

14. Risk Factor Considerations for School Operations

Team Leader(s): Regina Armstrong, James Clark, Allan Wakefield

Task Force Members: Peter LaDuca, Rodney Gilmore, Ahunna Akoma, Bridgett Burroughs, Jamal Scott, Jasmin Sowell, John Robinson, Janet Lovett, Djuana Wilson, Nicole Brown, Anita Reynolds, Pamela Parsley, Sheena Burke, Edward Count

Considerations	Plan 1 – Return to School	Plan 2 – Blended & Remote
<p>The COVID-19 virus is believed to spread from person to person, primarily through respiratory droplets produced when a person coughs or sneezes. The virus is also believed to be spread by people touching a surface or object and then touching one's mouth, nose or eyes. To prevent potential exposures to the COVID-19 virus, school districts should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review job tasks in order to assess the hazards to which school community members may be exposed - Make an evaluation of the risk of exposure - Select, implement and ensure school community members use controls to prevent exposure 		
<p>Risk Factors Related to School Operations and Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close contact, social distance cannot be maintained, less than 6' proximity - Crowding, population density (e.g., classrooms, breakrooms, job tasks) - Length of time individuals are around others - Number of person-to-person interactions (with and without physical barriers) - High exposure to disease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Likelihood population has illness (e.g., health professionals who have been exposed) -- First responders (e.g., health professionals, security officers) - Population with poor hygiene habits (elementary level) 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likelihood of violent interactions leading to close contact interactions - Activities requiring the use of shared equipment where individuals may come into contact with contaminated surfaces - Access to resources and equipment that prevent COVID transmission (e.g., hand sanitizer stations, face masks, PPE, gloves) - Interaction with outside community members (e.g., suppliers, vendors, childcare programs, recreation programs) 		
<p>Broader Risk Considerations impacting School Operations and Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building/room ventilation system availability and efficacy - Community spread - Global, interstate travel of school community and family members - Recent visit to high-risk locations (e.g., urgent care/ ER, downstate) - Inadequate shelter, poor housing conditions in community - Likelihood of illness - Financial limitations - Increased demand on support programs such as food service, mental health and general health needs 		

Meeting Minutes

14. Risk Factor Considerations for School Operations – **Group A (Round 2)** July 1, 2020 12:00 p.m.

Attendees: James Clark, Allan Wakefield, Peter LaDuca, Jasmin Sowell, Pamela Green, Winsome Brown-Cooke, 917-251-8809, Nicole Brown

James Clark opened the meeting by saying that tomorrow's meetings scheduled after 2:00 will be rescheduled to Monday, July 6th due to the change in summer hours.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss how we can prevent the spread of the virus in our community. What plans are in place now and what do we need to do when school returns?

AW: Since the beginning of the outbreak, while we still had people in the building, we have been training staff on the proper procedures for cleaning and disinfecting. Now we are distancing with staff in the building only. We are still addressing how we will do this with students. We have been ordering new equipment; de-foggers to dispense disinfectant for example. The staff that is in the building should be letting us know when they are in and where they are so we can properly clean/disinfect after them. We have a good supply of PPE (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer). We will provide each staff member with two cloth masks (they will sign for them). Students should bring their own, but we will have extra if they need one. We still need to order signage. We can make stencils and use sports paint for the outside markers. We will have hand-held thermometers. We are getting pricing for cleaning the vent systems. We will be changing the air filters every 4 months instead of once a year. Fresh air and exhaust fans are being fixed in all the bathrooms; windows are being repaired. We are following recommendations from the CDC and waiting to hear from the governor

PG: There are some classrooms with no windows or ventilation. In the past, they were told to keep the doors open. Now this is not in CDC compliance

AW: Those rooms (which we have spoken of before) are tied into the same HVAC as the principal's office. They are not working now, but we are getting prices to repair them. It will be fixed by summer

WBC: (Joseph McNeil) Some closets were turned into rooms. Especially for the clinical staff. Those should not be used anymore

AW: Get a list from the head custodian of these locations. We may be able to do something for ventilation

JC: All school districts use every available space they can, especially the overcrowded ones like Hempstead. We must maintain the 6-foot spacing

AW: It is optimal to use spaces with good air flow. Others may be high risk areas

JC: We need to do a walkthrough with all the building principals to we can address these rooms

AW: We can look at the cafeterias and gymnasiums to utilize more space to accommodate quiet activities. We could use the gyms to store extra furniture. We have no other place in the district to store it

PG: How will lunch be served?

AW: CDC says bagged lunch in the classroom

JC: Is there any information that the school can share on our website as far as CDC, etc. recommendations go?

PL: We have been inundated with recommendations. Some of the very good ideas cause other complications. The CDC website has the best info currently. I sent JC a new checklist from the CDC this morning. We need to put appropriate signage in place and to communicate to parents

NB: Regarding communication to parents: Our websites are information overload. No one takes the time to read them. A ZOOM meeting with parents would be more valuable to them to convey important information.

JC: (showed the CDC document that PL sent this morning) Maybe cleaning up the website or putting a special COVID section would help. How will counselors service students in closed spaces with confidentiality?

NB: (AIS teacher) We all use the same space separated by cubicles

PG: Have we considered tents?

NB: Only until the weather gets bad. And there are safety issues

JC: We spoke of tents for entering the building, for taking temperatures, etc.

PG: We need something more proactive. Spacing is an issue. And we need a concrete plan for the portables

WBC: When was the last time we did a walk-through of all the buildings?

JC: Every year. But now we must look at it differently for distancing. All our buildings are unique and will have their own issues. Principals are still waiting on Cuomo to finalize their plans. But these sessions are a good start.

WBC: Are you going to wait for each principal to implement their own plan?

JC: No. We are waiting for the CDC Task Force to give guidance and then the principals can amend their plans

WBC: When do we give guidelines to building administrators?

JC: We want to move wisely, not faster. This is a good base to work with. We may have to alter things specifically for each building

WBC: Our district is more crowded than others. We are unique

NB: It is important that stakeholders are involved with these decisions. Principals are familiar with their schools, but it needs to be looked at by outside observers as well

JC: We couldn't do this with just a single person. That is why we reached out to so many people for this task force

WBC: Will we be getting a copy of the minutes?

JC: When we complete the process, we will gather all the minutes and distribute as a package

NB: So, is the purpose of these meetings to give principals info to reopen?

JC: No. This is to get info from the many different groups so we can have a smoother reopening. Many districts have not done this yet.

NB: Who is putting this together?

JC: Me, CDC, BOCES. We will put a plan in place. We don't want to get caught off-guard and we want to keep everyone in the conversation

WBC: To reiterate, we need to put a livestream meeting together for the parents. It is much better that having them read all this information. We have had good turnouts for the virtual meetings that we had during the closure

NB: Also, some of the parents are illiterate

WBC: I do not see the Latino representation. We have to reach out to that population as well

JC: We have representation. But we can always use more

JS: At ABGS we have beefed up how we communicate with parents. Derner, the health clinic at the middle school which we spoke of earlier, puts out information in both languages. We need to include everybody

PG: Can I invite more staff to these meetings?

JC: Of course. You can forward the meeting requests

JC: I will send out the updated meeting schedules later in the day. We have a great team; we all play important roles. If we do it well, we will have a great game to watch.

Meeting Minutes

14. Risk Factor Considerations for School Operations – Group B (Round 2)

July 1, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Attendees: James Clark, Sonia Hood, Desiree Uzzell, Felicia Prince, Janet Lovett, Sheena Burke, John Robinson, Sheena Burke Pamela Parsley, Bridgett Burroughs

James Clark opened the meeting by talking about items discussed at the 12:00 meeting. Getting info out to the community. (ZOOM). Makeshift classrooms in the district. How to do 1:1 counsel privately. PPE that has been ordered. Spacing.

The purpose of this meeting is to talk about how density plays a large role in the spread of the virus. What can we do to space out and lighten the load?

DU: Enter and exit at different doors. One way in the hallways

JC: Yes. We already discussed this at past meetings

JL: Are we opening in September?

JC: We don't know until we will get guidance from the state. Some schools have not started this plan for that reason. We want to be ahead of the game

JL: In speaking with colleagues from other districts, some of them have decided to make the high school remote and utilize the space for the rest of the students

JC: We have heard about that model. We have also heard Monday to Saturday. But what negotiations will be needed to put that in place? In our district it would cost \$7 million to implement

JC to SB: Is there enough space in your building?

SB: Two classrooms are broken up into four spaces with partitions. If we return, only 2-3 students would be allowed in each space. It used to be 5-6.

JC to FP: Are there any IB considerations needed to provide instruction?

SH: We (IB) don't need any special considerations other than spacing. It is based on hours per subject. It can be done virtually or live

JC: What happens if we don't open in January?

SH: They are working on making accommodations now

SB: If we go virtual, the schedule/hours will be maintained. We made it work from March to June. In September it will be more like a regular school day. In elementary it is not about the hours

JC: Can we work with an agency to get IB hours for the older grades?

SH: We should be able to do the hours without a problem. I will investigate

JC to JL: What are you being told about the bilingual department?

JL: I will share the guidance we received from the state as to the minutes/time given to ENL students. We know remote learning is not good for the ENL students. It will be a bit revised. The state wants them to get the same services that they get in school. We have an allowable expense from Title III. What guidance will we get from the state? We are like special ed kids with IEPs

(DU: What about inclusion classes?)

JC: What about community agencies, Kennedy Park, Churches? Can we use their facilities for more space?

(DU: How do we know the other locations are following safety guidelines?)

JC: The summer employee's questionnaire that we spoke about in Monday's meeting will be done by next Monday. Watching the country, we have seen schools open and then shut again. If a child gets sick, we must provide them with tutoring immediately. No lag time. It should be seamless

DU: Students should have no shared materials. Have teachers go classroom to classroom

(DU: Right now some students are stuck in their countries)

JC: What about teachers with disabilities? A lot of the buildings are old with no elevators

JL: I can't imagine how we can keep the schools safe. My daughter is a "bubble child"

DU: HVAC spreads viruses. Definitely an issue in the middle school

JC: Yes. Now they are saying air conditioning spreads the virus

BB: There is also a similar issue with the use of nebulizers. They keep going back and forth on it. They say it can spread the virus like AC's

DU: I know it's an expense, but the parent should send one in with the child

BB: They are sent in with their inhalers. They usually just need the nebulizer occasionally

JC: How often are they used?

BB: Only three schools use the nebulizer frequently

JC: Thank you all for coming. I will send out the notes when the process is complete. I will also send out the CDC information that I received today. Tomorrow our meetings are at 9:30, 11:00 and 12:30. The rest were rescheduled for Monday