



Akron Central School District

Reopening Plan Executive Summary August 2020

ACS Reopening Executive Summary

This Executive Summary provides a brief overview of some of the major elements that can be found in the ACS Reopening Plan and should not be considered a substitute for the plan itself.

The plan is a “living document” and will be revised in accordance with NYSED, NYSDOH, Executive Orders, Board Policy, stakeholder input, and evidence of best practice.

Meeting Format

- Informational Presentation
 - Reopening Plan
 - Focus on Health and Safety
 - Response to Parental Input & Questions
- Breakout Sessions by Building
- Opportunities for Additional Input and Questions

ACS Parent Reopening Information Sessions

Friday, August 14

District 12:30-1:30

Elementary 1:45-2:30

Middle 2:30-3:15

High 3:15-4:00

Monday, August 17

District 8:30-9:30

Elementary 9:45-10:30

Middle 10:30-11:15

High 11:15-12:00

Tuesday, August 18

District 5:00-6:00

Elementary 6:15-7:00

Middle 7:00-7:45

High 7:45-8:30

Guiding Principles

- Base all decisions on the safety of students, staff and visitors
- Meet the mandates specified in the NYSDOH and NYSED guidelines for reopening schools
- Consider the needs of individuals especially vulnerable and high needs populations
- Ensure engagement with all stakeholders
- Maintain consistent communication
- Be responsive to the changing nature of the health crisis and adaptable to evidence of best practice



ACS Planning Teams

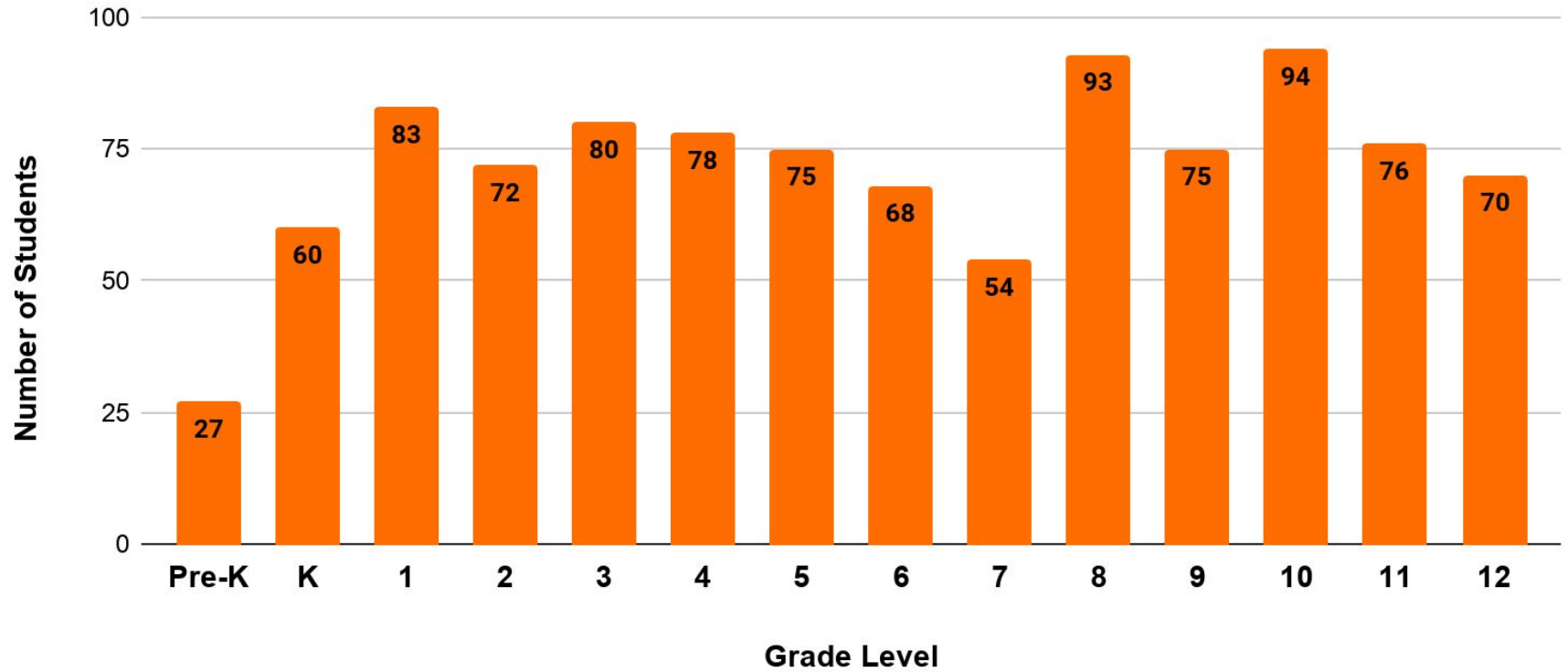
Building Procedures	Health and Safety	Facilities	Child Nutrition	Bussing
Social Emotional Well-Being	Technology and Digital Equity	Instructional Models	Teaching and learning	Athletics

Additional Parent Input

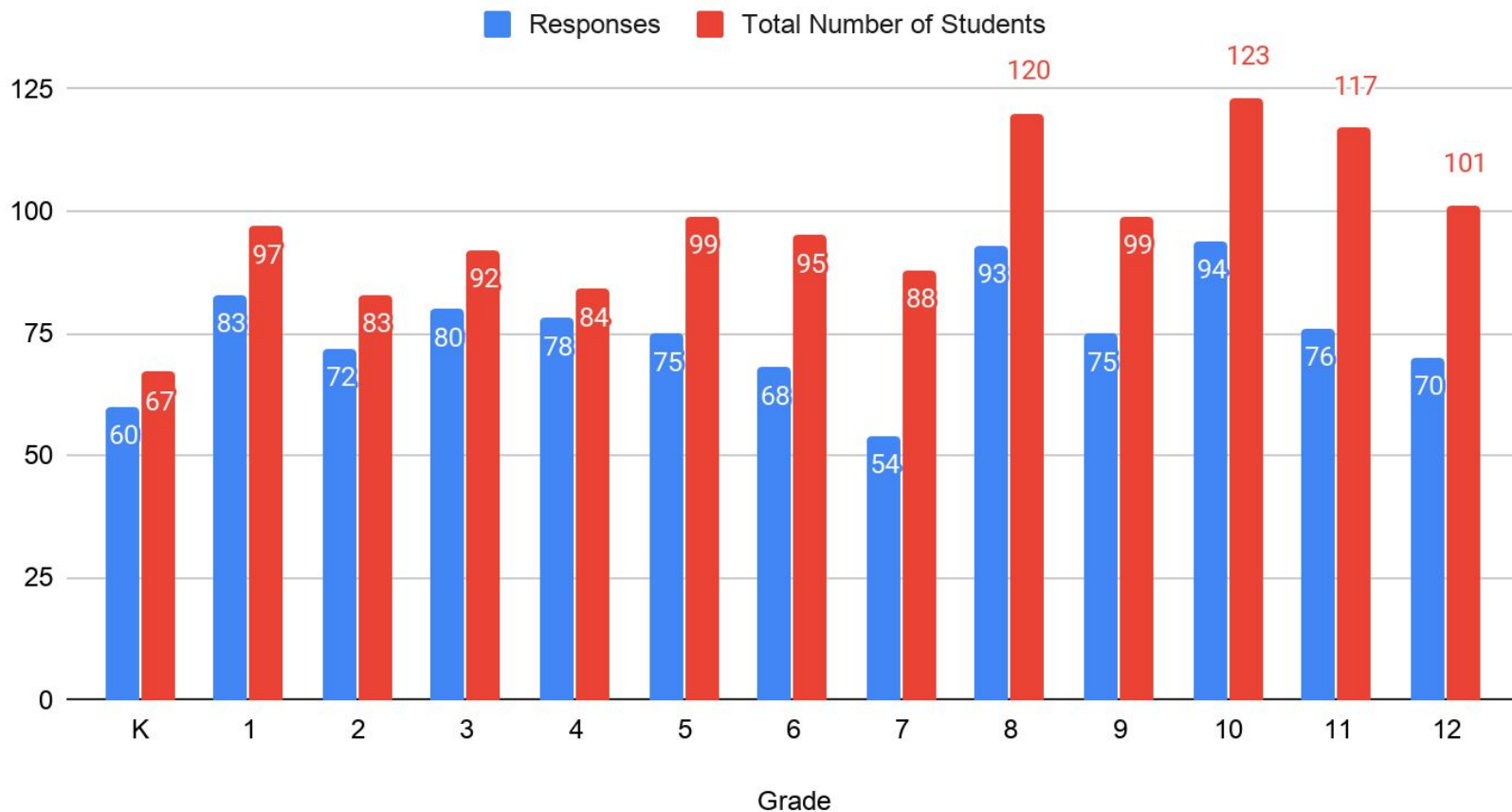
- 587 families responded to the survey about models of instruction, access to technology and childcare needs= 1,000 students
- The survey further revealed the impact of COVID-19 on families and students
- Parent comments and questions have been critical in helping administrators understand parent needs, make informed decisions and develop the reopening plan.
- Parent forums are schedule for August 14, 17 and 18



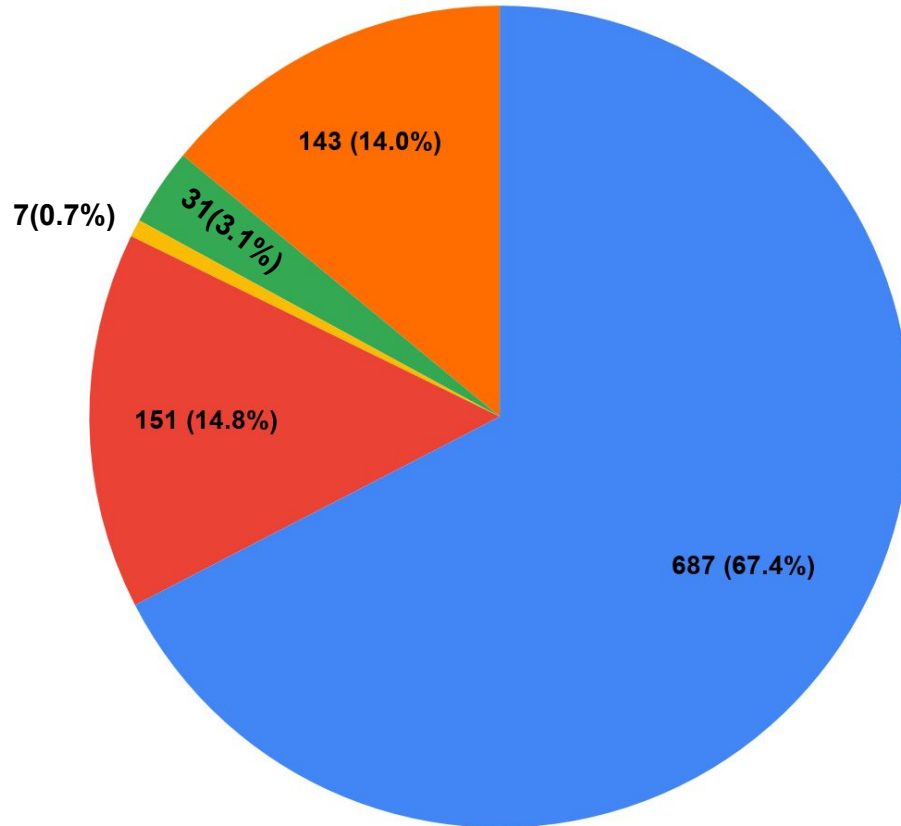
Grade Level Response



Responses vs Total Number of Students



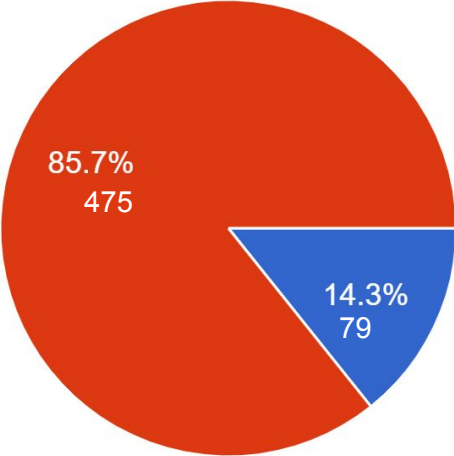
Please select an education model below that best describes your intentions for school this fall.



- My child will attend school in-person whether the model is Hybrid (50% in-person and 50% remote learning) or 100% In-Person learning.
- If available, a remote learning only model would be preferred.
- I intend to home school my child under the provisions specified in NYCRR 100.10. I have already or plan to submit the home instruction letter of intent and the IHIP to the district.
- My child is considered medically vulnerable and is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness and will therefore require a remote learning only model.
- I am unsure at this time.

Child care needs:

554 responses



- I am in need of childcare from a local agency
- I am not in need of childcare from a local agency

Additional Parent Input

- If you have a question that was not answered at the district or building level informational session, please submit your questions at the conclusion of the meeting using the link posted on in my letter and the COVID-19 webpage [Akron CSD Parent Information Session Questions](#)
- In order for us to plan for the needs of all children and make critical staffing decisions, we must require families to make a commitment for the first marking period of the school year. Thus, if you are seeking a remote only model of instruction for your child, we ask that you complete the survey on this link: [Akron CSD Registration FORM for Full Time Remote Instruction](#) before Thursday, August 20, 2020. However, if you intend to send your child to school, there is no need to complete the survey.



Formula for Reopening and Closing Schools

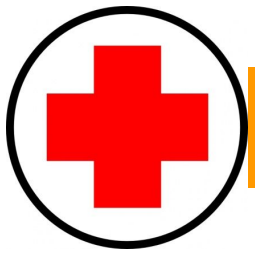
- For a school to reopen, a region must be in Phase 4 and the infection rate must be under 5% over a 14 day rolling average
- If the rate goes above 9%, over a 7 day rolling average, schools will close
- Erie County is current at approximately 1%

3 Required Plans

Minimum Social Distancing- 100% in-person instruction with health and safety protocols

Moderate Social Distancing- “Hybrid Model” Approximately 50% in-person; requires 6 feet of social distance for all and 50% remote learning

Maximum Social Distancing - 100% remote learning



Maintaining Student and Staff Health

- Daily Health Checks
- Social Distancing
- PPE
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Limiting gatherings, use of cohorts, restricting visitors and use of facilities
- Health Services- management of ill persons, testing, contact tracing

Instruction and Transportation

- Hybrid Model
- Digital Access
- Information by Building
- Special Education
- Transportation

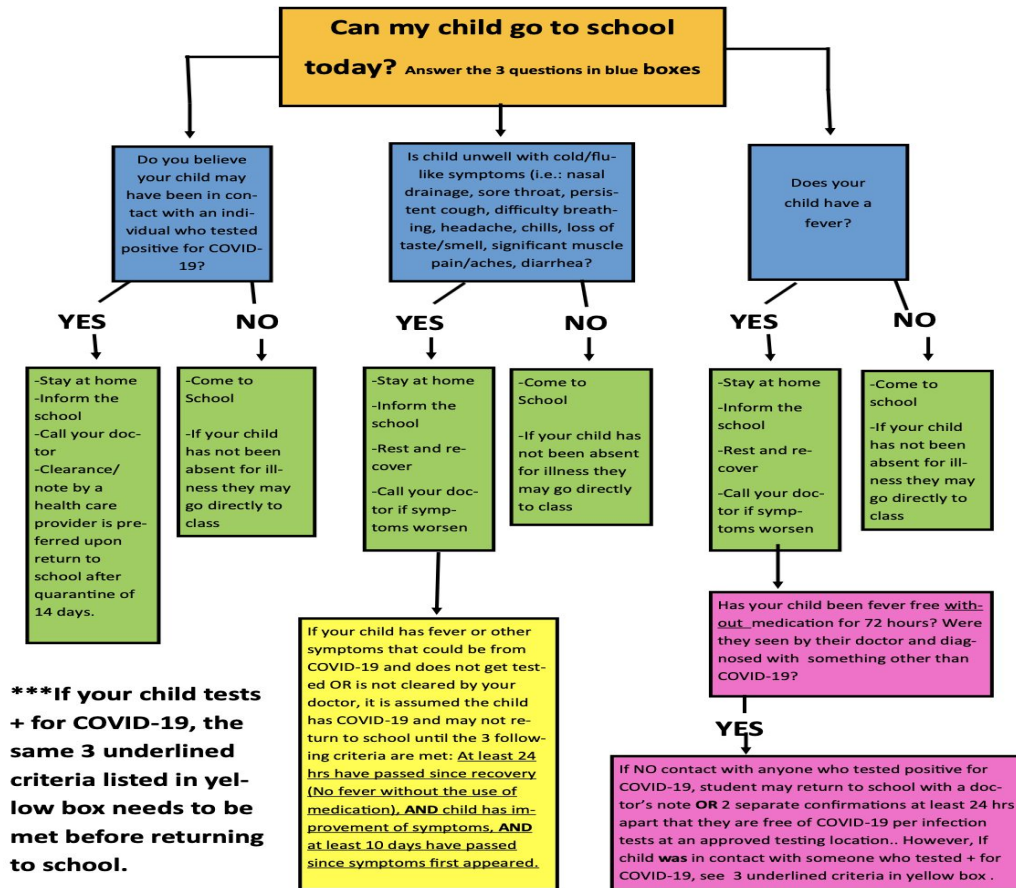


Daily Health Checks

All students, staff and visitors are required to complete a daily health check

1. Have you knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19?;
2. Have you tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
3. Have you experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F in the past 14 days?: and/or
4. Have you traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days?

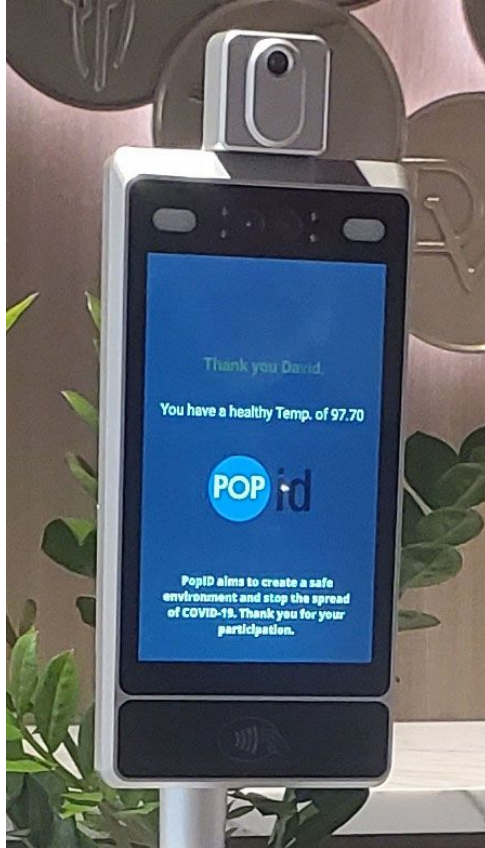
Daily Health Checks- Parents



Transportation

- Masks are required at all times while on the bus
- 1 household per seat (22 per bus) with a maximum of 33 students per bus
- Assigned seating and attendance on each run
- Student temperatures will be taken as they board the bus
 - Students will not be permitted to board if their temperature exceeds 100 degrees
 - Parents will be notified immediately and should be available to make necessary arrangements for their child
- Buses unload one at a time, front to back
- Cleaning and disinfecting after each run
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer is not permitted on buses
- Parents should reinforce bus safety rules and mask wearing
- Families should allow time for transportation changes to be processed this year; daily bus notes will not be accepted

Temperature Screening



- The District will use thermal temperature screening devices to monitor students, staff and visitors temperatures
- Individuals with a temperature over 100 degrees must report their condition to the school nurse or supervisor and will not be granted access to the building
- The District is seeking to install these devices on school buses and at points of entry

Social Distancing

- Schools must ensure that appropriate social distancing (i.e. 6 feet/barriers) is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds (inclusive of students, faculty, and staff), unless safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance.
- Schools must maintain protocols and procedures for students, faculty, and staff to ensure appropriate social distancing.





PPE

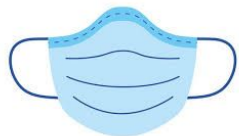
As a baseline, face coverings are required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. Further, face coverings are “strongly recommended” by the New York Department of Health at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing. However, schools can require face coverings at all times, even during instruction; and it is strongly recommended in areas with higher rates of COVID-19 community infection. Masks will be available to anyone that needs one.

Additional PPE such as physical barriers, gloves, face shields, disposable gowns, are being procured for staff and students.

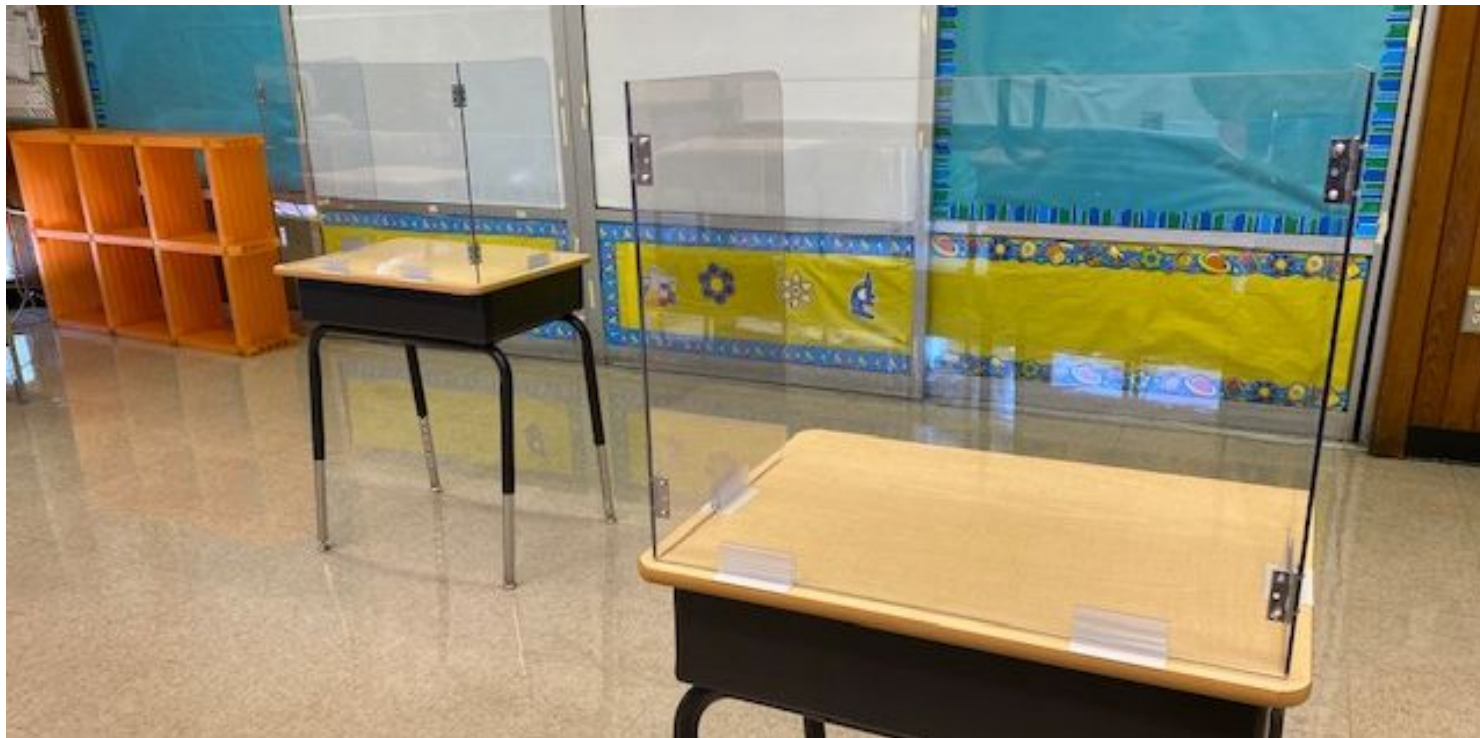


Mask Breaks

- It is strongly recommended that masks be worn throughout the day; however, mask breaks are required.
- In these instances, individuals must maintain 6 feet of social distancing and utilize the desk barrier. It is also expected that for indoor spaces, there is no movement around the room and physical barriers be used to minimize the spread of airborne matter.
- Suggested mask break schedule:
 - Elementary – Two 10 minute breaks per hour
 - Secondary – One 10 minute break per class period
 - Only half the class takes a mask break at one time



PPE



Cleaning and Disinfecting

The District will follow the hygiene and sanitization requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NYSDOH

- Regular building cleaning and disinfecting practices will occur at the end of each workday, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of work surfaces and areas in the work environment, including restrooms, offices, break rooms, classrooms, and other spaces throughout each building. Outdoor area and equipment will be cleaned on a regular basis.
- High Traffic Areas- additional cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted in high traffic (bathrooms, buses) and high-touch areas.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- The District has identified cleaning and disinfection frequency for each area of the campus and the Director of Facilities will maintain logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection throughout the facility.
- Food service preparation, distribution and dining areas will receive additional cleaning cycles throughout the day.
- If an employee becomes ill with COVID-19, the building will be disinfected and closed for a determined amount of time, both in accordance with CDC and NYSDOH recommendations.

Reducing Visitors, Limiting Gatherings & Use of Facilities

- The District will seek to control the number of non-essential people entering the building and rely more heavily on telecommunications in order to conduct meetings and business.
- Students and staff will adhere to the social distancing requirements and plans have been put in place to conduct virtual assemblies and parent meetings.
- Facilities use should be reserved for district related events such as athletics while outside organizations should be limited to outside areas only.

Health Services

- We are intending to use both hand held and free standing Thermal Temperature Scanners for students and staff.
- Any individual exhibiting coronavirus symptoms will either not be permitted entry or be isolated from the general population until such time that they can be sent home for additional testing.
- We will explicitly teach and reinforce hand washing, respiratory etiquette/hygiene, mask usage to all individuals within the buildings.
- District nurses will be responsible for tracking all health data and coordinating care and reporting with the NYSDOH and ECDOH.

Health Services

- Students and staff that are presenting symptoms must report to the nurse prior to going home in order to allow for proper contact tracing in the event that they test positive for COVID-19.
- The District will coordinate with local health officials if an infected person has been in the school building.
- Local health officials will then conduct contact tracing and decide the appropriate course of action for the building/district.

Health Services

Where to get tested:

If individuals want to get tested at an ECDOH specimen collection site, they can call 858-2929 to schedule an appointment.

Erie County:

<https://erieny.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0c46f6677fbd49f5b8cf7548e8efe58b>

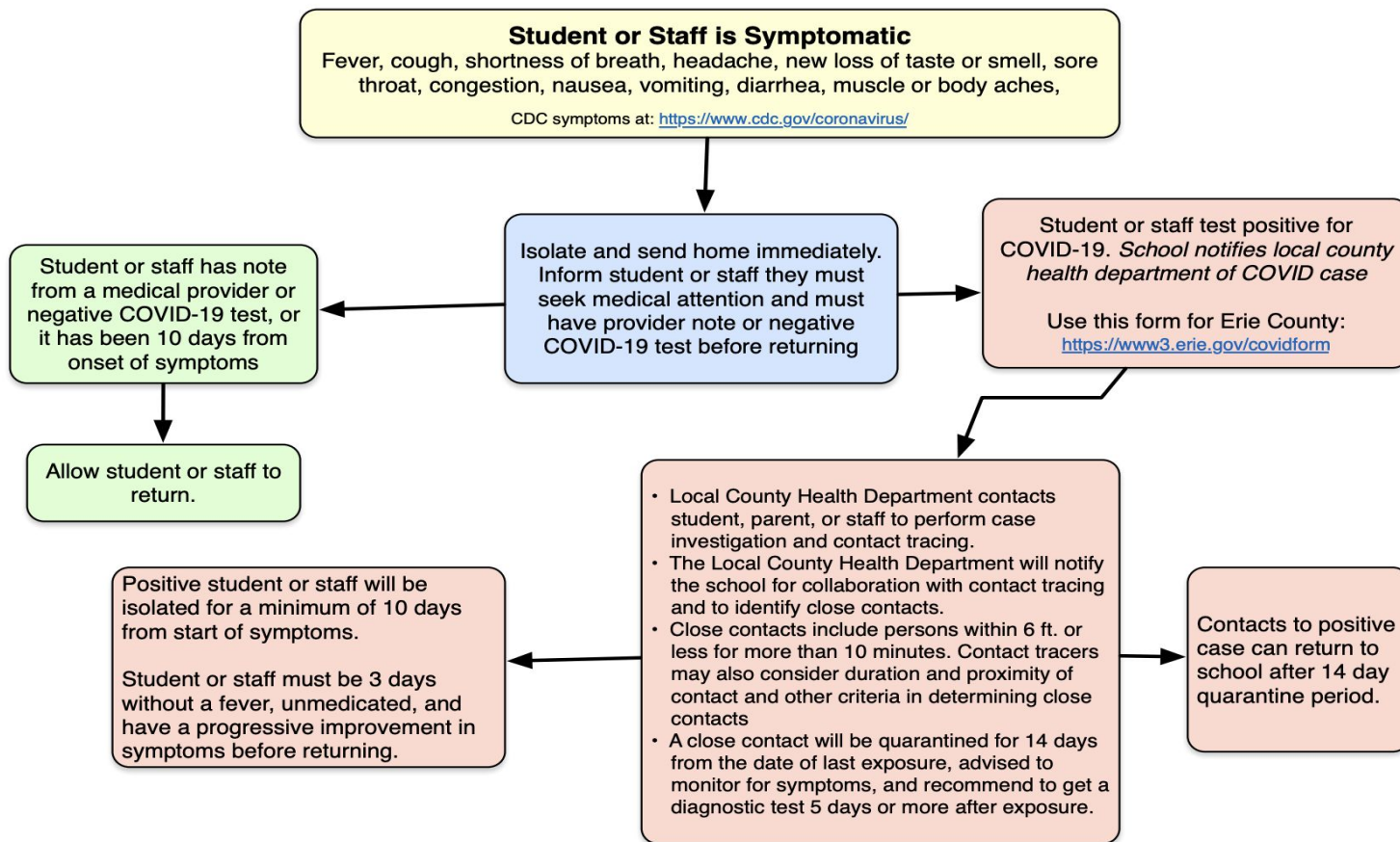
Niagara County:

<https://www.niagaracounty.com/health/Services/Public-Health-Preparedness/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-COVID-19>

Genesee County: https://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/health/coronavirus_2019/index.php

NYS Testing Location Resource: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Student or Staff





**Erie County
Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Has an employee or student at your business or school tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes

No

Your employee or student will be put under isolation orders by the Erie County Department of Health and advised when they can return to work and school.

Continue safe social distancing and cleaning measures, and follow directives and guidance from New York State and Erie County.

Close contacts of your employee or student will be contacted by the Erie County Department of Health to advise them of the need to quarantine.

For employees deemed essential by a business

For students and employees deemed non-essential

May continue to work on site if all of the following criteria are met:
(Note: Nursing home employees have different requirements. Contact NYSDOH for criteria)

1. It is not feasible for you to work from home or if not working would adversely impact the operation of your facility.
2. You remain asymptomatic.
3. You undergo temperature and symptom monitoring upon arrival to work and at least every 12 hours while at work and self-monitor twice a day when home.
4. You wear a face covering while working until 14 days after exposure.
5. Employees must not leave their work location during the work day.
6. Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet from co-workers, customers and visitors.

Must remain under quarantine at home for a 14-day period after last known exposure; monitor for symptoms and consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after last exposure

Who is a close contact of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?

A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection).

You are required to maintain quarantine when not at work until 14 days after your last exposure to the confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case. If symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) develop while working, stop work immediately and isolate at home. Consider getting a COVID-19 diagnostic test five days or more after last exposure.

Return to Work or School: Once employees or students have completed their period of isolation or quarantine, they can self-certify that they are released from isolation or quarantine and return to work or school.

ECDOH recommends the CDC and NYSDOH time-based strategy for returning to work or school after a positive COVID-19 test, which would not require a negative test before returning.

A repeat positive COVID-19 diagnostic test more than 10 days after onset of illness or after 1st test does not mean a person can infect others.

Contract Tracing Continued..

Schools should report a COVID case in their school to ECDOH by completing an informational form at <https://www3.erie.gov/covidform>. ECDOH contact tracers will place them in isolation and obtain names and contact information of close contacts (within 6 ft for more than 10 mins during contagious period). Contact tracers will work with schools to identify close contacts in schools and place them in quarantine and encourage them to get a COVID test.

If an employee is determined to be an essential employee and a close contact who is asymptomatic, that employee will be able to continue working if they monitor symptoms, including temperature, twice daily, mask, and socially distance. If they develop symptoms they will have to leave school and get tested.

Hybrid Information

- Within the hybrid model, when a student is home, there will always be teacher lead and/or developed lesson available online. Teachers will use District approved platforms such as Schoology or Google Classroom and have the ability to post instructional videos and assignments as appropriate.
- Since we are responsible for teaching all of the necessary content and taking daily attendance, teaching and learning must occur daily.
- In some cases, individual students may need to attend school on an in-person basis more frequently than others in order to accomodate access to reliable internet, learning needs, or individual program schedules.

Hybrid Information

- The District is developing online video tutorials so that parents can become more familiar with the various software programs that are commonly used by teachers and students.
- Teachers will work in collaborative teams and with their building principals to develop appropriate plans for Music, PE, Art and Instrumental Lessons.
- The plan for Interscholastics Sports has not been determined at this time. The State has indicated that they may begin with abbreviated season on September 21 or be moved to January.
- Parents will be surveyed again to measure interest in a fully remote option.

Hybrids

Cohort A- Students participate in person on Monday & Thursday and remote instruction on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Cohort B- Students participate in person on Tuesday & Friday and remote instruction on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Cohort C- Students with special considerations and targeted needs participate in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and remote learning on Wednesday only

Cohort D-Students participating in full remote learning.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
A C	B C	All virtual. No Students in building. Day used for instruction, conferring with students	A C	B C
D	D	D	D	D

Remote Learning and Digital Equity

- In addition to outreach to individual families, ACS has conducted 2 surveys to measure internet access throughout the district.
- The District has identified 110 homes and 231 students that are impacted by the lack of access to reliable internet.
- Approximately 50% of these students reside within the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.
- Lack of technology infrastructure (cell towers, fiber optic cables, etc) is the primary barrier to internet access in portions of the district.

Remote Learning and Digital Equity- Options

- The district is investigating purchasing wifi hotspots for families and is testing to see if they have the signal strength to work in households.
- The District can transport students without reliable internet to the school on days when remote learning is required.
- Families may choose to go to areas that have reliable internet- community centers, public libraries, school parking lots.
- Teachers can pre-record lesson on district software platforms that students can download during their in-person learning day.
- Students can use dial-up methods to join virtual meetings with classmates and teachers.

Instructional Plans by Building

[Elementary Plan](#)

[Middle School Plan](#)

[High School Plan](#)



[Social Emotional Plan for Students, Faculty and Families](#)

Elementary - Hybrid Model

	Student Group	Teacher/Student Expectations
Monday/ Thursday	A	• Group A/B In-Person Days - Receive instruction to support/enhance topics covered in videos on distance learning days • Group A/B Distance Learning Days - ○ Watch recorded lessons or provide live instruction with remote teacher ○ Complete daily assigned tasks ○ Check for understanding with virtual teacher <u>daily</u>
Tuesday/ Friday	B	
Wednesday	Remote Learning Day for ALL students	• Engage in classwide discussion with class ○ Morning Meeting/Relationship Building with Students ○ Check in with regular classroom teacher for instruction ○ Teachers will set the expectations for the week and review tasks for the day ○ Teachers will record lesson videos for students in their class for “at home learning days” and plan for instruction
When planning for instruction, teachers will work collaboratively to prioritize the most vital content. A virtual teacher will be assigned at each grade level. The virtual teacher will be responsible for providing instruction to students who are only working remotely. They also will check in with each distance learning group (A or B) each day they are learning from home to check for understanding and provide support with content.		

Elementary

- Students will remain in cohort classrooms for majority of day.
- Students will have controlled access to lockers to store personal items.
- All classrooms will be spaced to encourage social distancing along with desk barriers attached to each desk.
- Specials teachers will travel to various classrooms except for PE (which will take place in both the Elementary cafeteria and gymnasium).
- Students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.
- All students will be given mandatory recess, mask breaks, and brain breaks (mindfulness activities) to encourage movement throughout the day.
- Various handwashing times will be built into the daily schedule.

Middle School - Hybrid Model

	Student Group	Teacher/Student Expectations
Monday	A	● Group A/B In-Person Days - Students would receive direct instruction. ● Group A/B Distance Learning Days - ○ Students will complete daily assigned tasks to check for understanding. ○ Students must be engaged, attendance will be recorded.
Tuesday	B	
Wednesday	Distance Learning	● Students will receive instruction via recorded lessons from all of their teachers. Teachers will be scheduled for office hours to provide instructional help and answer student questions. ● Resource Rooms, Reading, Math Learning Center, Learning Center will be scheduled live to help students. ● From 1:51-3:18pm: Teachers will be available for scheduled office hours to provide instructional assistance. ● Teachers will have time to plan and record video lessons. ● Music Teachers will be available all day to conduct virtual lessons.
Thursday	A	● Group A/B In-Person Days - Students would receive direct instruction. ● Group A/B Distance Learning Days - ○ Students will complete daily assigned tasks to check for understanding. ○ Students must be engaged, attendance will be recorded.
Friday	B	

Middle

- Hybrid learning model:
- Approximately 50% in-person; requires 6 feet of social distance for all and 50% remote learning.
- All students will receive two days of in person instruction.
- During student off days (A/B), students will work on material to show they understand and can apply the material they have learned.
- On the weekly student virtual day, students will receive instruction via recorded lessons and have access to live teacher help.
- 9th periods will be a daily time to give students access to their teachers for supplemental help.
- Special education students will receive their services via google classroom with a live teacher on Wednesday's.

High School - Hybrid Model

	Student Group	Teacher/Student Expectations
Monday/Thursday	A	• Group A/B In-Person Days - Receive new instruction, as well as support/enhance topics covered in videos on distance learning days ○ Curriculum needs to be paired down to essential skills, knowledge and content needed to be successful. ○ SEL - Social Emotional Learning • Group A/B Distance Learning Days - Asynchronous and synchronous instruction ○ Participate in live classroom interaction and/or, ○ Extended learning opportunities ○ Watch recorded lessons ○ Complete daily assigned tasks ○ SEL - Social Emotional Learning
Tuesday/Friday	B	
Wednesday	All students remote	• Remote learning for all students ○ Could be used for office hours to check and connect with students including but not limited to: Academic Intervention Services, Instructional Support Team meetings/services, related services, etc. ○ Teacher professional development or other activities as needed. ○ SEL - Social Emotional Learning

High School Hybrid Model

- We will prioritize instruction to focus on the critical skills, knowledge, and content students must know to be successful.
- We will need to have regular formative assessments at the beginning of each unit to identify learning gaps and to check for understanding.
- We will have department and grade level meetings to engage faculty to share best practice and to help identify learning gaps.
- Lockers will be staggered by grade level to promote social distancing.
- Up to 100 students will eat their lunch in the cafeteria while six feet apart.
- All students will receive two days of in person instruction.
- Social Emotional Learning will occur everyday(connection back to school and support, if possible).
- 9th periods will be a daily time to give students access to their teachers for supplemental help.

Special Education

- Identifying and prioritizing high-needs students and preschool students
 - Increase communication with out of district placements to address needs
- Documentation of progress and targeting individual instructional needs
- Increase parent communication with monthly forums
 - Making training available for families
 - Resource availability - community/district
- Maintaining least restrictive environment for students

THIS IS OUR MOMENT
to come together
to do the hard work
to solve problems

I would like to thank the Board of Education, District Administrators, Union Leadership, Faculty and Staff, as well as the Parents and Community for their exemplary work, either directly or indirectly, in the creation of our reopening plan.



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