

Questions from 7/28/20 Reopening Schools Committee Meeting

These are answers to questions that were asked on July 28 and not answered during the meeting or in the documents that were or will be shared with the public.

[Click here for the link to the video of the July 28, 2020 Reopening Schools Committee](#)

- Q. Are staff members required to call in sick if they have 1 symptom of COVID? If so, will be required to use a sick day?
- A. The staff will use a screening form each day, if they cannot pass the screening they will be required to stay home. There are several state and federal programs related to staff attendance, these will be explained to staff prior to the first day of school as needed.
- Q. As a parent, I would need far more of these questions answered in more detail in order to make a decision for in-person vs full virtual instruction. As fluid as this program needs to be, I think the delay needs to be further explained so that parents feel they have the option to work from home after making a commitment to in-person instruction - or vice versa.
- A. Approximately 10 school days for changes
- Q. Are we making the best choices with the information we have? Are we being conservative enough? Are we focused too much on getting the kids back to school vs safety of students? 1 major concern is level of safety with ½ day plan vs A/B plan, as well as with regard to other districts in NJ. Are we taking too large a step to get the kids back to school? As part of the committee, I see this plan consulted the school physician. Are they on the call? What is their stance on which program might be more sustainable in the long term?
- A. Our district administrative team feels very strongly our plan addresses the mental health and physical health as well as the educational needs of our students in the best possible Manner. We do not feel the A/B days or A/B weeks will be effective both educationally and for the mental well being of our students. Yes the school physician as well as other medical professionals are available when needed. Our plan has been vetted by our school physician, St Clare's, Denville and Morris County Departments of Health all of the professionals approve of our plan.
- Q. Are there substitutes available (and willing) to work if a staff member needs to be out?
- A. We will have a pool of substitutes and a service to provide staff coverage. We will also use internal staff to provide coverage when needed. This aspect of the plan will definitely be a challenge for all school districts.
- Q. In short, I know you are already having the HVAC systems inspected and adjusted as needed and have been doing so for years, but perhaps allowing these inspections to be made public would make parents and staff feel that everything that can be done to keep people safe is being done.

- A. We contract with an outside contractor to perform preventative maintenance including filter replacement for the large units on the roofs and boiler rooms. For the individual classroom units we replace the filters twice per year using our staff. Our staff has completed the maintenance of the room units already in July and the contractor will be on site in August. All documentation can be made available. We currently use Merv 14 filters in some units and are exploring using them in all units with our vendor.