

AUGUST 17, 2021

REOPENING TASK FORCE PORT CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

mandate
district
required
year
school
vaccinated
wear
CDC
recommendation
children
exposed
challenged
emotional
travel
covid
health
distancing
support
staff
discussed
plans
CDC
rules
cases
learning
social
in-person
group
classroom
quarantine
remote
child
focus
class
team
hybrid
protocols
regular
kids
mandate
positive
random
weekly
notified
policy
in-person
group
classroom
covid



HATS OFF TO YOU, PC!
WE ARE IN A BETTER PLACE, DUE TO YOUR HARD WORK!

- “Even if schools experience an outbreak, they have proven that they can stay open by following the best public health protocols to limit spread,” said Rita Burke, an assistant professor of clinical preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine.
- “Schools have demonstrated that they are able to successfully stay open even when someone tests positive on campus,” she said. “They adhere to the contact tracing and quarantine protocols in place that we know are effective.”

-USC Health News 7/30/21

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Selected Comments/Topics from the Survey:

Mask Wearing Protocols
Social Distancing
Hybrid/Remote Learning
Testing/Vaccines
Plans for Technology Equity
Contact Tracing and Travel
Use of Plastic Barriers
Hand Sanitizer and Cleaning

As we prepare for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, we continue to work and plan to ensure healthy and safe learning environments for all students and staff. This summer, I have been meeting with other Superintendents from Westchester, County Executive Latimer and his staff, as well as many key Port Chester School District stakeholders to discuss and consider health and safety strategies for the outset of the new academic year.

In the absence of direct, specific mandates, our Reopening Task Force is convening to discuss several important topics and decisions made by surrounding districts, based on guidance by our medical director and experts. These topics/decisions will influence our Reopening Plans and become our baseline safety protocols.

Since we are a large group, we will have your written comments, concerns, questions, and suggestions to review and report on as we plan and move forward.

If you have any comment or concern, please e-mail us. We are here to support all staff and students.



Beginning in September, all members of the Port Chester School District community will wear facial coverings/masks while in district facilities and on district transportation (this is the same approach as last school year and supported by the WCDOH).

All students are expected to attend school five days a week/full day, according to our typical school schedule, for in-person instruction.

For our students with disabilities attending out-of-district placements recommended by the CSE or CPSE, we continue to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure full access to IEP services while adhering to permissible health and safety protocols.



Hybrid Instruction will be discontinued in many surrounding districts-

Remote Instruction will be employed in emergent situations when/if a full class is required to quarantine/isolate. We will maintain the ability to pivot to remote instruction if necessary.

At this time, I'd like to invite Dr. Combs and Michael Ritacco to speak about related options and technology equity.

Activities, extracurriculars, and athletics are scheduled to proceed in a typical fashion, with health/safety mitigation.



Port Chester School District will continue to seek out and offer vaccination opportunities/information and free saliva-based COVID-19 testing, in partnership with the WCDOH on an opt-in basis.

Standard health/safety mitigation strategies, employed within the 2020-2021 academic year, will continue (cleaning and disinfection; physical distancing (when possible); reporting; etc.) Polycarbonate barriers will be utilized in cafeteria settings.

At this time, I'd like to invite Mr. Renda to speak about the health/safety mitigation strategies through heightened cleaning procedures.



Of course, more detailed information will be shared with our community as we near the opening of school. Finally, please feel welcome to reach out to me and/or our team members at the school level with any questions, comments, and/or concerns.

**WE ARE ALL IN
THIS TOGETHER**

