

CSA SCHOOL BUILDING AND OFFICES REOPENING FAQs

Enhanced Health Measures

Nurses

- Will there be a nurse in every school every day?
- Will schools with clinics also have a nurse, given that clinic nurses only see students who belong to the clinic?

Training

- Who will receive training on managing COVID-19 in school buildings and offices and when?

Isolation Rooms

- Will there be systemwide guidance on what triggers a student's trip to the isolation room?
- What should a school do if no staff member volunteers to watch over students in the isolation room?
- What are the protocols if there is more than one student that must remain in the isolation room, but not enough space to social distance?

Sanitation Protocols

- How frequently will schools and offices be disinfected?
- What products are being used to disinfect?
- What is the procedure if a member fears and/or confirms that systemwide sanitation protocols aren't being followed?
- What are the protocols for when a school or office does not have enough cleaning supplies?
- Which custodial staff member will perform the continual all-day cleaning of frequently touched surfaces as conducted in REC site? If this person is repurposed, who will complete his/her previous duties?

Protective equipment

- When will schools receive PPE, thermometers, signage, hand sanitizer and cleaning materials necessary for schools to re-open? What quantities and how often will they receive additional items?
- Will there be additional PPE for the Building Response Team?
- Will there be additional PPE provided for potential visitors?
- What are the protocols for when a school or office doesn't have enough protective equipment or runs out?

Related Disciplinary Action

- Will there be systemwide protocols for when a staff member refuses to wear a mask or socially distance?
- Will there be systemwide protocols for when a student refuses to wear a mask or socially distance?
- If a student refuses to wear a mask, will other students and their teacher be forced to remain in the classroom?
- Will there be updated protocols for when students engage in a physical altercation?
- Will there be systemwide protocols for students who deliberately cough/spit/sneeze at other students or staff?

Protocols for a Positive Case (Confirmed by DOH)

- Will DOH notify DOE of all positive cases as they notify the individual school or office?
- Will all communications about confirmed positive cases come from DOE Central?
- If a school shuts down, will other schools that share that campus also be shut down?
- If a student tests positive and their class is quarantined as a result, will any students outside the student's class will be interviewed to determine close contacts?
- Given investigations requires a staff member's consent, what happens when that staff member doesn't consent?
- Will siblings have to quarantine if a student tests positive, and will the siblings' school(s) be notified by DOH?
- How will quarantines impact attendance records for students and sick days for staff?
- If a teacher tests positive and they teach more than one class, will all of their students need to quarantine?

- What if the school has difficulty finding a substitute for a teacher with a confirmed case given the risk of exposure?
- If a substitute is needed a teacher who tests positive, who will pay for the substitute?
- If a substitute teacher or itinerant staff member who works at more than one building tests positive, will all schools they have recently worked at be notified by the DOH?

Suspected Cases (Not Yet Confirmed by DOH)

- Can a school leader notify their community of any reported case if it has yet to be officially confirmed by the DOH? If not, will communities be informed that school leaders are prevented from issuing these communications?
- Must a student or staff member quarantine if someone who lives in the same household is a positive case confirmed by the DOH?

Building Operation

Entrance and Exit Procedures

- When will school leaders receive systemwide guidelines on entrance and exit procedures? Will entrances and exits be staggered in any way?
- In schools with no yards, will DOE work with NYPD to close down streets to allow for proper social distancing?
- What if schools are located entirely on higher floors of buildings used for other purposes?
- Will there be morning temperature checks as students arrive at the building; if so who will be doing them and when?
- Will school leaders receive guidelines on early drop-offs?
- Will there be guidance on students and staff that arrive outside of normal hours?
- Will there be updated policies on visitors and families entering the building? If so, how will this be communicated?

Ventilation Concerns

- Will anything be done to address rooms with no windows?
- Will new air filtration systems be installed in buildings and offices that require it?

Modified Movement

- What happens to emergency procedures or drills given social distancing?
- Will students be permitted to switch classrooms throughout the day? If so, who will disinfect the desks between the classes?
- If all classes are self-contained for the entire school day, how will content area teachers move without leaving students in the room alone?
- Will there be any systemwide guidelines on recess periods for students to leave self-contained classrooms?
- Will after-school programs be allowed on site?

Miscellaneous

- Will any additional measures be taken for communities and zip codes with higher rates of infection?
- There are REC centers scheduled to remain open through Sept. 9th; how can those buildings be prepped in time for the start of the new school year?
- Will there be any additional communications with schools that are currently being utilized as COVID-19 testing sites?
- How will families come to school to ask questions or see staff and administration throughout the fall?
- Will the DOE provide funding for main offices to be outfitted with plexiglass dividers and air filters, given these are such high traffic areas?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on how to handle hallway lockers and student belongings?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on shared materials within a classroom?
- Will any partitions be installed for bathrooms or will any systemwide guidelines be issued on bathroom use?

Social Distancing and Split Schedules

DOE Capacity Assumptions

- What should principals do if their space sheets, as revised by the DOE, contain miscalculations, do not follow the social distancing guidelines of 65 sq ft, or include non-instructional spaces that can't be used safely?

Instructional Spaces

- What supports will be given to implement changes to instructional space or non-instructional spaces?
- Will all classrooms be retrofitted with single desks to appropriately space students apart, given that some schools have collaborative tables?

Non-Instructional Spaces

- Will any systemwide guidance be given on utilizing public assembly spaces (gyms, auditoriums and cafeterias) other than that there must be appropriate social distancing?
- Will systemwide guidance be given on requirements on teacher space when not teaching?
- Will systemwide guidance be given on elevators and stairwells?

Programming

- When and how will schools receive incoming data on teacher accommodations and families who choose all-remote learning?
- What happens if the number of pedagogues doesn't match up with the number of spaces?
- If schools select a specific model, what's the process for changing the model after August 14 if the data necessitates a change?
- How will the DOE support schools as they deal with new teacher accommodation approvals at the end of August or as students return to school?
- Is there any guidance on what should be done if principals can't hold a SLT Summer Reopening Meeting in time to choose a programming model due to summer vacations?
- If schools cannot reach some families, should they include those students within the in-person cohorts?
- What are the specific limitations on when families can change their minds about all remote learning?
- Is the DOE surveying incoming PreK families as to whether they want all remote learning?
- Will there be any suggested guidance on how schools should break up cohorts?
- Are schools expected to accommodate schedule requests from families with siblings in a different school?
- How will student cohort schedules be programmed in STARS?
- How will schools notify parents of their child's cohort schedule? Will it be available in New York Schools Account?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on programming for vulnerable populations or any further information on the exceptions process?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on programming for students that traditionally require in-person services every day?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on programming for those students that require 1 on 1 paraprofessionals?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on programming 3K/Pre-K students?
- Will there be systemwide guidance for new admits during the school year?
- When will schools receive protocols for when students not assigned to particular days still come to school? Will those be the same protocols for when students who are scheduled for all remote start coming to school?
- Is there any flexibility on the lengths of periods?
- Will there be systemwide guidance on how to handle teacher prep periods?
- Can high school wait list assignments be completed by mid-August to minimize scheduling changes given limited teacher staffing capacity?
- Can schools use multiple scheduling models concurrently because of limited teacher staffing capacity?
- What is the school scheduling approval process and timeline?

- Can SBOS be relaxed this fall to provide increased scheduling options?

Programming Lunch Periods

- If students are required or programmed to eat lunch in the classroom, who will supervise them?
- Who will supervise students while teachers are at lunch?
- Who will disinfect between the lunch periods and will the necessary time be provided?
- Will any new guidance be issued regarding how to deal with food allergies?
- Similarly, will there be systemwide guidance regarding breakfast?

Co-Located Schools

- Will the DOE provide any further guidance for co-located schools other than encouraging discussion and coordination?
- Who will ultimately decide what space is allocated to each school?
- How will the plans of charter schools affect the DOE schools they are co-located with?
- How will these principals ensure that all spaces are used and the charter school does not make plans without taking into consideration that they will be sharing common spaces?

CSA Accommodations

- If a principal receives an accommodation to work remotely, how will that effect the day to day functions of the school building?
- If an assistant principal receives an accommodation to work remotely, can principals hire an additional AP and will they be given the funding to do so?

Blended Learning

In-Person Learning

- Will there be systemwide guidance on what experiences and lessons to prioritize for in-person learning?
- Will those teaching in-person be allowed to teach out of their license areas?
- Can schools decide to make MS Electives & PE entirely remote in order to have those teaching in-person focus on the core subjects?
- Will schools be permitted and/or allowed to provide physical education indoors?
- Can schools run after school and Saturday academies if they have the funding available?
- If a student has a one to one, mandated para on their IEP, will there be relaxed requirements this year?
- Will requirements of Special Ed, ENL, PE, and other related services be relaxed?
- How will ENLs be serviced with their mandates if ESL teachers with dual certifications are helping with group instruction?
- How will the ICT model work with smaller groups of students?
- Will providers be permitted to pull out students or will it only be push in?
- Will HS seniors be permitted to have shortened schedules if they do not need a full schedule to meet graduation requirements (to conserve budget for other staffing needs)?
- Will students be expected to bring their technological devices to school every day?

Teacher Accommodations and Absences

- Is there threshold for when the DOE will intervene and send in centrally funded staff to support a school where a high percentage of staff members have received accommodations to work from home?
- What staffing support will be provided to schools who may not have enough teachers in a particular license or specific content area? Will the DOE assign teachers to these classes, or will schools have to conduct a last minute personnel search?
- Will schools get subs or money for subs to replace the teachers who need accommodations, or would they have to pay for these teachers out of their already reduced budgets?
- Will the staff applications for health accommodations occur on a rolling basis throughout the school year? Will there be specified windows to apply?

Livestreaming

- Will in-person teachers be mandated and/or permitted to “live stream” or conduct lessons on google classroom that remote students will be able to follow from home?

- If so, how will schools address the multitude of technology and band-width issues?
- If so, will the DOE address related collective bargaining issues?

Blended Learning

- What resources and professional development will be provided for remote teaching and learning? Will there be per session available for training teachers on hybrid teaching/learning best practices?
- Who will be responsible for students that choose the all-remote option?
- Who will be responsible for the remote side of students engaged in blended learning?
- Will teachers be expected to simultaneously conduct both live instruction and monitor remote instruction?
- Will teachers working from home be required to engage students in synchronous instruction at any point?
- Will those teaching remotely be allowed to teach out of their license areas?
- Will adjustments be made to the UFT contract to accommodate the new proposed models?
- Given the combination of in-person and remote instruction, how will supervisors divide the responsibility of supervision of instruction?
- Given the combination of in-person and remote instruction, how will supervisors evaluate teachers?

Curriculum

- Will there be a citywide remote/online curriculum, including scope and sequence and bank of lessons for all grades?
- If so, when will guidelines, timelines and resources be provided to enable schools to access curriculum and scope and sequence electronically?
- Which standards are students being held to and when will schools be notified about testing? How can we ensure alignment to standards in the space of hybrid learning?

Devices

- When will guidance be issued for schools that need more devices?
- When will guidance be issued on how to collect back devices from families that have still yet to return them?
- When will incoming Pre-K and K students get remote devices?
- What supports will be provided for students still having issues with the DOE provided devices?

School Start Date

- When will principals know what the starting date is and whether there will be any sort of transition at the start of the year?
- Will teachers and admins be given more time to meet in person before students return to buildings?
- If a particular zipcode or community meets the state's threshold for remaining closed, will there be an opportunity to differentiate opening dates for certain schools?

Trauma-Informed Transition Back to School

- When will schools receive more guidance on how to incorporate trauma-based care into the transition?
- Is there a potential that old classes might meet for a bit and then hand off to new ones?

Rolling/Phased Starts

- Is there any potential school would phase in students by grade level?
- Is there any potential schools would phase in vulnerable or underserved population first?

School Support Services

- When will schools receive systemwide guidance for social distancing on buses?
- What is the approval process and timeline for aligning school schedules with busing schedules?