



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. The universal masking order is not a law so does my child need to wear a mask to school?

Since we don't typically operate under state executive orders, this is an opportunity to provide a quick distinction between the two and let you know how they are applied. State statutes are passed by the state legislature and executive orders are issued by the governor under certain circumstances. In regard to the universal masking order, the state is currently under a state of disaster emergency order related to COVID-19, which gives the governor the authority to issue the universal masking order to prevent further spread of COVID-19. While statutes and executive orders are different as far as who authored them (legislature or governor), they both have the force of law, therefore we must comply with both.

2. How is the district taking steps to improve ventilation and air flow in schools?

Proper ventilation and improved air flow are important to diluting virus particles indoors. Therefore, classroom doors will remain propped open and locked (in case we need to lockdown classrooms quickly). All exterior doors in buildings will remain closed, locked and monitored. Additional fans will be stationed/installed in areas to improve air flow particularly in hallways. Also, filters for our HVAC systems will be changed quarterly for cleanliness and also to improve air flow in our buildings.

Teachers will be encouraged to use outdoor areas to conduct classes; as examples, physical education classes, social studies lectures or science activities can be conducted outside ensuring better social distancing for our students and staff.

3. What cleaning procedures will be used? Who will be responsible for these procedures?

All high touch surfaces in classrooms will be cleaned/disinfected a minimum of twice per day. Staff and students will have access to disinfectant wipes and/or spray bottles with peroxide-based cleaning solution and paper towels. Regular training/discussion regarding how to properly clean these surfaces will occur. Everyone must take responsibility for helping to keep their work spaces (desks, tables, labs, door handles, etc.) clean and safe during the school day. Non-latex gloves will be supplied.

Custodians and maintenance department personnel will regularly clean high touch surfaces in the hallways, bathrooms and communal areas (ie., cafeteria) during the day. More extensive cleaning in the buildings will be done at night. A form will be posted at each classroom and communal area of the buildings with a date, time and sign off when that location was cleaned.

Victory or Halo sprayers will be used to regularly spray hard surface areas when classrooms or other communal areas are not being occupied by students and staff. All chemicals used for cleaning comply with state and federal regulations and are safe for use in schools. We will also remove as many soft surface areas as possible (throw carpets in classrooms, upholstered furniture, etc.) so the sprayers may

be effective while not allowing cleaning product odors to linger. The removal of these items will also create more space for social distancing purposes.

4. What procedures will be in place for bus transportation?

Students will be required to wear a mask while using district-provided transportation. Drivers will also wear masks while on the bus. Students will be seated at a maximum of two students per seat or less; siblings or other family members who reside in the same household will be seated together when possible. Students will have the same assigned seats for the entire school year. High touch surfaces on busses will be cleaned between each bus run daily to help maintain a safe environment for students travelling to and from school or athletic events.

5. How can students and staff help to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Bottled hand sanitizers will be available for student/staff use and an emphasis will be placed on hand washing with soap and water. Scheduled time to allow for hand washing will be allotted throughout the day - either in the bathrooms or at classroom sinks. Each of our elementary classrooms have sinks in the classroom. We are also looking at purchasing no-touch sink faucets where they are not currently available.

Water bottle filling stations will be available in all schools (water fountains will not be used). Students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school. Water bottles should be labeled.

Signs will be posted throughout our buildings obtained through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health (DOH) to remind students and staff of ways to protect themselves, like regular hand washing and social distancing.

Students who are taking regular medications will do so in a “well check” area or entrance in our nurses’ offices to minimize any risk or exposure to students who may be ill and waiting to be picked up by parents/guardians.

6. What are the typical symptoms of COVID-19 that parents/guardians should be screening for BEFORE sending their child to school?

This information, taken from the most recent publication sent out by the Bucks County Department of Health lists the most common signs and symptoms as follows: fever greater than 100 degrees, cough, shortness of breath, headaches, body aches, fatigue, loss/altered sense of taste or smell, diarrhea, and runny nose/congestion. Students will be reminded of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, with a prompt to go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic.

Here is a link to the CDC’s website with more information and a “symptom checker” tool that may be helpful to you: [Symptoms of COVID-19](#)

7. What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19 who is in my child’s school?

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, a notification will be sent to families and staff who may have had contact with that individual. The Bucks County Department of Health will, through contact tracing, work with the school district to determine with whom that individual had contact. In order

to assist in the contact tracing investigation, students will be assigned seats on buses, in classrooms and in cafeterias. If a student drives non-family members to school, the driver will also need to know who they drove to school each day.

We will not be permitted to identify the individual in our communications, and the individual who tested positive may be permitted to return to school only after the Department of Health has provided affirmation to the school nurse and administration that they may do so. Our counselors and administrators will work with affected families and students to promote a positive return to school following quarantine.

Here is a link to the Bucks County Department of Health's [COVID-19 Information Page](#)

8. What mental health supports are in place for students and staff?

In addition to the expanded services provided by our newly hired licensed counselor, our teachers, school counselors, administrators and other staff have participated in a number of professional development opportunities over the past few years in areas of mental health. Most recently, our team has participated in trauma-informed training facilitated by Lakeside Global Institute, helping our faculty and staff to recognize and assist students who are exhibiting signs of trauma. This summer, two of our staff members are being trained at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit as Mental Health First Aid facilitators and will deliver a series of sessions throughout the school year, to assist students who are experiencing anxiety or other signs of distress. We continue to partner with other local organizations, as well. Examples include: the Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), Penn Foundation, and Lehigh Valley Health Network, all which provide resources to support students and their families. Every effort will be made to resocialize and reintegrate students so they are able to access education in the most seamless way possible during this difficult time.

Also, because our staff members may need support as well, our district offers an employee assistance program for our staff and their family to contact as we gear up to deliver instruction during the upcoming school year.

9. What does SYNCHRONOUS and ASYNCHRONOUS delivery of education mean?

Synchronous means that the delivery of the program or class will be offered in “real time” (not pre-recorded). This method allows for comments and questions to be asked and answered during the lesson or class.

Asynchronous means that the instruction will be pre-recorded by the teacher and made available to students to access at any time and review when they wish. Questions and comments will be posted for the teacher or students to answer.

10. What does all of this mean as far as the options for the education of my children for the 2020-21 school year?

Families will have the option to have their child(ren) participate in one of two options: [Cyber/Remote Learning](#) or [Face-to-Face](#):

- The **cyber/remote learning program** will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities, with courses taught by a combination of third-party vendors (K12, Apex Learning) and/or Palisades teachers, as has been the case for the district for many years.
 - Families who select the cyber program will continue to have the option to have students participate in face-to-face specials classes (elementary/middle), if they so choose.
- The **face-to-face option** would have students return to school buildings and participate in learning opportunities, following the Health and Safety Plan.
 - Students at the high school level (grades 9-12) who have selected online courses from the program of studies/curriculum guide will have the option to complete those courses from home, should the family choose to have their child(ren) do so. Traditionally, students completed this work in a study hall or in the Cyber Center.

Should a student need to go in quarantine and/or the district needs to revert to remote learning for all students, synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities are being reviewed so that we can continue to offer an education for our students that limits loss of instructional time due to the circumstance(s).

Next Steps:

After the Plan is approved by the Board, a survey will be distributed to families to determine the preferred form of education for the first semester of the 20-21 school year, as well as each to select how a family wants to have their student(s) transported to school, either by school bus or other means. Again, in late November, another survey will be distributed for families to make a selection for the second semester. Exceptions will be discussed with families on a case-by-case basis and the student's educational program may be altered based on resources available.