

Community Forum

FAQ

July 22, 2020

6:00pm

Q. At what stage do you go from stage 1 to stage 2? Are there a number of cases of COVID that must be confirmed in the school?

A. We are still awaiting guidance from the DPH, CSDE and State of Connecticut.

Q. I have a son entering the 8th grade and am wondering how his schedule would work throughout the day. I know the elementary school has live classes, but how would this work for the middle school that do not all share the same schedule?

A. We have invested in a course curriculum called Engenuity that can match a student's course schedule. As an example, if a student is taking Algebra I, we can match some of this course work. We cannot match all courses so there will be supplemental work, some live streaming classes and some video instruction.

Q. Will siblings be going to school on the same days? And if so, if they were in different classes this past year will they continue to be in different classes? Same grade as I have twins?

A. If we have to go to the cohort model, we will do our best to match sibling schedules. If you have the same grade as twins, we will accommodate the same schedule.

Q. I am concerned about indoor ventilation (bus/bathroom/cafeteria/etc). Doesn't seem like a problem that can be reasonable addressed. How can we make sure it is safe for our kids/teachers?

A. We are investing in floor fans to circulate air as needed. We are also looking to ensure we have screens for windows, as possible, and looking to do some outdoor classrooms as well. We will be closely monitoring heat and humidity and air quality. The district may have more early dismissal days than usual as a result.

Q. Has the first day of school changed?

A. No. The first day of school is August 26th with the first three days being early dismissal days for students.

Q. Will specials be included in remote learning and will there be a supply list for remote learning?

A. Yes.

Q. Will staff and students be provided N95 masks on a weekly basis?

A. *The state does not require N95 masks. If staff has specific PPE needs they should contact their Principal. Additional masks will be available for staff and students as needed for emergency purposes.*

Q. Will it be solely the bus driver responsibility for ensuring kids keep masks on, etc. or will there be additional bus monitors on board?

A. *Bus monitors are not required in the state Reopening Plan. Should a student refuse to wear a mask we will work with the student and family to address the issue.*

Q. Are students required to have N95 masks and do they have to have their own?

A. *Students have a choice when it comes to selecting their own mask.*

Q. Will the kids will be required to wear masks at all times from when they get on the bus to the time they get off the bus in the afternoon?

A. *We will have mask breaks during the day. There will be staggered recesses to get the students out a little more and not having to wear their masks. When in classrooms, students will be required to wear a mask.*

Q. What will be the procedure when a teacher/staff/student member or one of their family members tests positive?

A. *All staff and students will be required to do a self-wellness inventory that has five basic COVID-19 questions. There will then be additional health questions. If you have no health concerns you get a check and go to work/school. If you have a health issue you get a recommendation to stay home. This is the first step in the screening process. Should someone test positive for COVID then contact tracing begins. If someone tests positive we will inform community though maintain privacy of individual. Based on level on contact, or the number of cases, the district may need to move into Phase II or III.*

Q. To clarify - if students are home because they may have symptoms, will they be watching their actual classes live? If they have to quarantine for 2 weeks, would those count as absences if they're attending school remotely?

A. *Students who selected remote learning or at home due to medical will have live streaming classes. If a student is home due to illness, there is a possibility they can live*

stream into the class. We are further researching this but that is more than a 24 hour turnaround from live to remote.

Q. Will face shields be acceptable for face coverings, specifically for kindergartners?

A. Yes.

Q. Is there any plans for after school activities or does everyone need to leave after school day?

A. Right now we are planning for after school sports. We are looking at After School Enrichment but unsure if it will be live or provided remotely.

Q. How many new children have enrolled in all three LPS schools for this year and how is that impacting the classroom space issues?

A. As of today, we are -22 students in RSD6 including new arrivals and those who will learn from home. We are -7 in Litchfield including new arrivals and those who will learn from home.

Q. Will guidelines be sent out to parents before school starts? (i.e. take your child's temperature before getting on the bus or dropped off at school).

A. All parents will receive protocols from schools on August 3rd. Protocols may vary school by school. Information on the daily self-health and wellness inventory will be sent to families around August 15th.

Q. If we move to Phase 2 or 3, is there a possibility to go back to Phase 1, or is that it for the year?

A. The district model is fluid to ensure if we need to move through the Phases, students educational needs will be met with little disruption to their schedule, live instruction and video instruction.

Q. Will outside breaks also apply to middle and high school students?

A. Secondary administrators are looking into ways for middle and high school students to have breaks whether in the gym, auditorium or outside.

Q. Will you be notifying the parents if there is an infection in the school?

A. Yes. We will notify parents, teachers and staff of any confirmed at this school or at this bus and talk about what actions we will be taking.

Q. Are you using a specific program for the self-wellness tests or an in-house version? Will you do your own contact tracing or use a specific program?

A. The district is using a specific program. There is a possibility to use this program to do contract tracing. We are currently experimenting with it now to determine if we will do so.

Q. Will testing for symptoms of all staff and students be done at some point throughout the day and will testing for symptoms be done on all before they are allowed to enter the school?

A. Every student and staff person will do the self-wellness inventory daily before they are allowed access to the building.

Q. Are students required to wear masks during gym?

A. No. The goal is to social distance and have a mask break during gym (as possible)

Q. Also, will there be guidelines on drop off and pick up at the school- i.e. parents wearing masks and car traffic flow etc.?

A. Yes. Protocols will be sent to families on August 3rd.

Q. Will there be a deadline for when parents have to decide whether they will be choosing remote learning/in-person school attendance?

A. No there is no deadline. If you chooses remote learning notify the Principal by email with your child's name and address. If your child needs remote learning due to a medical need, please contact Julie Haggard for LPS or Deb Foley for RSD6 as there is a different process and paperwork to follow. You will also need a doctor note.

Q. What would kindergarteners be doing on the iPad for remote learning, is it the same format a upper elementary? Being so much more hands on learning than upper grades how will that work for those younger children?

A. Kindergarten and Grade 1 will be provided iPads where they will have access to Lexia, math program,s and their teacher via live stream.

Q. With windows open and students outdoors, what additional security measures will be in place?

A. We have SRO's at Region 6 and will be looking to bring in SRO's to Litchfield as possible with a changing budget and circumstances. There are cameras in many of our schools. We will have protocols such as teachers having walkie-talkies when outside with students.

Q. How will social distancing work on the bus?

A. We will look for siblings to be in the same seat. We are looking at the possibility of assigning seats. Capacity is down approximately 15% due to the number of transportation waivers received. There is no state or CSDE requirement for 6' of social distancing on busses.

Q. The four students at a lunch table will they be from the same cohort?

A. We will do our best to keep them from the same cohort and same grade level. It will be more difficult to do so at the secondary level given the individual schedules of each student.

Q. Should we go to complete distance learning will grades be pass/fail as in the spring or can the students choose to have number grades?

A. There will be no pass/fail this school year. Live, or remote, instruction is to ensure we maintain rigor and a student's individual schedule.

Q. Bathrooms seem to be a big problem as they are shared?

A. We will limit certain bathrooms to certain part of the building and will also limit the number of passes out of classrooms. Cleaning of bathrooms will be done several times throughout the day.

Q. If you chose remote learning, when are you allowed to go back to school?

A. Yes.

Q. How you believe the majority of our LPS teachers are feeling about returning to school for in person teaching and risks associated?

A. There are days when people feel optimistic and days when overwhelmed such as when you hear about the number of cases in certain states like Florida. There is concern for student safety and their own safety. It is hard for everyone and we are all doing the best we can.

Q. Do we have a choice on when we want our children to return to school?

A. There are no parameters. We have the flexibility and will work with all parents and families when requested.

Q. Can you supply students with some classes this summer to help them catch up or start supplemental education to get them used to some learning as the last semester was not as rigorous as it could be?

A. There are a bunch of resources loaded on the district website main page "Education Opportunities." If you need additional resource needs, please reach out to Principals.

Q. Locker use? How does P.E. work for kids that are staying home?

A. Locker use is under discussion. P. E work for kids that stay at home will include getting outside, jumping rope, ride a bike, push ups; a whole bunch of different things.

Q. What's the difference between remote learning and distant learning?

A. Distance Learning included a lot more video taped lessons and work sent home via email. Remote learning will have more live streaming and in- person with a teacher at the front of the room. Teachers will have document cameras so they can show examples to the students. Students will have live time access to classrooms and can email their assignments.

Q. Have you seen an influx in enrollment in the schools due to weekenders and other moving here full time?

A. Total enrollment is up a little bit. However, the number of students in classrooms is down for both districts.

Q. If you choose remote learning, will our child be tuning in to their classroom on a live stream?

A. Yes, at the elementary level. At the secondary level it will be a hybrid of coursework and live stream. Both Elementary and Secondary will be on a live schedule.

Q. If we sign the transportation waiver for the fall and choose remote learning, can we reverse that at any time including the bus transportation?

A. Yes.

Q. Will LHS and Wamogo students still be able to take classes at the other school?

A. Yes.

Q. What will the training for teachers look like regarding supporting emotional health with regard to anxiety over mask wearing?

A. Looking at PD on how to support students. Will be working with our external providers such as Greenwoods as well.

Q. What about using thermal scan before entering building?

A. Don't have the ability to do so based on high costs.

Q. Are SAT's being administered?

A. Yes. Guidance on SAT's will be coming from the school.

Q. How does P.E. Work for kids that are staying home?

A. P. E work for kids that stay at home will include getting outside, jumping rope, ride a bike, push ups; a whole bunch of different things.

Q. For Warren School, with the grades combined - how are they going to fit 18 kids in the classroom but also 6 feet apart?

A. We are still looking at class rosters at Warren School, however, not every grade will be combined.

Q. If we choose remote learning, what happens to band/chorus/instruction etc. classes?

A. There are good recording programs and ways to feed into and join in with others singing at the same time.

Q. What is the due date for the transportation waiver to be turned in?

A. There is no specific due date to turn in transportation waivers. This is ongoing.

Q. Will Wamogo still be offering the Agriculture program and will other schools still attend the program?

A. Yes. The animals will be returning to the campus in the coming weeks and we have had students back on campus doing SAEs (Student Agricultural Experiences), this summer.