

Re-Opening FAQs

SAFETY

Q: If you do have a positive case, do you have to communicate it?

A: Yes. We have to and will communicate it as is recommended by the county health department for that case. Of course, we cannot and will not disclose any identifying or confidential information.

Q: If there is a positive case, does that affect all of the buildings in the district?

A: Yes. Our decision as a district is that we will close for at least 2 weeks if we have a positive case. We will coordinate closely with the county health department and will extend the closure if need be for safety. Regardless of which building has a positive case, the entire district will close for 2 weeks.

Q: If a person is sick but decides not to be tested, what is the procedure that follows? How does this affect the rest of the student population?

A: That individual will have to follow the guidelines for safe return to school. The requirements are that a person should remain OUT of school until:

- 10 days have passed since the first symptoms with no new symptoms.
- 3 days have passed since a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)
- 3 consecutive days of improvement have passed including cough and shortness of breath.

We will also require a note from a health care provider stating that it is safe for the individual to return to school.

Unless we receive a positive test or are advised by the DOH to close, all other students will remain in school.

Q: What is the availability to get tested? What are the requirements to get tested?

A: Testing is available at the following places without a referral:

- Cuba Memorial Hospital (585-968-2000). An appointment is required, but a referral is not. Tests may be limited to certain patients for specific reasons.
- Sinclair Pharmacy (585-786-2330) as an outdoor drive thru testing center in Warsaw, NY. Sinclair does not require an appointment and testing is available for all patients.
- WellNow Urgent Care (716-379-6507) in Olean does not require an appointment and has testing available for all patients.

Q: Is there a chance that the students will have to wear a mask throughout the entire day?

A: Students will be required to wear masks for the majority of the day. There will be opportunities given for mask breaks.

BUSSING

Q: If I am self-transporting multiple children and one of my children has a temperature, does the entire household get sent home?

A: We are awaiting clarification from the DOH on this question. At this time, we will only require the symptomatic child be sent home.

Q: What about the students who walk to the elementary school to ride a bus to the high school? If one student has a high temperature, are all students from the same household sent home? Should parents who are self-transporting wait to make sure their students get into the building/onto the bus?

A: We are awaiting clarification from the DOH on this question. At this time, we will only require the symptomatic child be sent home. Yes, parents/guardians should wait for student to enter the building before leaving.

Q: How will my students know which bus to take and will it be the same bus every time?

A: Bus letters will be sent to every family. At this time, we plan for every student to ride the same bus every time. There will be no transfer of busses during the day as there has been in the past.

Q: If I am dropping my kids off in the morning, what time can they be dropped off?

A: Students can be dropped off at 8:00 AM and must enter through the main entrance of the building in a socially distanced manner.

Q: Is there a maximum time limit for students to be on the bus?

A: According to education law, there is not a maximum limit. Districts must make efforts to keep all bus routes within a reasonable time, and in most cases the commissioner has deemed bus routes longer than 1.5 hours as reasonable. With our current bus routes, no student will be on the bus for 90 minutes.

SCHEDULING

Q: Are the BOCES students at BOCES for the entire day?

A: Students who attend CTE center (juniors and seniors) will receive a letter with a specific schedule. Students are attending BOCES for the hands-on requirement 2 days per week and will receive all other required instruction remotely. Students who attend BOCES special education classes will be in their assigned classrooms for the entire day.

Q: If we chose the hybrid model and we don't have/want internet at our house and are communicating through telephone?

A: Yes. Times will be scheduled with the student's teachers and ally to communicate. Daily contact is required for attendance.

Q: If there is a positive test and the entire district goes virtual, what happens?

A: Teachers are creating virtual emergency plans that will be downloaded to each student's device during the first weeks of school. This will allow everyone to have access to the required work, even without internet. During that time, daily communication via phone, email, TEAMS, etc. will be required for attendance purposes.

Q: What will the three days look like at home for a student during their three virtual days? What should a parent expect of their child? Will the Zoom sessions be with a teacher? Will students have the ability to speak during these sessions and ask questions?

A: A specific schedule is made for the three days students are not in school. There will be scheduled Zoom times that will allow for interaction, questions, and direct instruction. For those students without Internet, all work will be downloaded during their time in school and specific phone time will be scheduled.

Q: Is there a break between the virtual class sessions throughout the day?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the physical written schedule clearly show exactly how the virtual sessions/in-person sessions work?

A: Students will know when they need to be online or available by phone. The schedule is set so there is minimal disruption in learning between in-person and virtual instruction. Teachers will establish expectations just as they do in their regular classroom.

Q: If the internet in my house is not working well during a specific day and my child is supposed to have Zoom sessions, how will we be able to communicate this with teachers?

A: Students will have a specific ally to call. They can also email and call their content area teacher.

Q: For the in-person core classes, will students stay in one classroom or switch rooms? What about electives?

A: Students will be in the same classroom for the majority of the day, with very little transitioning through the day. Electives will still be offered and locations of electives will vary.

Q: Are you planning on having a 6th Grade "Moving Up Day"? Will this happen before school actually starts?

A: 6th graders will have a special orientation session on September 10 or September 11. Letters were sent to 6th graders explaining this.

Q: Since students will not have lockers, will they have all of their books in their backpacks to transport back and forth?

A: Students will leave their belongings in their classrooms. They will be able to carry backpacks this year.

Q: My 5th grader going into the 6th grade still has her iPad and laptop, was she supposed to have turned those in? Should she bring those back the first day of school? What about other school property (Library books/instruments)?

A: All materials should be dropped off to the school the student attended last year. Students can keep their iPads and laptops until return to school.

Q: Are the Zoom sessions going to be required/set for instruction?

A: Yes, and for those without Internet, a set phone call time will be established.

Q: Will A.I.S. classes be available?

A: Yes.

General Questions

Q: Will the current attendance policy for the Middle/High School remain the same?

A: Yes.

Q: If our child has practice after school on a day while our child is home, will there be bussing to practice and will practice times be later to make transportation easier?

A: We are still working out details about sports practices and competitions. Information about athletics will be forthcoming.

Q: If my family does not have internet, does this put my child at a disadvantage?

A: It does not. We learned a lot from the sudden school closure in the spring. Students will have the ability to download all of the materials they need on the days they are in school. Phone calls will be scheduled for those who do not have Internet.

Q: Have you heard anything about state testing yet?

A: As of right now, all state tests are scheduled as normal.

Q: Since the start date was pushed back, will there be changes in the school calendar? Will we still need the 180 days of school?

A: September 10th and September 11th will still be considered student attendance day, as every student will have contact from the school on those days. Right now, all other dates on the calendar remain as scheduled. This is posted on our school website and included in this newsletter.

Q: Are you getting rid of snow days now that work can be done virtually?

We have not worked this out, yet. It is a possibility, but nothing is established at this point.

Q: How long do we have to do this for? Is only going to school for two days a week going to be permanent or will it eventually go back to normal?

A: There are some questions we just can't answer, and this is one of them. We certainly hope that we will return to a full 5-day model, but this is our plan for the foreseeable future.

Q: The guidelines that you are required to follow, is there a time frame on them?

A: No. Often times the updates we hear from the Governor come to us at the same time they are released to the general public.

Q: What is being used as a standard to determine how long these guidelines are place?

A: All guidance and direction is set by Governor Cuomo and NYSED. Regional infection rates are used as the basis of school closings. The 14-day infection rate must remain below 5%. We are currently below 1%.

Q: We hear about other schools going back to school for 5 days per week in our area, why isn't Cuba-Rushford?

A: There are many factors to consider in school re-opening model.

- First and foremost, to open 5 days per week a school must guarantee that all students can be transported safely 5 days per week. We are the largest school district by square miles in our region. For that reason, we have the highest capacity of students needing transport. We are not able to provide transportation for every single student every day with the current stipulations in place.
- A second consideration is the number of students. All classrooms have a maximum capacity that must be honored at all times. Districts with a lower student population are able to bring all of the students back without capacity concerns.
- The third consideration is space. Because students have to be split by capacity, we also have to have enough additional rooms and spaces, while adhering to mandated social distancing guidelines and group number limitations.
- Some districts are able to bring students back because they are staggering attendance times. For example, elementary students are attending earlier than high school students. We did not want to do this, as we felt it created much more difficulty for families in regard to childcare and transportation.

Q: At what point will we go fully virtual?

A: That decision will be made with guidance from the governor, NYSED, and DOH. With the exception of the regional 14-day infection rate, we have not been given benchmarks to use for fully virtual instruction.