

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Updates Log

[**July 7-July 13, 2020**](#)

[**July 20-July 24, 2020**](#)

INTRODUCTION

On July 13, 2020, the Board of School Directors passed the Health and Safety Plan for Reopening in the Fall and the Health and Safety Plan to allow athletics and activities to resume.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

On July 27, 2020 at 7pm, a Zoom Webinar will be held to present in detail the options for returning to school. The first 30 minutes of the webinar will outline the options. The second 30 minutes will be used to answer questions. The chat feature will be enabled for the questions to be submitted by parents. If time expires prior to the answering of all questions, the remaining questions will be added to the FAQ list. The webinar will also be recorded and posted to the COVID-19 page of the website. On July 29, 2020, a survey will be released from EACH building (Elroy, Moore, Middle School, High School). Additional information will follow.

RETURN TO SCHOOL OPTIONS

1. What options will be provided to families?

Answer: The district is planning to offer two options because we realize that each family is navigating through the pandemic in the best manner for their families. Option 1 is to return to the building for in-person instruction. Option 2 is the Brentwood Canvas online option. The webinar on July 27 will provide specific details. A link will be shared on Monday the 27 for families to gain access to the webinar. It will also be recorded and posted to the District website for families that are not able to participate in the live webinar.

OPTION 1 IN-PERSON HEALTH AND SAFETY QUESTIONS

2. How will students enter the buildings safely?

Answer: Each building will have a map which will direct students to enter at various locations.

3. Will breakfast still be offered?

Answer: The district is working with The Nutrition Group to provide breakfast options for our students.

4. Will masks be required for students and staff if the in-person option is chosen?

Answer: As of July 21, 2020, masks or face coverings remain mandatory in Pennsylvania. All schools must include the order language in the Health and Safety Plan. There are exceptions to the order.

The exceptions are as follows:

1. Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
2. Seated at desks or assigned workspaces at least 6 feet apart; or
3. Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g. face covering breaks, recess, etc.)

Updated guidance on July 16, 2020 now states: All students must wear a face covering (cloth mask or face shield) that covers their nose and mouth inside the school and while outside when physical distancing is not feasible.

Children two years and older are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.

Teach students and families how to properly wear a face covering (cover nose and mouth), to maintain hand hygiene when removing the face covering for meals and physical activity, and how to replace and maintain (washing regularly) a cloth face covering.

Schools should provide face covering breaks throughout the day. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet during these face covering breaks. When wearing a face covering is not required if it creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Transparent face coverings provide the opportunity for more visual cues and should be especially considered as an alternative for younger students, students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and their teachers.

5. Will masks be provided by the school for staff and students?

Answer: Students will be expected to wear a mask or face covering that is brought from home. If a student breaks or misplaces a mask, a disposable one will be provided. Masks and face coverings will be provided for faculty and staff as a part of the PPE equipment.

6. What will the consequences be for students who are not wearing a mask or a face covering?

Answer: There is not a final answer to this question, yet. Per the mandate, students are not required to show documentation that an exception applies, yet the **guidance issued on July 16, 2020** states that students are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team. **Elementary students that do not wear a face mask or face covering will be issued mobile a sneeze guard barrier for their desk and/or will be physically distanced from others by 6 feet.**

7. The buildings across the district are not air conditioned. What is the plan if the temperatures are over 90 degrees and students are required to wear masks?

Answer: We recognize that bringing students into the building when the temperatures are over 90 degrees is not ideal. The District is exploring options from altering the daily schedule. It may be necessary for classes to be fully remote on heat action days. Very few rooms that have connecting air ducts which means that the opportunity to spread the virus through the air ducts is minimal. The opening of windows and running of ceiling fans (where available) will be used in connection with the utilization of univents. **Administration participated on two phone calls this week, one with Dr. Susan Manzi, chair of the Allegheny Health Network Department of Medicine and co-chair of the Lupus Center of Excellence at AHN and Dr. Freeman, an infectious Disease Fellow with Children's Hospital UPMC. Both doctors responded that they are not aware of a threshold or temperature cut-off where they would recommend that students not return to school with masks. Dr. Freeman did state there would be discomfort that would come from having to wear a mask all day in a high heat environment, but that there is no evidence that wearing a mask in high temperature locations would increase children's chances of becoming ill. If a child had other documented medical conditions, then it would be worth considering the remote option. Mask breaks throughout the day were recommended, as long as physical distancing of six feet could be maintained.**

8. How will proper hygiene practices be introduced and reinforced?

Answer: The faculty and staff will intentionally incorporate hygiene practices into the students' daily schedule. The statistics from the CDC indicate that proper hygiene practices decrease the spread of disease by as much as 80%. In addition, the CDC states that the virus spreads through respiratory droplets, which is why wearing masks or face coverings is required.

9. How will the district social/physical distance in the classrooms?

Answer: The district will refer to the guidance issued from the medical professionals. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 3ft (1 meter) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends 6ft of physical distance. All rooms have been measured in the District. The maximum capacity has been calculated for 3ft-6ft. It is possible that additional furniture will be removed to increase the amount of space to be used for physical distancing. Every effort will be made to maintain physical distance to the greatest extent feasible.

10. Where will students eat breakfast and lunch and maintain physical distancing?

Answer: The plans will be different at each building and will be based on the square footage of the areas available. The cafeterias and gymnasiums are being considered. Cleaning of the areas will be completed in between meals.

11. How will signage be used to encourage physical distancing?

Answer: The District will post signage around the school as reminders to physical distance and good hygiene. Again, the faculty and staff will schedule time during the day to teach our students about the importance of the new safety procedures.

12. How will the schools be kept clean?

Answer: The custodial and maintenance staff were trained in increased cleaning schedules, proper cleaning techniques, how to use new cleaning equipment.

13. What will happen regarding recess time for elementary students?

Answer: Recess will look drastically different from previous years for indoor and outdoor recess. Administrators are measuring the outdoor playgrounds and are drafting activities that promote physical distancing.

14. What will gym class and special classes look like?

Answer: In person classes will look differently depending on the grade level. At the elementary, we are expecting special area teachers to transition to the classroom to limit the number of students moving through the hallways. At the middle and high school level students will travel due to varying schedules. Teacher planned projects will most likely need to change to adapt to the new regulations.

15. Will students still share supplies?

Answer: The new Health and Safety Plan does not permit the sharing of supplies. Families will be asked to provide supplies such as crayons, glue sticks, pencils, notebooks, etc.

16. The plan states that in the yellow phase that water fountains will be turned off. Will students be permitted to carry water bottles?

Answer: The district is in the process of replacing all water fountains with no touch water bottle filling stations. Students will be permitted to carry water with them as outlined by each school.

17. Will outside visitors be permitted in the school. Would this apply to PTA members, parents that assist with copying or clerical work, etc.?

Answer: The Health and Safety Plans states the only visitors that will be permitted into the buildings are scheduled meetings. Specific rooms will be identified for such meetings.

18. How will IEP's be addressed?

Answer: IEP's are created by the IEP team and because of this we request that parents and families continue to work with the IEP team at the student's school.

OPTION 2-BRENTWOOD CANVAS ONLINE

19. How will the online program be structured?

Answer: We have recently received guidance pertaining to requirements for scheduled instructional days, and we now have some flexibility in our planning. **A survey will be released on Wednesday, July 29, will ask parents and families if they would prefer their child(ren) return to school online. Brentwood Canvas is explained below.**

20. Will the Brentwood Canvas Option be the same as last year?

Answer: The parent, teacher, and student surveys indicated that the programming used in grades K-12 met the minimum requirements last year, but the Class Dojo and Microsoft 365 programs will not meet the rigorous standards our students will require moving forward. The Brentwood Borough School District transitioned to a learning management platform called Canvas. On a weekly basis, teachers will upload content to the program. The grading scale will follow district policy. Deadlines and timelines for work completion must be met. District teachers will have the option of providing live and recorded lessons. Teachers will have daily office hours in which students will be able to communicate using video chatting, emailing or instant messaging. Students will be required to meet Pennsylvania requirement of a minimum of 180 days or 900 minutes at the elementary level or 990 minutes at the secondary level.

21. If home instruction is required, will the District provide students with hard copies of textbooks?

Answer: With the pandemic, sharing hard copies has been a challenge due to health concerns. However, you are always welcome to contact your child's school office, and we will make every effort to try to get you what your child needs.

22. Will the students attending online learning receive the same instruction as the students who are in-person?

Answer: Students that participate in the online option will complete the same/similar assignments as the students who are attending in-person. The delivery of the instruction is what will be different from attending in-person.

23. If children are learning remotely, are they eligible to participate, at parent discretion, in school clubs, sports, and/or activities?

Answer: Yes, but they will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in our Health and Safety plans. The goal will be resume clubs, sports, and activities but at this point we are still unsure as to how they will be structured.

OTHER QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO REOPENING

24. Will there be a delay in students returning to Steel Center for instruction?

Answer: Brentwood Borough School District is one of eleven districts that send students to Steel Center. We are in discussions with Steel Center to determine how best to return. More information will follow on this.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLANS FOR ATHLETICS AND SPORTS

25. What are the plans for the District to resume sports and team activities?

Answer: The Board of School Directors passed a Health and Safety Plan which enabled the District to reopen for athletics and activities. The plan will be updated as new mandates, orders, and guidance is provided from medical professionals and state leadership.

26. At what tier will parents of participating students be categorized for sporting practices and events?

Answer: The Brentwood Borough School District Health and Safety plan was developed in collaboration with other school districts in the South Hills. Parents and families will be included in a higher tier informed that parents and spectators will be introduced in a later tier. In addition, it has recently come to light that some colleges are shutting down sports for at least the fall, therefore, we are less hopeful that we will be able to hold fall sports and activities. If we are able, we will be sure to let parents know when they would be able to participate.

QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO HEALTH OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

27. During flu season, how will staff discern COVID-19 from a myriad of other viruses and illnesses that share the same group of symptoms?

Answer: This will be a team effort between the schools and medical professionals. ACHD has been very vocal about encouraging EVERYONE to get the flu shot. The District is stressing this recommendation. We are educational professionals we are not medical professionals. We will not attempt to distinguish between the flu from COVID-19. We will direct families to follow-up with their family physician/pediatrician.

28. There were multiple questions pertaining to the procedures that will be followed if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported. Follow-up questions then were asked about what happens if students or staff members report being exposed to COVID-19.

Answer: The Health and Safety plan includes a chart of various scenarios for exposure/confirmed cases. We have requested that the medical professionals provide an easy to read flow chart be created. This way parents will be able to refer to one document to assist with understanding the process. **The flow charts are being finalized and most likely will be released next Friday. The CDC did issue updated guidance, so the charts had to be revised.**

29. Will additional custodial staff or healthcare staff be hired?

Answer: Additional staff will not be hired to manage the buildings unless a funding source provides the opportunity for salaries to be covered. The district is predicting a \$2.4 million-dollar deficit in revenues due specifically to COVID-19. The District has applied for all available grants pertaining to COVID-19. The money obtained from the grants was applied to purchasing PPE equipment for staff, leasing devices for the District to move to a 1:1 program, additional cleaning supplies specifically for COVID-19, required signage that will be posted in all schools, stipends for eight Canvas mentors, and supplies necessary to close out the 19-20 school year.

30. How will daily health assessments be addressed?

Answer: Daily health screenings will be a team effort. We recognize that parents and families know their children best. We are pleading for parents and families to keep students that are ill, home until they are not displaying symptoms. After students arrive to school, school staff will be trained to look for symptoms of COVID-19. Students will be sent to the school nurse or support nurse for assessment. We firmly believe that medical decisions will be made by medical professionals. The school nurse will notify parents of the symptoms being displayed by the student and request that the pediatrician be contacted for consultation. **Both Dr. Manzi and Dr. Freeman stressed that most children under the age of 10 tend to be asymptomatic which means that temperature screenings may not be as effective as originally thought. Teenagers and adults on the other hand tend to present with at least a fever or a cough. The temperature screenings could be helpful in this population.**

31. If students are sent home due to illness, will they be able to access the online curriculum?

Answer: Yes, teachers will upload all lessons to Canvas and if students are required to stay home, they will be able to complete the work and submit it online. The District recognizes that illness will look differently in children so these situations will be handled on a case by case basis.

32. Will computers be ready for the first day of school? If not, how will this be addressed?

Answer: As we all experienced at the beginning of the pandemic certain essential supplies were not available. **Chromebooks are currently on backorder until October. The District will use the results from the online survey to assist in determining how devices will be issued to start the school year. The District did invest to be 1:1 for the 2020-2021 school year.**