2020. The World Health Organization recommends a positive test rate of less than 10%. The countries most successful in containing COVID have rates of 3% or less. We calculate the rate as a 7-day trailing average. Learn more about [our methodology](#) and [our data sources](#).

Positive Test
Rate
5.6%
Medium



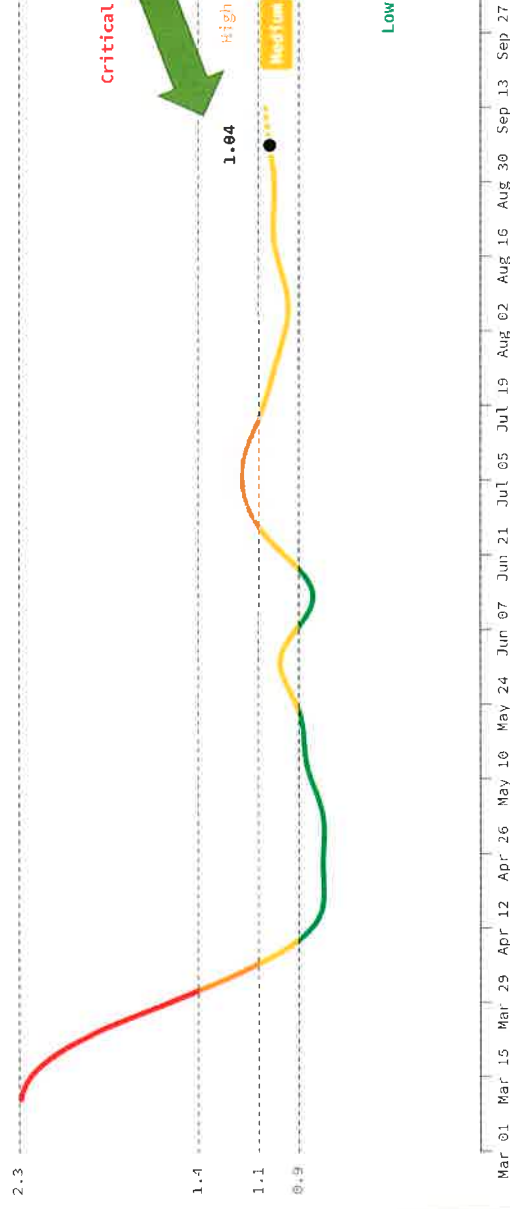
Indicator for Return - #2

Infection Rate

Infection rate

WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

On average, each person in Wayne County, Michigan with COVID is infecting 1.04 other people. Because this number is around 1.0, it means that COVID continues to spread, but in a slow and controlled fashion.



Last updated 9/14/2020. Each data point is a 14-day weighted average. We present the most recent seven days of data as a dashed line, as data is often revised by states several days after reporting. Learn more about [our methodology](#) and [our data sources](#).



Infection Rate
1.04%
Medium

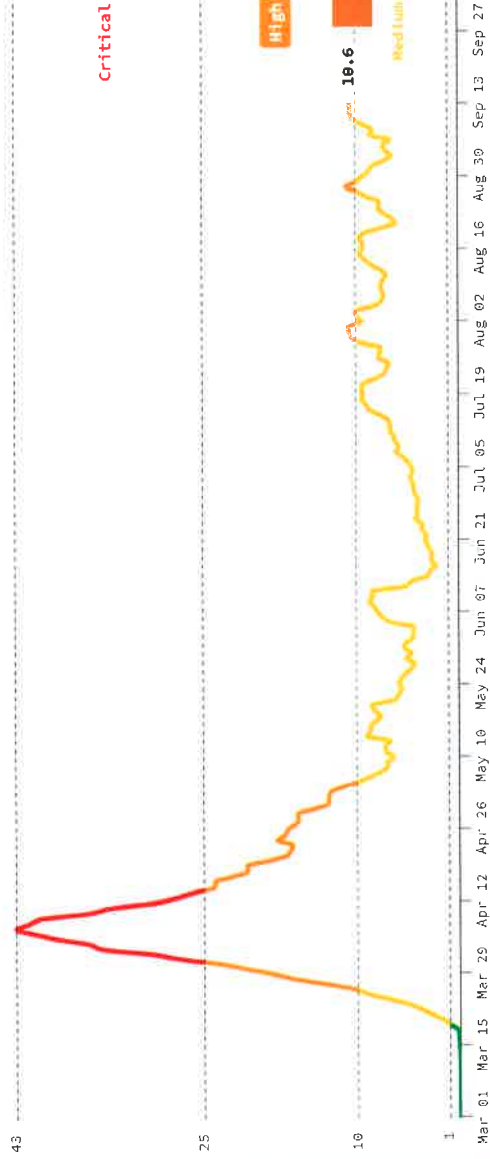
Indicators for Return- #3

Daily New Cases per 100k Population

Daily new cases per 100k population

WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

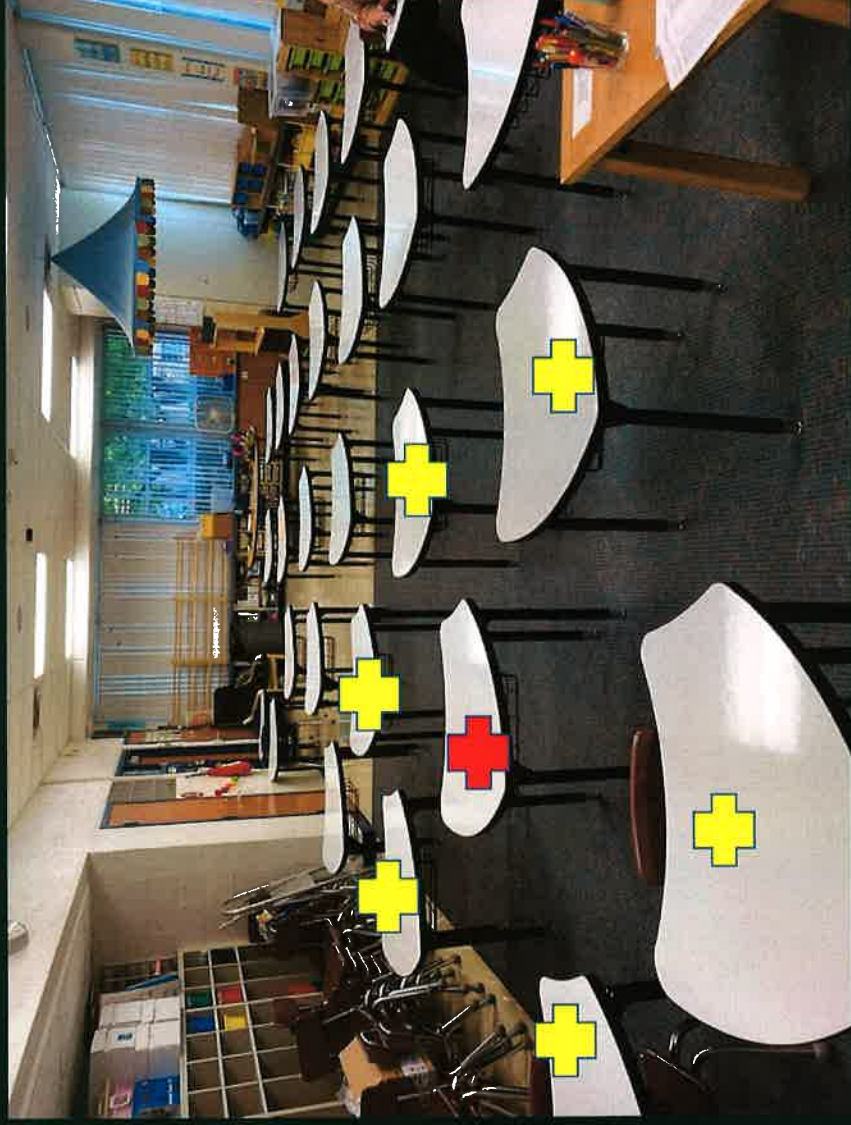
Over the last week, Wayne County, Michigan has averaged 185 new confirmed cases per day (10.6 for every 100,000 residents). Over the next year, this translates to around 67,000 cases and an [estimated](#) 340,000 infections (19.3% of the population).



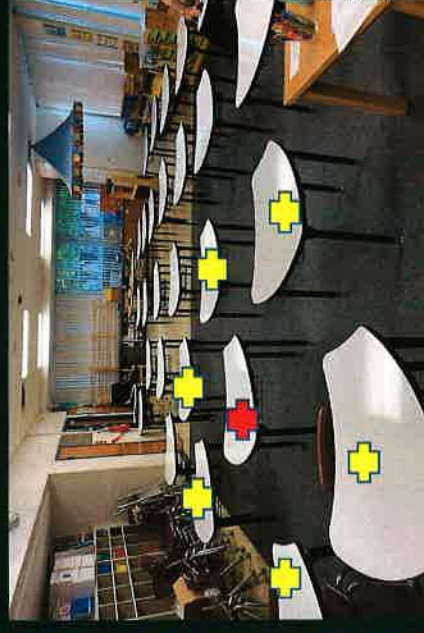
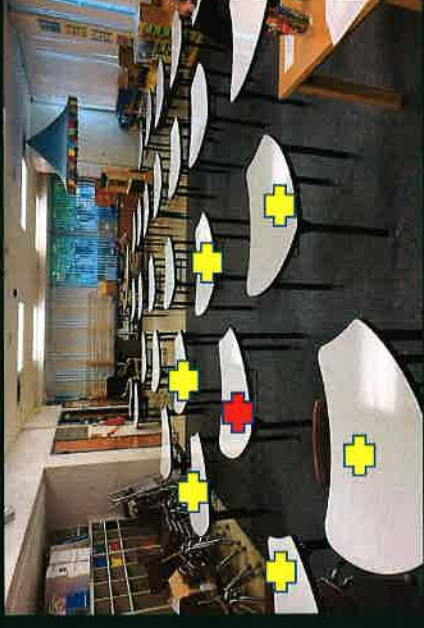
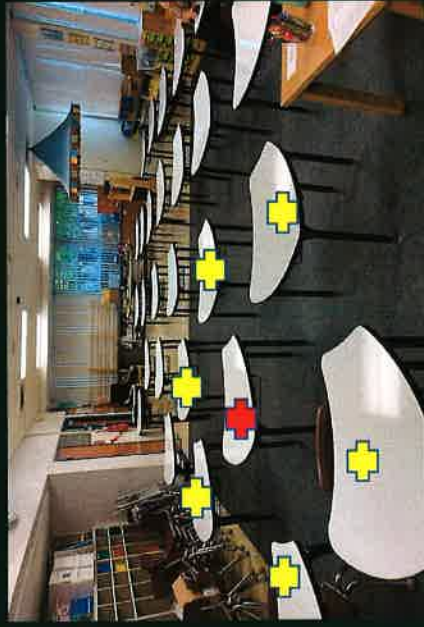
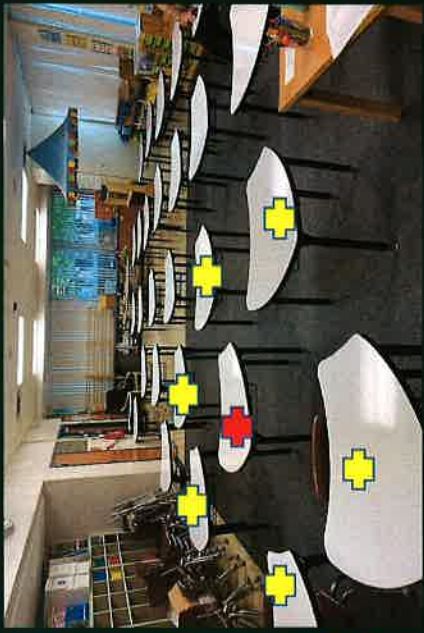
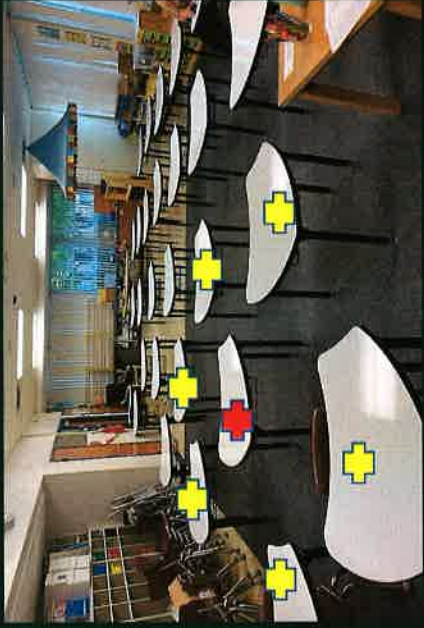
Last updated 9/14/2020. Our risk levels for daily new cases are based on the [Key Metrics for Covid Suppression](#) by Harvard Global Health Institute and others. When estimating the number of people who will become infected in the course of a year, we rely on the [CDC's estimate](#) that confirmed cases represent as few as 10% of overall infections. Learn more about [our methodology](#) and [our data sources](#).



In practice, what does 5% positive test rate look like for COVID cases in elementary classrooms (Red cross is 1 infected student)



In practice, what does 5% (PTR) look like for COVID cases in secondary classrooms (Red cross is 1 infected student)



Community Spread in Practice, cont.

- One infected student at the elementary level means at least 6 students must quarantine (possibly more in a smaller classroom).
- One infected student at the secondary level means 30 students must quarantine.
- If these infected students have siblings, that will impact the number of those who must quarantine.
- As an example, a 5% PTR is approximately 1 student per classroom of 30, but 4 students for every 3 classrooms, or in the case of Arno, 28 infected students in the school, causing 168 students to quarantine.
- While staff may not be considered “close contacts” there is a concern that staff may not be comfortable returning to that room.



Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans

Wave 1

- Specific special education center based classes (ECP, K-2 ASD, K-5 CI), to return to in-person schooling 4 days a week for half days. Wednesdays and afternoons would remain full remote for all wave 1 kids. Custodial staff would use this time for cleaning as well.
- Parents would have the choice to return. Those who choose to stay remote full time will be moved to a full remote classroom with a different teacher
- CTE Advanced Vocational Classes will have the opportunity to return as well
 - Students could be brought in and socially distanced with the garage doors, windows, and classroom doors open and the ventilation system running
- Preschool will also return with wave 1.



Extended COVID-19 Learning Plans

Wave 2

Week 1: Young 5s, K, and 1st grade will return for full days

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Wednesdays will remain remote for cleaning.
- All staff and students will wear masks in classes and common areas
- Students will not travel and procedures outlined in Return to Learn plan dated August 10, 2020 will be followed. Lunches will be staffed in classrooms/cafés. One grade level will be in the cafeteria, one grade level will eat lunch in the classroom and they will rotate weekly.
- Latchkey may return on a limited basis due to space requirements

Week 2: Grades 2 and 3 will return as outlined above

Week 3: Grades 4 and 5 will return as outlined above

- When all grades return, a staggered start at multiple doors will be enacted as outlined in the Return to Learn plan.

Week 4: Secondary students will return



Recommendations

Wave 1 will return when positive test rate is below 5% for 14* consecutive days per the COVID Dashboard site *(Direction provided by Wayne County Health Department)

It is our recommendation that when community spread in Wayne County is below 5% (per Johns Hopkins and the WHO) for 14 consecutive days (according to the positive test rate) APPS will announce a return date within 2 business days for in person learning for Wave 2.

When the 14 day average is above 5%, students will shift to remote instruction, as announced by the superintendent. In the event of a return to remote learning, all waves that were present will return when the community spread is below 5% for 14 consecutive days.

In one Michigan district, community spread was 1.6% the day before school, 11 days later, it was 5.2%, two days later, it was 6.3%, the next day, it was 6.9%

If there is a situation where the infection rate is under 1 and the daily new cases are below 5 per 100k, that would be an indicator for a safe return as well.



Frequently Asked Questions





What if the teacher tests positive?

In many schools, if a teacher tests positive, the whole class is quarantined for 14 days. This is a recommendation from the WCHD. We would follow this recommendation. APPS currently has 7 teachers with a confirmed case of COVID in their household, with 2 teachers having a positive test confirmed. This is what we know currently.

What if a student tests positive?

Students within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes are considered close contact and must quarantine for 14 days. That would extend to siblings and their close contacts as well.

What if a teacher has to quarantine?

The teacher will work with a substitute teacher to provide instruction. The Letter of Understanding addresses this issue as well.





What if we cannot find a substitute or staff a class?

Students would be contacted and would be asked to remain home for the day and provided with remote instruction.

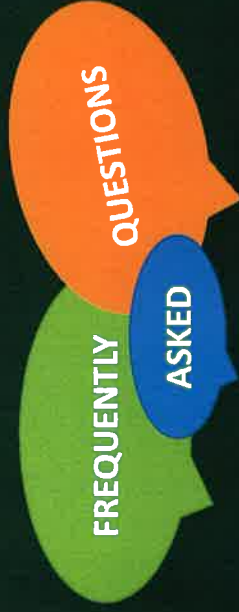
What if a teacher chooses not to return to a classroom?

We would have to staff the room with a sub. Every effort will be made to staff a classroom.

What if a student refuses to wear a mask or shield?

This is addressed in the Return to Learn plan. Interventions will be attempted, but chronic refusal will result in placement in the virtual program.





Other districts are choosing to return, why aren't we doing the same?

Each district has their own unique needs and it is difficult to compare. In one Wayne County District, multiple generations frequently live in the same household, so their indicators will be different from ours. In another district, most of their schools are larger, so socially distancing 25 kids in a classroom is possible.

At what point is a "return to remote" a possibility for Wave 1 students?

A positive test rate above 5 percent for 14 consecutive days. See the 'recommendations' slide for more details.

What happens to high school students who do not want to return?

They will have a combination of book work, alternate assignments, and project based learning.



Moving Forward

- Parents can expect to receive communication following this meeting. Our transparency page is updated weekly as well.
- We will continue to monitor data and key indicators, update the board, and notify the community per state guidelines.
- We are considering several options moving forward:
 - Adjusting the amount of time students (especially Y5-3rd grade) spend on screen. We are looking at sending books home and having kids complete work off screen without a teacher.
 - To that end, we are also exploring the option of face to face support with teachers by appointment.
- Hosting parent tech support hours in our buildings to ensure they understand how to login and get to various sites, and what to do if there is a common issue.

