

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where relevance and passion inspire success.



2020-21 Re-Entry Plan

Level Descriptions

LEVEL I – Remote Learning

- Current conditions are sustained community spread of COVID-19 with significant risk of viral transmission to students and staff.
- Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning.
- Provisions for student support services and school meal programs will continue based on acquisition of PDE waiver to serve meals.

LEVEL II – Blended Learning Model

- Current conditions are minimal to moderate community spread of COVID-19 with significant risk of viral transmission to students and staff.
- Approximately 50% of District students attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Approximately 50% of District students attend school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Fridays, students will work remotely from home. Staff will work to support students from classrooms/offices.
- Students will be divided up by alphabet and current bus rosters/routes. Students will be assigned to either Group A, Group B, or Group C and this will be communicated to families as soon as groups are determined.

Instruction

	Monday (Day 1)	Tuesday (Day 1)	Wednesday (Day 2)	Thursday (Day 2)	Friday
Student Group A	In-person instruction	Remote learning	In-person instruction	Remote learning	Remote learning
Student Group B	Remote learning	In-person instruction	Remote learning	In-person instruction	Remote learning
Student Group C*	In-person instruction	In-person instruction	In-person instruction	In-person instruction	Remote learning

*Note: Group C students are students with special needs that require support as determined by their IEP team.

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, & Ventilation

Aramark has developed a 3-tier cleaning protocol. SpaceCare Plus is what we will utilize for the 2020-21 school year. Daily and weekly procedures will be defined for custodial staff.

The new dedicated outdoor air (DOA) systems provide ventilation to the buildings per code requirements. DOA's should work to our advantage, as they do not recirculate/redistribute the air, but they provide air exchange and dilution of the indoor air for acceptable indoor air quality.

Social Distancing and Safety Protocols

- There will be a minimum spacing of three feet required in the classroom. This is the social distancing recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) since this distance results in large reductions in infection through droplet spread of coughs and sneezes. Six feet will be required when masks are not worn.
- All desks in a classroom face the same direction and are spaced apart.
- Clean/disinfect shared items after each use; provide wipes to clean shared equipment/supplies.
- Keep student belongings as separated as possible.
- Elementary - students stay in classroom for art, music, and library specials; special teachers relocate to rooms rather than student relocation.
- No assemblies, large group activities, no circle time at elementary level in close proximity.
- High traffic in the hallways will be limited when possible by staggering the end of class periods to reduce the number of students in the hallway or by requiring masks between classes; Create one-way traffic patterns in hallways where possible.
- Music program - Wind instruments, social distancing must be prioritized due to potential increased risk of droplet transmission.
- Elementary Guided Reading/Math – occurs with students spaced out accordingly.

Food Services

- Meals served in the cafeteria in accordance with a specified safety protocol and the consideration of also utilizing alternative large common spaces such as gymnasiums, outdoor courtyards (weather permitting), and large group instruction (LGI) rooms.
- Signing package to be displayed in regard to social distancing, safety, hygiene, and line flow.
- Styrofoam trays, disposable plastic containers, etc.
- No overlapping lunch periods (adjusting bell schedules accordingly).
- Utilize only the rectangular, not round tables for lunches/breakfast. Use rectangle tables on only one side so students do not face each other.

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safety and Health Considerations

- Teach and reinforce hand washing; covering coughs and sneezes in elbow.
- Allow time in daily schedule to wash or sanitize hands several times per day, especially before lunch.
- Signage posted on entry doors, main office counters, restrooms, hallways, and classroom doors about protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs.
- No large group activities.
- Visitors by appointment only; virtual meetings are also an option.
- Plexiglass at reception desk in each building.
- Bring the teacher/counselor to office instead of sending visitors in building.
- Restrict the use of water fountains. Water supply to the fountains will be turned off. Encourage students/staff to bring disposable water bottles from home daily.
- Teachers track through sign out sheets that only one student uses the restroom at a time.
- Every other urinal will be blocked off to prompt distancing (with signage).

Physical Education Classes

Modified Layouts and Social (Physical) Distancing

- Staff members to help maintain social distancing.
- Space players at least 6 feet apart on the field while participating in the sport (e.g., during warmup, skill building activities, simulation drills).
- Discourage unnecessary physical contact, such as high fives, handshakes, fist bumps, or hugs.
- Prioritize outdoor, as opposed to indoor, practice and play as much as possible.
- Create distance between players when explaining drills or the rules of the game.
- If keeping physical distance is difficult with players in competition or group practice, consider relying on individual skill work and drills.
- If facilities must be shared, consider increasing the time between uses to allow for one group to leave before another group enters the facility. If possible, allow time for cleaning and/or disinfecting.

Physical Barriers and Guides

- Provide physical guides, such as signs and tape on floors or playing fields, to make sure that coaches and players remain at least 6 feet apart.

Communal Spaces

- Close shared spaces such as locker rooms, if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean and disinfect between use.
- Limit the number of players sitting in confined player seating areas (ie. squad lines) by allowing players to spread out into more space (if available).

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shared Objects

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect. Do not let players share towels, clothing, or other items they use to wipe their faces or hands.
- Make sure there are adequate supplies of items to minimize sharing of equipment to the extent possible (ie. protective gear, balls, bats, water bottles).
- Otherwise, limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of players at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Keep each player's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, bags, or areas.

Pool

- No swimming instruction (classes) will take place on Levels I, II, or III.
- There will not be any pool rentals during this same time period.
- The pool will be available to the swim team under the guidance of the Return to Athletics/Activities Safety Guidelines.

Elementary Specials

- Specials in core classroom with half classes, social distanced, PE can be outside if weather permits.
- Prioritize outdoor PE as much as possible.
- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Be sure to have adequate supplies of items to minimize sharing of equipment.

Recess

- Half of classes can go outside on blacktop portion of playground.
- Shared playground equipment will not be utilized.
- Students and staff sanitize hands upon re-entry.
- All teachers go outside with students and provide organized/individualized play (hopscotch, red light, green light) in small groups.

Transportation

- When social-distancing is required in the classroom, adjust bus rosters accordingly (ie. 50% of in-person attendees should have no more than 50% on bus roster).
- Since social distancing is not feasible, masks are required on the bus.
- Maximum of two students per seat whenever possible.
- Assigned seats will be very important (for contact tracing).

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Students will be divided up by alphabet and current bus rosters/routes. Students will be assigned to either Group A, Group B, or Group C and this will be communicated to families as soon as groups are determined.
- Bus drivers will be required to wear masks/shields when students enter/exit the bus.

Other Health Considerations

- Encourage staff and students to stay home when not feeling well.
- All District staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for school and will be instructed to stay home if ill.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to perform a symptom screen on their elementary-aged children prior to sending them to school each morning.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to communicate often with their children in the Middle School or High School to assess any symptoms that may be present.
- Publish two questions that everyone needs to ask themselves prior to coming to school:
 1. Do you currently have a fever/chills, recent onset of shortness of breath, a cough, or gastrointestinal symptoms?
 2. Have you been around anyone in the last seven days that had a fever/chills, shortness of breath, a cough, or gastrointestinal symptoms?
- Determine additional considerations and supports needed on a case by case basis for students with disabilities and/or complex medical needs to ensure safety of these students and the individuals providing services to these students.
- Determine additional considerations and supports needed on a case by case basis for staff requiring special accommodations.

Protections for Staff and Children at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19

The CDC considers the following individuals to be at high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19:

1. People who are 65 years and older.
2. Those that have underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well-controlled, including:
 - Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - Serious heart conditions
 - Compromised immune system
 - Severe obesity (body mass index of 40 or higher)
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - Liver disease

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Hemoglobin disorder

More information about who is at higher risk from severe illness due to COVID-19 is available at People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html).

EPASD Action Steps

- Evaluate all current plans (i.e. Individual Healthcare Plans, Individualized Education Plans, and 504 Plans) for accommodating students with special health care needs and update as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID-19.
- Offer remote learning to enrolled students who may be medically vulnerable or otherwise uncomfortable returning to in-person or blended learning instruction.
- When possible, offer options for staff at higher risk for severe illness that limit their exposure risk (i.e. telework, modified job responsibilities).
- Protect the privacy of people at [higher risk for severe illness](#) regarding underlying medical conditions.
- Advise daily self-monitoring of students and staff prior to coming to school.
- Encourage staff to stay home when they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home.

Frequently Asked Questions About Remote Learning

The traditional in-person program will not work for us to start the school year. What else is available for my children?

- Panther Academy, our virtual school, is available at every grade level K-12.
- We have options for families who want their children to learn online at home.
- EPASD partners with the Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA) through IU 15 to provide this well-established virtual program.
- Lessons are engaging, interactive, and developed by highly qualified online vendors.
- Students may continue to participate in the full range of extra-curricular activities provided by EPASD.
- Seniors who sign up for Panther Academy are included in EPAHS graduation events and receive an EPAHS diploma.

How do we learn more about Panther Academy?

- CAIU Website: <http://caola.caiu.org>
- Contact your building principal or school counselor.

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Face Coverings

- Reinforce use of face coverings for staff when not able to social distance.
- Remind staff to stay in personal office/classroom as much as possible with limited personal interaction. Masks can be removed when alone; if someone enters in close proximity, both should have a mask on. Teaching staff will wear a mask when students are in the classroom when not able to social distance.
- All students will be required to wear face coverings when they are outside of the classroom but they will not be required in the classroom when appropriately social distancing.
- Face coverings will be required by staff and students when groups of individuals pass or are in close proximity such as hallway transitions.
- In summary, face coverings are required throughout the school day except when eating or when appropriately social distancing in the classroom.

Isolation/Quarantining Students or Staff

- Identify isolation area/room for students and staff.
- Guidelines for staff/students to be sent home or to medical facility safely (call ahead).
- Call emergency contact on file to transport student/staff member home. No entry to the building for emergency contact picking up student/staff.
- Close off areas used by an infected person until cleaned and disinfected.
- Be able to trace every area of building where suspected/ confirmed case was. Anyone within 6 feet of person should be considered exposed.
- Notify health officials, staff, and families of exposure/confirmed case.
- If confirmed cases, temperature checks for 14 days upon return.

Communication

- EPASD will notify families and staff of any potential school closures or within-school-year changes in safety protocols if the need arises.
- EPASD will utilize Blackboard Connect messages (call, email, text) and post information to the District website.

LEVEL III – 100% Back to School
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- Current conditions are little to no community spread of COVID-19 with minimal risk of transmission.
- 100% of District students attend school Monday through Friday.
- Continue to follow applicable CDC, DOH, and PDE guidelines.

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Considerations for Level III

- Follow all cleaning/disinfecting procedures from Level II.
- Recommendation to space out students to the greatest extent possible during instructional time and transitions.
- Limit collaborative groupings/cooperative seating (pods).
- Utilize café with social distancing and sanitizing; Disposable trays only.
- No overlapping lunch periods.
- Safe use of communal spaces with social distancing.
- Procedures for safe use to congregate for assemblies, not to exceed one grade level at a time.
- Since social distancing is not feasible, masks are required on the bus.
- Assigned seats will be very important (for contact tracing).
- Face coverings are still required in Level III for staff and students when in common areas (ie. hallway) but are not required in the classroom. Staff and students will utilize a mask/shield when not able to properly social distance in the classroom.
- Elementary specials in specials classrooms, space students with social distancing in mind. Discourage physical contact (high fives, fist bumps, etc.).
- Elementary social distancing on playground, sanitize upon reentry, no contact games, however, kickball, basketball are appropriate games.
- Recess aides/teachers will sanitize playground equipment between recesses.

Note: Any necessary revisions/additions to this Re-Entry Plan in the future will be made in accordance with guidance and requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Version: July 15, 2020

EAST PENNSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appendix A

EPASD COVID-19 School Closure Decision Making Tool

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Level of Community Spread based upon State and Local Public Health*	1 student/staff at 1 building or 1 student/staff in multiple buildings (different clusters)	2-4 students/staff in 1 building or multiple buildings (different clusters)	5 or more students/staff in 1 building or in 1 cluster (traceable)	5 or more students/staff in multiple clusters (community spread)
Low/No Spread (Less than 5 cases per day in the county in the past week)	Close affected area(s) for up to 24 hours	Close school(s) for 24 to 72 hours minimum	Close individual school or cluster for 14 days minimum	Close school(s)/District for 14 days minimum
Moderate Spread (Between 6-100 cases per day in the county in the last week)	Close affected area(s) for up to 24 hours	Close school(s) for 24 to 72 hours minimum	Close individual school(s) or cluster(s) for 14 days minimum	Close school(s)/District for 14 days minimum
Substantial Spread (Greater than 100 cases per day in the county in the past week)	Close affected area(s) or school(s) for 24 to 72 hours minimum	Close school(s)/ District for 72 hours minimum	Close school/District for 14 days minimum	District closed until further notice

*Note: Incidence rate per 100,000 people.