

DELRAN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

52 Hartford Rd., Delran NJ, 08075

"dedicated to nurturing a supportive, student-centered environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect"

August 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

2020-2021 Update: I acknowledge the situation is fluid as it relates to the reopening plan set forth by the state of New Jersey, particularly as it relates to the education of the students we serve. Our work has been guided by directives throughout the summer; we have made every effort to shift according to the directives set forth. Below provides an outline of the work conducted by the District:

- On June 26, 2020 the Delran Township Board of Education was charged with providing some form of in person instruction when the NJDOE issued *The Road Back*. We met that directive through our planning in the development of a hybrid model that is inclusive of all health and safety practices, protocols and expectations.
- On July 20, 2020 the Delran Township Board of Education was charged with providing a 100% virtual option for those families that desire it. We also met that directive through our planning and development.
- At the July 20, 2020 Regular Public Meeting the Board approved a hybrid program (with the full remote opportunities for those that desire) inclusive of any changes prior to submitting to the NJDOE.
- On August 3, 2020 and August 10, 2020 we produced Frequently Asked Question resources for the community. That information can be found on our [website](#).
- On August 6, 2020 I forwarded the Delran reopening plan to the NJDOE. I've attached that plan to this email.
- On August 12, 2020 the Governor indicated that it would be a local decision if a district chose to operate universally at the remote level if they could not provide a safe environment, which means a District would forgo the requirement of in person instruction. I understand that some districts have chosen this option. Delran has not.
- On August 13, 2020, the NJ Department of Health outlined guidance for the district to consider. I'll speak to that below.
- On August 17, 2020 the Governor made public statements regarding athletics at the high school level. This is an area that continues to be examined and, while we have approved coaching staffs for each team at the high school level in the event that a season takes place, the decision to conduct a season continues to be examined and considered.

- On August 17, 2020 at the Regular Public Meeting of the Delran Township Board of Education I offered an addendum to my July 20, 2020 public presentation. You can view that presentation [here](#). Barring any unforeseen circumstances the Board intends to implement it's hybrid plan for the 2,156 students that selected it and a 100% remote option for the remaining 758 students across the district.

Academic Programming Notes: While we are here to serve the students and families in Delran, it's important to reinforce that we are running two parallel programs: one for in person instruction and one for remote. It's complex work in a complex time.

We are doing so with the same personnel levels as we did last year, which makes student scheduling, particularly at the middle and high school level, challenging. To that end, the Board has a policy for remote learning that was approved on August 17, 2020 that provides opportunities to move between hybrid and remote programs at the end of the first marking period for grades 6-12 or at the end of the first trimester for grades Pre-K to Grade 5.

Given the extraordinary level of planning and execution provided up to this point by the Principals as it relates to the student program, it is important that you understand model movement is guided at certain points in the school year. Let this serve as notice that in order to finalize our student schedules it is absolutely imperative that you notify your child's Principal by the 3:00pm on August 20, 2020 if you plan to change your program. Our strong preference is for you to remain in the program you chose.

Department of Health Guidance: [HERE](#) is the official guidance from the NJ Department of Health. I consider the District to be positioned to meet the major safety guidelines found in Table 1 below in addition to the health and safety guidelines found in *The Road Back*.

| Requirement | Language | District Status |
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| <i>Communication</i> | We will communicate on all levels with the Burlington County Department of Health (NJDOH) and have done so since March. | Meet Standard |
| <i>Maintain Social & Physical Distancing and Small-Group Cohorting</i> | The more people a student or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. | Meet Standard Make every effort to mitigate the amount of interaction of cohorts. Ensure that all social distancing takes place - maintain focus at 6-12 grade level with emphasis on common areas. |

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| <p><i>Choir and Music</i></p> | <p>Due to potential increased risk of droplet transmission, physical distancing should be prioritized for wind instruments and singing.</p> <p>If it's safe and weather permits, consider moving class outdoors where air circulation is better than indoors and maintain at least 6 feet distance between students.</p> <p>When students are not playing an instrument that requires the use of their mouths, they should wear a face covering in music class (unless class is outdoors, and distance can be maintained).</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> <p>Use of tents and outdoor instruction.</p> |
| <p><i>Limit Use of Shared Supplies and Equipment</i></p> | <p>Ensure adequate supplies (i.e. art supplies, equipment) to minimize sharing of high-touch materials or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between use. Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, games or other learning aids. If items must be shared, clean and disinfect between uses.</p> <p>Discontinue use of shared items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> |
| <p><i>Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</i></p> | <p>Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring of students and staff.</p> <p>Encourage students and staff</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> |

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| | to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a face covering/mask. | |
| <i>Face Coverings</i> | Face coverings must be worn by staff, students, and visitors in all situations except as delineated in Executive Order 175. This includes prior to boarding the school bus, while on the bus and until they are completely off the bus. | Meet Standard |
| <i>Cleaning and Disinfection</i> | <p>Schools should follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA-registered product for use against SARS-CoV-2.</p> <p>This means at least daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones and toys.</p> <p>Increasing the frequency of cleaning when there is an increase in respiratory or other seasonal illnesses is always a recommended prevention and control measure.</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> <p>District increasing personnel to clean touchpoints and all common areas during the day. DHS and MB will share an additional custodian; DIS and DMS will do the same.</p> <p>This personnel is not to be asked to do anything outside of cleaning major touchpoints.</p> <p>District instituting electrostatic spraying schedule at each school.</p> |
| <i>Symptom Screening</i> | Daily symptom screening of staff and students | <p>Meet Standard</p> <p>All stakeholders will be surveyed each morning via School Messenger Phone Survey (staff as well).</p> <p>Temperature scans</p> |

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| <p><i>Preparing for Illness</i></p> | <p>Closely monitor daily reports of staff and student attendance/absence and identify when persons are out with COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility. If you are calling an ambulance or bringing someone to the hospital, try to call first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.</p> <p>Designate an area or room away from others to isolate individuals who become ill with COVID19 symptoms while at school.</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> <p>All schools will have a tented area outside.</p> <p>Utilizing vendors for transport, as required.</p> |
| <p><i>When Illness Occurs Within the School Setting</i></p> | <p>Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be placed away from others and asked to wear a face covering/mask until they can be sent home. Per state policy, all students' (age 2 and older) noses and mouths should be covered with a mask or cloth face covering. If a mask is not tolerated by the ill 11 student or staff member due to their illness, other staff should be sure to adhere to the universal face covering policy and follow social distancing guidelines (6 ft. away).</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> |
| <p><i>When Someone Tests Positive for COVID-19</i></p> | <p>Schools should ensure that parents and staff notify school authorities if they test positive for COVID-19. Schools should notify the BCDOH</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> |

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| <p><i>Outbreaks</i></p> | <p>While schools must report single cases to their local health department, LHDs should work with schools to determine if there is an outbreak.</p> <p>An outbreak in school settings is defined as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> <p>We would work closely with the BCDOH who would direct us accordingly.</p> |
| <p><i>Contact Tracing and Notification</i></p> | <p>In conjunction with the BCDOH, school staff should help identify close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school.</p> | <p>Meet Standard</p> |
| <p><i>Testing</i></p> | <p>CDC does not recommend universal testing of all asymptomatic students and staff, and NJDOH concurs with this recommendation.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

School Closures: Below is information from the Department of Health regarding how and when a school would be closed.

| SCENARIO | CLOSURE |
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| 1 confirmed case in the school | School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. |
| 2 or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort) | School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. Recommendations for whether the entire classroom would be considered exposed will be based on public health investigation. |
| 2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to a clear alternative exposure that is unrelated to the school setting and unlikely to be a source of exposure for the larger school community (e.g. in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school) | School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive cases are excluded from school for 14 days. |
| 2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts) | Recommendations for whether school closure is indicated will be based on investigation by local health department. |
| A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community | Consider closing school for 14 days, based on investigation by local health department. |
| 2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases or to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts) | Close school for 14 days. |
| Very high risk of community transmission (refer to COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix) | Close school until COVID-19 transmission decreases. |

* Note: A temporary closure may also be considered for a period of 2-5 days if a student or staff member attended school while potentially infectious, before being confirmed as having COVID-19. This short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing.

Personal Protective Equipment: Items have been ordered and procured by the District. Those times include but are not limited to the following:

- Adult Masks
- Children's Masks
- Visors/Shields (to be worn by all staff interacting with children or the public and the use of a plexiglass barrier is not possible)
- Door Stops - to promote air circulation
- Sanitizing stations for individual classrooms
- Sanitizing/Disinfecting products
- Disposable towels for wiping of desks
- Electrostatic spraying guns - District purchased items anticipated by September 1. If they are not, we will contract with our custodial provider to hand this for September.
- Contact-free Temperature Screening Kiosks

- Plexiglass barriers continue to be ordered and arrive
- Motorized gymnasium divider
- 20 x 40 tents

School Calendar: The first day with students will be September 9, 2020. This will follow the remote check-in schedule and will provide for teacher articulation time as scheduled. This will be a remote day and provide for articulation time in the afternoon.

- On September 10, 2020 we will have a single session day for all Delaware students.
- On September 11, 2020 we will have a single session day for all Rancocas students.
- Each afternoon will be for teacher articulation and planning.

Quarantine Requirements: Please be mindful of responsibilities that the Governor has placed on us all to quarantine if travelling from particular states or territories. Compliance is expected.

I sincerely hope the remaining days of summer offer you the opportunity to recharge your batteries with your family.

Sincerely,

Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools