

Community Forum  
FAQ's  
August 12, 2020  
1:00pm

Q. Do have any feedback from teachers as to how many may be taking a leave of absence? And the resulting possibility of the need for subs?

*A. The district has received two non-COVID related leave of absence requests. Both have been granted. One position is filled and the other is expected to be filled by early next week. In regard to subs, right now with the exception of a couple of maternity leaves, the district is hopeful we will not need to start the year with a lot of long-term subs.*

Q. If we do go hybrid, will Wednesday (the cleaning day) still be a remote learning day where the teacher is live streamed from the classroom?

*A. Yes. The teachers will be live streaming and the buildings will be closed for deep cleaning if we are in Phase 2 (hybrid).*

Q. Will there be any extra support staff for teachers to enforce the new rules (masks, social distancing, hand washing, etc.) And more support staff for school nurses?

*A. Not at this time. There will not be extra support staff for teachers to enforce the new rules. Staffing levels have remained from prior year. Though it will be the responsibility of all staff to ensure the new rules are followed. This will be a learning process for our students and we will work with them, and families, to ensure protocols are followed. We will look for more support staff if needed.*

Q. As we move into different phases, is this done as a school district or as a state? If done per school district, would this effect bussing with Ag students? There are siblings in other schools, such as Tech, private schools, other town high schools such as Torrington, Thomaston, is there communication set up to handle possible COVID cases with siblings attending other schools?

*A. Each school district will make its own decision on which Phase they will open. Ag students from other districts will be bused to WAMOGO as required by law and as such, the district will bus our students who attend Tech school. In regard to communication of COVID cases, contact-tracing will now go through DPH, and the Area Health Department. The district would receive communications through that department. There will also be a lot of cross district/school communications.*

Q. How often will the kids get mask breaks and get to go outside? Also, if they opt for remote learning, how many hours will they be expected to be on the screen?

Masks are really against OSHA rules due to the lack of oxygen the person is receiving. It is unhealthy. What about those of us that don't believe this is safe?

*A. Mask breaks and recess breaks are based on class-by-class and school. Every school will be different but there will be multiple recess breaks during the day. If your child opted for remote learning, the expectation is that the child will be following the class from a remote location doing the same work as their peers. There will be a lot of screen time with lunch and recess breaks. The expectation is students will maintain their education and the district will make sure communication is good between home and school and work is turned in. Your comment regarding OSHA and masks cannot be disputed however this is a CDC, DPH and CSDE requirement. There is a caveat that a child can get a medical note by a licensed physician lifting the mask requirement. When the district receives a doctor note the family is given the option for the student to wear a face shield or gator. We are also waiting on DPH / CSDE revised guidance on face coverings and medical exemptions.*

Q. Will there be additional materials lists for specific grades, or was the materials list in the re-opening plan comprehensive?

*A. Every school sent out protocols on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> and included within that communication is a materials list.*

Q. If we get testing that shows that our children have antigens will they be allowed to not wear masks?

*A. No, this was not included in the Guidance from the CDC and DPH.*

Q. Has the number of families staying home grown since last meeting?

*A. Yes. As of this time, there are 51 opt outs for Region 6 and 37 opt outs for LPS. This includes home schooling and remote learning.*

Q. What is the home instruction program going to be? If we choose to use home instruction for our child, when COVID numbers improves, can she re-enter the school setting? What is the process for that?

*A. If you want to choose home instruction for your child, please email the building Principal. The district will provide a Chromebook if needed, the ability for the student to log in and see the classroom remotely, receive work and the student is expected to complete and send in the work. Should your child wish to re-enter the school setting, the district asks for about 48 hours notice to acclimate and get student settled back in to school.*

Q. Basketball games?

*A. There is a pretty good chance that a number of fall sports will move to spring. There is no information on winter sports at this time. We await further information from the CIAC.*

Q. Can you tell us what lunch shifts will look like, especially in Phase 1? Will parents be made aware of how many children are scheduled to ride their child's bus route?

*A. Lunch shifts will be at 50% capacity in the cafeteria. Bus routes will be posted early next week with the approximate number of students on each bus.*

Q. Will remote learning days and hybrid days be determined alphabetically for all LPS?

*A. The district is looking at several factors when creating cohorts. For example, the district is looking at transportation and bus routes. And at the secondary level, the district is looking at classes and sections.*

Q. How will students that stay home to learn get any schoolwork by the computer as last time and will it be less confusing for them to know where to go.

*A. Students who remote learn will receive work by email. Instruction will be live stream by the teacher and there will no longer be canned materials or prerecorded videos.*

Q. If a family opted to home school with the intention of coming back after we get through this, is there support so that kids can stay on track? Also, how many kids will be in each classroom?

*A. If a student is home schooled the district can no longer provide services by law. If you go to district website there are several resources on home learning and it is free. Class sizes by school at the elementary level are: LCS: 14-16, LIS 14-16, GCS 10-16, Warren School 7-10 and JMS 10-16.*

Q. Will remote instruction include live stream instruction?

*A. Yes, the teacher will have a webcam / document cam to live stream instruction.*

Q. Will you take siblings into account when creating cohorts?

*A. Yes. If you find this is not the case, please reach out to the building Principal and we will do our best to address this for you.*

Q. If I rented a computer last year do I just keep that same computer for this year and will I be charged a rental fee? Thank you!!

*A. Please reach out to the school or go on the website and submit your question on a Tech Request. Someone from technology will get back with you with an answer.*

Q. Will the return date remain August 26 for LHS

*A. The first day of school will remain August 26 but may stagger small groups of students in over the first three days to experience what school will look like and learn protocols.*

Q. Is there a possibility for students who receive services through an IEP to be allowed to attend all 4 days if the school enters Phase 2?

*A. This is something Special Education is still looking into/investigating. The district will be in compliant with IEPs.*

Q. If the district starts on the hybrid, will the high school continue with A day B day? If so, the students will only see their teachers in person for 1 lesson/week. Would the district consider going to the traditional day of periods 1-8 or stick with the block schedule of 4 classes per day (so that the students can be in person with teacher 2x per week)?

*A. This is correct, if the district opens with hybrid, students will see their teachers in person for 1 lesson a week. The district would not go back to 1-8 period, because it would create more shortened class periods and too many new variables and changes.*

Q. How can parents help support the teachers and the schools?

*A. Emails of thanks and encouragement go a long way. This is a challenging time for teachers and parents.*

Q. If the children are able to maintain 6 feet of space between each other indoors will they be allowed to remove their face coverings to have a mask break inside the building?

*A. No. The guidance from the state is all adults and students will wear masks in the building at all times.*

Q. In regards to mask breaks, if it is raining/inclement weather and we cannot go outside, does that mean no mask breaks?

*A. In the event of inclement weather, mask breaks can be held in the larger areas of the schools such as the auditorium, gyms. This will change by building and location.*

Q. If classes are going to be held outside (which is some of the guidance from the state), how will security concerns be addressed?

*A. Teachers will have radios. They will be in the secure areas by the school, not near roads. There are SROs and security cameras on many campuses.*

Q. On nice days, do you think that the kids will be able to spend big parts of the days outside?

*A. It is likely students will spend more than in the past outdoors, though it will differ by site based on ability and school layout.*