

WC West Chester Area School District



**Our mission is to educate and inspire
our students to achieve their personal best.**



Re-opening of WCASD Schools Agenda

September 29, 2020

A

Considerations for opening

B

Critical decision points

C

Recommendation for opening schools

D

Flexibility for families

E

Flexibility to move in and out of phased openings or closings

Research and Guidance

1

WCASD Implementation Teams
-teachers, administrators,
support staff

2

Weekly/Bi-Weekly County
Superintendent Meetings

3

Staff Surveys

4

Monitoring Progress of Board
approved plan on August 3

Guidance:

- Centers for Disease Control Guidelines
- PA Department of Education Guidelines
- PA Department of Health Guidelines
- Chester County Health Department Guidelines
- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Guidelines**
- American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines
- World Health Organization
- REL Mid-Atlantic

Overview of Problem

1

August 3 – Board approved a plan to open schools virtually only

- Review by September 25 to move toward hybrid model
- No sports competitions through September 25
- Instruct low incidence special needs and English Learners five days in person

2

Working with Chester County Health Department to monitor progress; Closely follow CHOP Policy Lab

- Recommended schools remain virtual until October 9

3

6 feet of social distancing – *not all students would fit in the schools at the same time – requires a hybrid split schedule*

- Prevailing medical guidance from national organizations is 6 feet



Ultimate task

Our plan is to open safely for all students and staff with plans to flex in and out of delivery models based trajectory of virus in our community.

Decision Making ? Points



State Guidance

What is the guidance and direction from the state authorities?



Community Opinions and Needs

Extremely mixed



Feasibility

How feasible is the option/idea being considered?



Staff support

What will our staff support?



Trajectory of the virus?

What are the infection rates in our community? If it is going down, can we relax restrictions? If it is going up, do we need to tighten restrictions?

Safety – Monitoring County Infection Rates

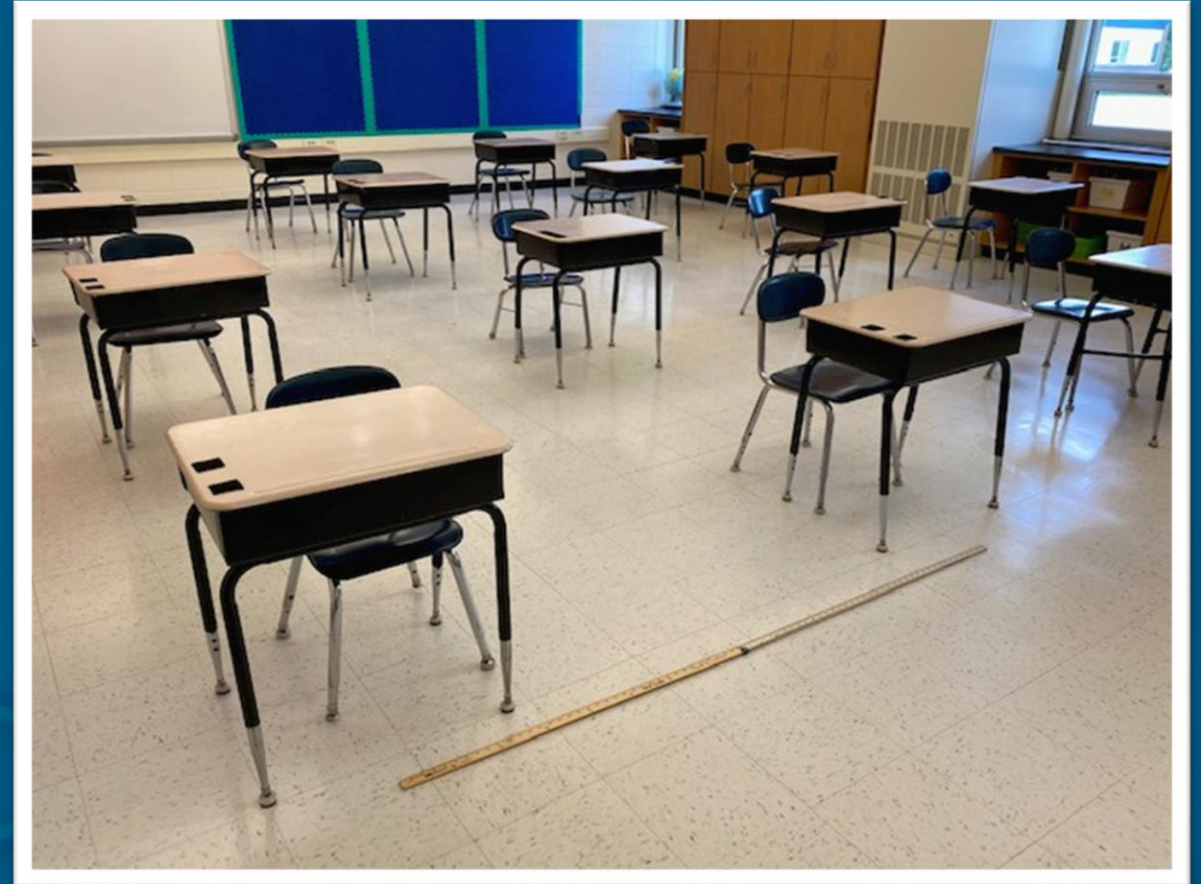
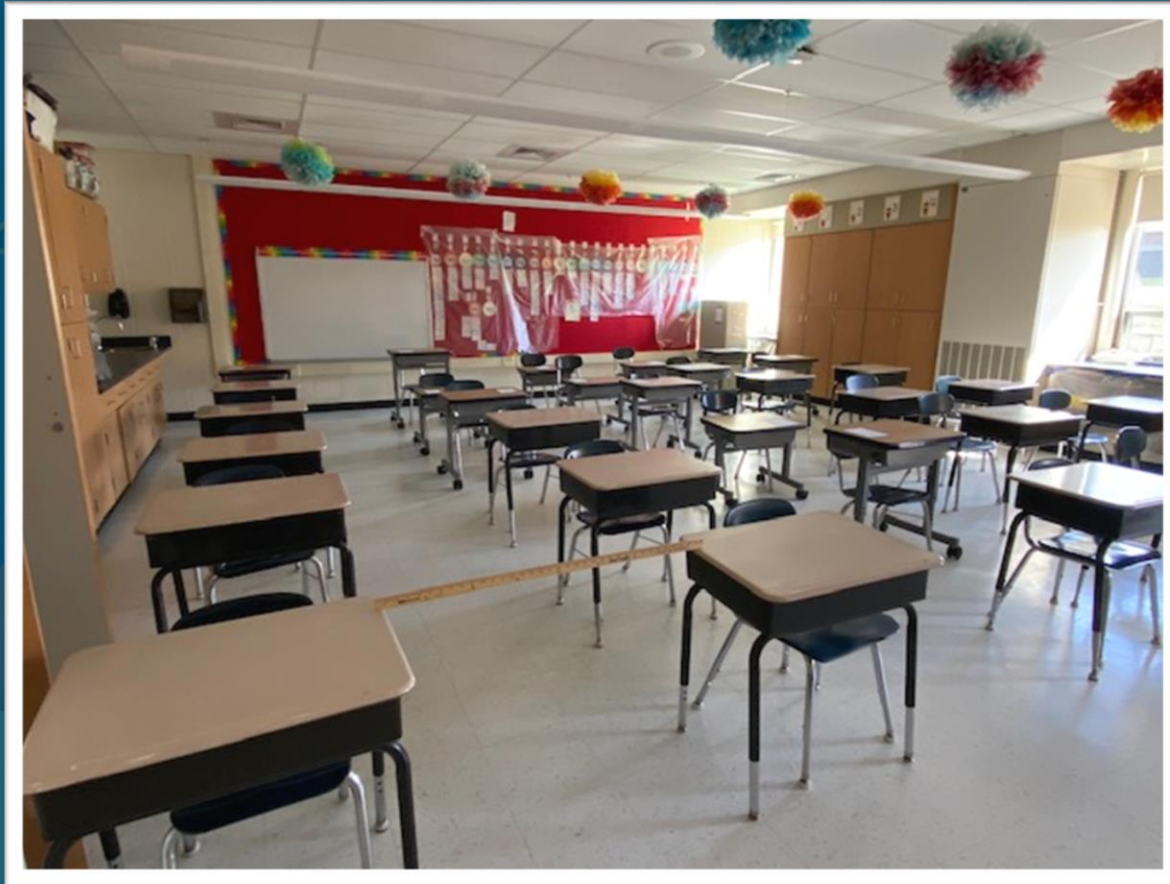
Chester County Health Department

Community Transmission	Incidence Rate per 100,000	AND/OR	PCR Test Positivity	Instructional Model
Low	<10	AND	<5%	In-Person
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High	≥40 and <80	OR	>7% and <10%	Virtual and/or Hybrid
Very High	≥80	OR	≥10%	Virtual

Guiding Principles

- Safety of Students and Staff – *Every model carries risks.*
- Having students in-person helps with relationships, and assess learning levels.
- Equity
- Monitoring student needs
- High risk special needs children will continue to attend in person every day.
- As local pandemic improves, goal is to bring youngest students back to full time schooling first.
- Need for flexibility to phase into full-time learning, *or* out to full Remote Learning 2.0.

How many students can we fit in our classrooms With 3 Feet/ With 6 Feet?



Six feet of social distancing in the cafeteria



Can we bring all students into school every day for AM/PM schedule?



- District is still mandated to provide transportation to 147 private and charter schools – Must provide equal service to all schools
- Because of size of District (75 square miles) we need 3 – 3.5 hours to transport AM students home, and then pick up PM students
- Extends teacher day from 7.5 hours to 10 hours
- Adds significant transportation and/or staffing costs
- May not meet the 900/990 hours of required instruction for students?

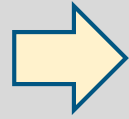
An Impossible Choice



All options are extremely stressful for parents, students, and school staff.



Each option has some benefits and many challenges.



Each option is temporary.



Opinions and even science is very split, is emerging, and changes frequently.



We care very much about the welfare of our students, staff, and families. Want to make the best possible decisions.

In-Person Options Considered



All students in person with 3 – 5 feet of separation; Offer Cyber option

- This option does not meet health and safety guidance for six feet of social distancing
- This option presents the best educational continuity



Hybrid Plan with AM/PM shortened day; Offer Cyber option

- Because of size of District (75 square miles) we need 3 – 3.5 hours to transport AM students home, and then pick up PM students
- Extends teacher day from 7.5 hours to 10 hours



Hybrid model (2 or 3 days a week in school); Offer Cyber option

- This option provides some student-teacher contact
- This option still presents educational and logistical challenges

WC Recommended Progression:

Move to Hybrid Model – October 19; November 5
Offer Fully Virtual Option (WC Cyber)
Continue to Reassess

- **50% of students (Group A) come to school on Days 1 and 2, while 50% (Group B) stay home and access courses/classes remotely.**
- **Students switch for Days 4, 5 – with Group B coming in person and Group A learning from home.**
- **Day 3 – All students in synchronous remote learning (current virtual structure)**
- **Group A Students – Last names beginning with letters A-K**
- **Group B students – Last names beginning with letters L-Z**

(Students grouped alphabetically instead of by neighborhood because of transportation schedules)

Sample Weekly Hybrid Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A: In Person	Group A: In Person	Group A and B all Remote Learning	Group A: Remote Learning	Group A: Remote Learning
Group B: Remote Learning	Group B: Remote Learning	Group A and B all Remote Learning	Group B: In Person	Group B: In Person

School starting and ending times effective October 19

End 30 min early – to allow more teacher planning time

- 7:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (HHS, EHS, RHS, FMS)
- 8:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. (SMS, PMS)
- 8:40 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. (EBE, EGE, EXE, GAE,)
- 9:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. (PWE, WTE, HDE, SWE, MCH, FHE)

Internal Planning

Concern for teacher burnout

- Building car as we drive it.
- 150-member staff planning group – examining different hybrid models from around state/country.
- Planning group continues to work through specific details of making hybrid successful
- Developing teacher leadership teams at each school to assist in continuity, planning, problem-solving, etc.
- Overwhelming feedback from staff is that in order to provide high-quality instruction, they need additional planning time. (e.g. converting curriculum for a digital/hybrid format is time consuming.)

First week of Hybrid

October 19 – Elementary

- Students with last name beginning with A-K attend on Monday and Tuesday October 19 and 20 (A-Day)
- Students with last name beginning with L-Z attend on Thursday and Friday October 22 and 23 (B-Day)
- All students attend remotely on Wednesday October 21
- **Monday October 26** – Full Hybrid begins with A students in school, B students remote in.

November 5 – Secondary

- Students with last name beginning with L-Z attend on Thursday and Friday, November 5 and 6 (B-Day)
- Students with last name beginning with A-K attend on Monday and Tuesday, November 9 and 10 (A-Day)
- All students attend remotely on Wednesday November 11
- **Thursday November 12** -Full Hybrid begins with B students in school, A students remote in.

Components of Plan

- Parents have choice to return from Cyber to Hybrid
- Parents have choice to remain in Remote; Won't be exactly like it is now, however.
- **Schedule changes do not affect** WC Cyber Students.
- **Face coverings** – all staff and students must wear masks/face shields. Mask breaks can be taken when social distancing of six feet can be achieved.
- **Social distancing** – classrooms will be set up with students at least six feet apart.
- **Hybrid schedules** – will follow AA/Remote/BB schedule
 - A - K – will be on the “A” schedule
 - L - Z – will be on the “B” schedule
- **Middle and High school on block schedule** to minimize movement in hallways.
- **Day shortened by 30 minutes to provide additional teacher planning time.**

Components of Plan

Low incidence special needs children attend all five days in person

- *Transition weeks built in to move elementary and secondary students back to home schools*
- *Elementary students remain at East Goshen*

Additional special education students attend four days in person

All English Learners attend four days in person

- *Transition week built in to move students back to home schools*

Components of Plan

- **All lunches served in classrooms and/or cafeterias** –
Grab and go available at cafeteria – with 6 foot distancing
- **Transportation** – two to a seat.
Siblings seated together when possible. Masks on buses
- **Cleaning** –
Nightly disinfecting with contact areas cleaned three times daily
- **All water fountains** turned off, but touchless filling stations remain on
- **Procedures for a positive case** –
Follow Chester County Health Department guidance

Advantages of Hybrid Schedule



- **Allows for some in-person instruction**, which some students need to be successful.
- **Allows for six feet of social distancing** – fewer students in the building – decreases the chances of potential infection spread.
- **Increased socialization for students.**
- **Youngest students need some form of in-person instruction**
- **Allows opportunity for counselors and therapists to check in with students.**
- One Remote day allows for all students on same platform weekly, also maintains routine of Remote if we have to revert back to Remote 2.0

Challenges of Hybrid Schedule

1. Not in-person every day
2. Need for childcare -
 - *A Child's Place will continue operate before, during and after care programs*
3. Teachers need to provide instruction for two groups.
4. At-home instruction may not be synchronous.
5. Some students may struggle with masks and distancing.
6. Schools may have to close because of positive COVID-19 cases.



What will At-Home learning be like on At-Home Days in a Hybrid Model?

1

How will students access instruction/curriculum when not in school? Students will access curriculum via Schoology; They will use Zoom to participate in classroom instruction and activities. They will have times for live check-ins with teachers. District will work with teachers to provide a balance of synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

2

Will students have access to teachers? Yes – there will be set times during class times as well as live check-in times that students will be able to access the classroom live via Zoom.

3

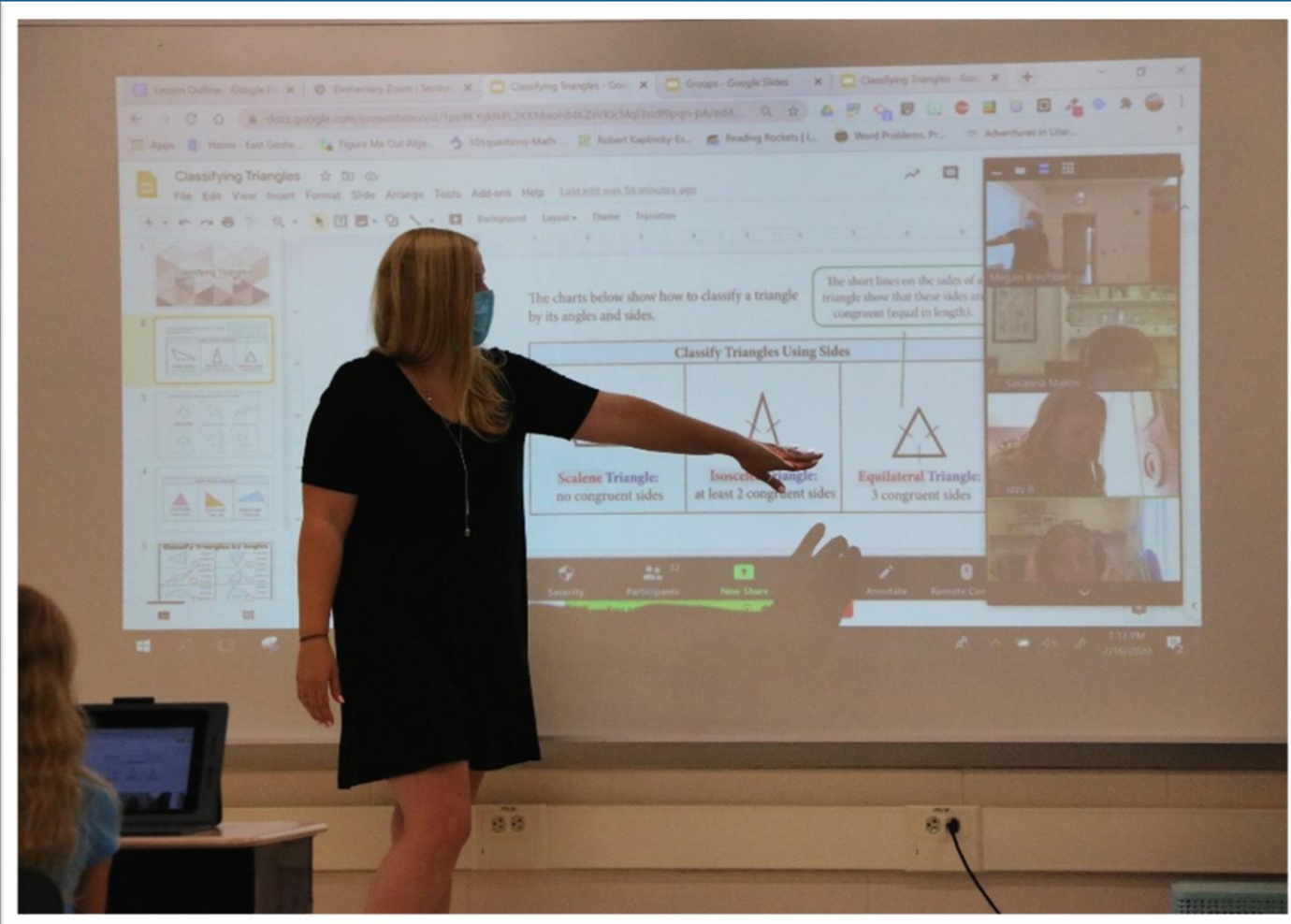
What happens if students need individual help with work? Teachers will schedule small groups or instructional coaches will provide instruction. Teachers can also schedule time for in-person follow-up.

4

Will students be in front of a screen all day? Breaks will be built into the school day for screen-free time.

Hybrid Learning Pilots – Will Continue

East Goshen Elementary School



Hybrid Learning Pilots – Will Continue

Fugett Middle School



Brick and Mortar Program Already Operating

- **Thank you to our dedicated Special Education and English Learner teachers who have already been operating in-person, 5 days a week (socially distanced) as well as with a hybrid model (depending on family preference) for 470 of our highest-need students across the school district.**
- To date we have had no COVID-19 positive cases in this program (which began this summer.)
- These teachers will help to pave the way for the rest of the district to return to hybrid.

After-School Sports

- **September 21** - mandatory practices for fall sports will resume.
- **September 24** - first eligible day for golf competition.
- **September 28** – first eligible day for tennis, competitions.
- **Week of October 5** - First eligible week for all other sports competitions.
- **Outside events** - will be limited to 250 people with social distancing and mask requirements.
- **Inside events** - will be limited to 25 people with social distancing and mask requirements.
- Sporting events will follow Chester County Health Department guidance as well as the PIAA Sports [guidance](#).

Music in WCASD During Pandemic

- **Following CDC/State guidance on how to safely operate music programs.**
- **Our staff is incredibly creative and conscientious; They are working together to find ways to safely offer instruction.**
- **More information to follow.**

Safety – Contact tracing/ suspected or confirmed case

- If a suspected case is identified in a school, Chester County Health Department performs contact tracing.
- If a case is confirmed, school district consults with Chester County Health Department to determine if school is closed for 14 day period.
- Families will be notified of positive COVID-19 cases in each school.

 CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19 **STAY INFORMED**

Latest News for Chester and Delaware County

Questions? Call 610-344-6225 Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

Safety – Monitoring County Infection Rates

Chester County Health Department

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Current Chester County Infection Rates As of September 25

Seven Day Period	Positive Case County	Incident rate per 100,000
Week 1 (most current)	260	49.8
Week 2	335	64.17
Week 3	350	67.04
Week 4	207	39.65
Week 1-4 average	288	55.17

Current Chester County Infection Rates As of September 25

Seven Day Period	Positive PCR Test Count	All PCR Tests	Percent PCR Positives
Week 1 (most current)	294	8,114	3.62%
Week 2	373	6,809	5.48%
Week 3	372	6,447	5.77%
Week 4	232	6,821	3.40%
Total for all weeks	1,271	28,191	4.51%

Reporting and Contact Tracing

- Parents/staff will be instructed to notify school of suspected COVID-19 symptoms; will be given at-home monitoring checklist and told to keep sick students at home.
- School nurses will report all suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in students, staff, and faculty to the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) maintaining confidentiality.
- CCHD performs all investigation of suspect or confirmed reports.
- Contact tracing is the role of the CCHD to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in schools and break the chains of transmission.
- Close contacts will be contacted by the CCHD to identify those at risk of exposure. Timeline and expectations for quarantine will be delineated by the health department.
- Close contacts are those individuals who are within 6 feet distance for greater than 15 minutes with the confirmed case. (Duration and Density)
- Families will be notified of any COVID-19 positive cases in their child's school. School closure will follow CCHD guidelines.

CCHD Recommendations on when to Close a School Because of COVID-19 Cases

- Identification of two or more COVID-19 cases in a class or cohort with an onset within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked and do not share a household or are not close contacts outside the school setting.
- If additional cases are identified within the class or cohort within a 14-day period, additional mitigations measures will be implemented including classroom closures.
- If two (2) outbreaks are identified in a 14-day period, the Chester County Health Department assess broader scale closure of wings or buildings.
- If a classroom, wing, building(s) is closed, the school should switch to remote learning.
- The Chester County Health Department recognizes that schools may need to consider closing if the number of teachers/staff staying home, or available to work, interferes with the school's ability to operate.

Safety - Screening

- Students, parents and employees will receive instruction and guidance for at-home screening practices.
- WCASD parents will be asked to screen their children before the start of school each day; employees will be asked to screen themselves each day prior to reporting to work.
- Students identified with low incidence disability will be receive temperature screening daily in school.
- Employees and students will be required to stay home if they are feeling ill.
- Each school will have a supply of non-contact infrared thermometers.
- Staff will vigilantly monitor student wellness and send them to the nurse for evaluation if suspected of being ill - Each school will have an isolation area.
- Individuals who are sick will be sent home and directed to contact their healthcare provider.

Safety - Hygiene

- Students and employees will receive extensive handwashing and hygiene instruction.
- Handwashing posters will be distributed throughout the school building in prominent locations.
- Hand sanitizer, tissues, disinfectant spray, wipes, rubber gloves, etc. will be supplied to all necessary areas within each school.
- There will be no sharing of supplies or items to the greatest extent possible.



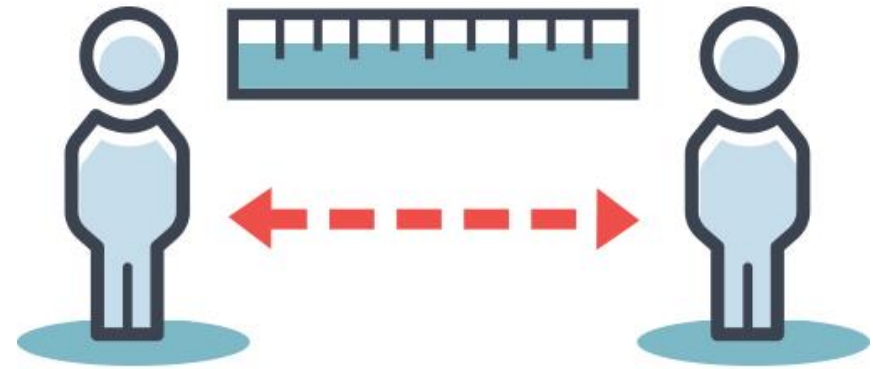
Safety – Wearing Face Coverings

- Students and employees will receive guidance and support for appropriate masking – no gaiters or vent masks.
- K - 12th grade students will be required to wear masks and/or face shields; exceptions will be permitted for documented health reasons - Masks and/or shields provided by WCASD for those whose parents do not provide one.
- The use of plastic dividers will be used for students with medical reason for not wearing a mask.
- Staff will be required to wear masks and/or face shields;
Can be provided by WCASD.
- Mask “breaks” will be built into the school day.

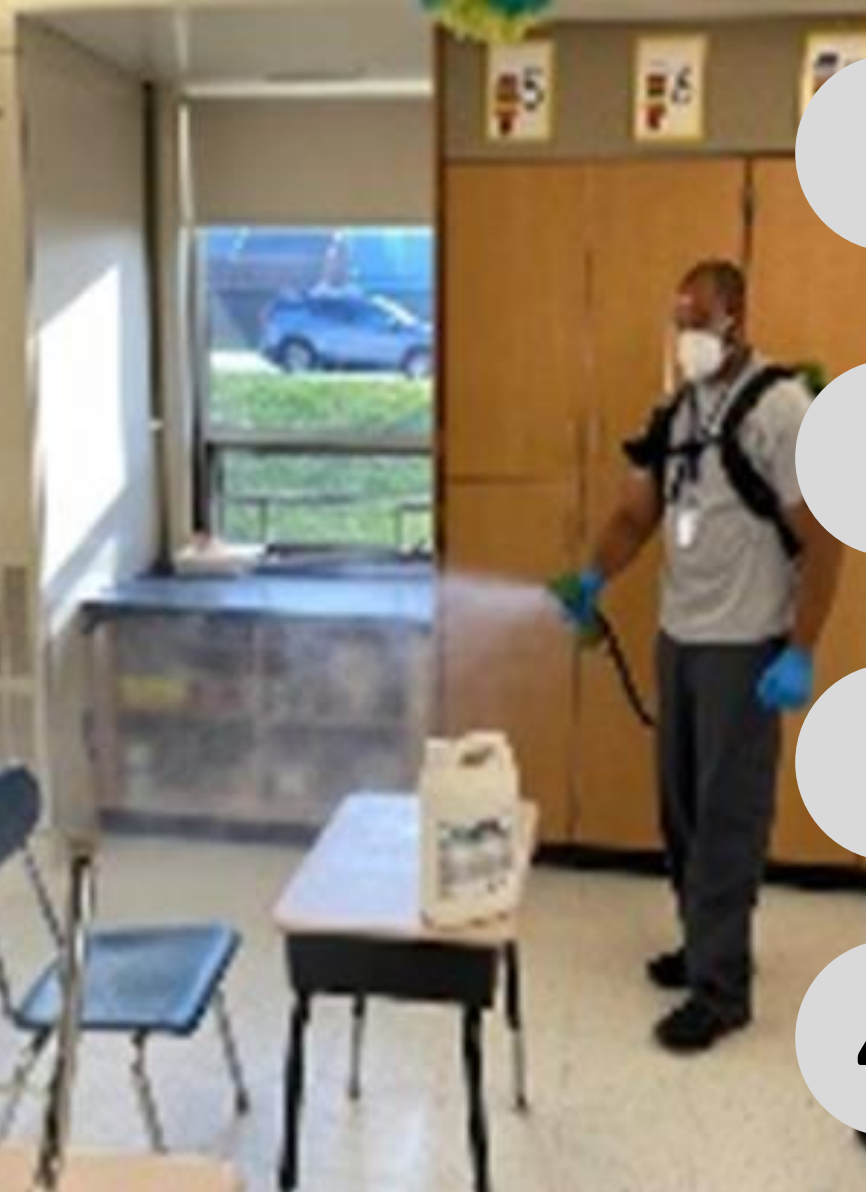


Safety – Social Distancing

- Students and employees will receive instruction, guidance and support to appropriately social distance from peers/staff.
- Students will be socially distanced at six feet or to the maximum extent feasible when passing in hallways.
- Desks will be distanced to provide six feet between students.
- Desks will be arranged to face the same direction.
- Cafeteria seating: Students will be situated 6 feet or more apart.



Safety - Disinfecting



1

All buildings disinfected nightly

2

All common touch surfaces cleaned three times daily

3

Ventilation systems – Optimized per CDC Guidance

4

All water fountains shut off; touchless dispensers on.

Evening Treatment of Rooms



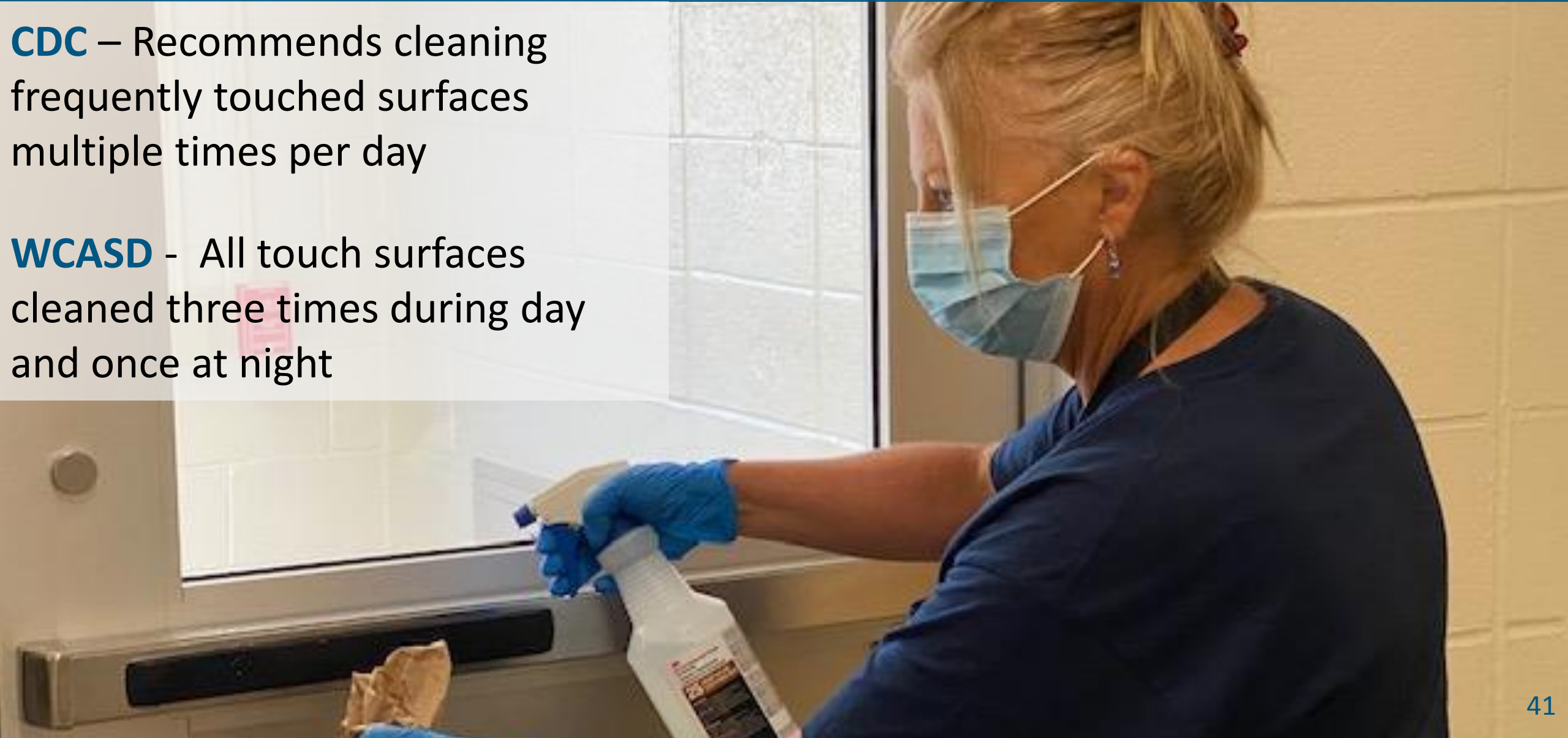
CDC – Clean spaces used nightly with disinfectant.

WCASD – All touch services, desks, chairs, etc. will be electrostatically sprayed with hospital grade disinfectant nightly.

Touch Service Cleaning

CDC – Recommends cleaning frequently touched surfaces multiple times per day

WCASD - All touch surfaces cleaned three times during day and once at night



Ventilation Systems

CDC – Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase ventilation.

WCASD – Systems will operate 24 hours a day, filters will be changed every four weeks and air changes will be between 5 and 8 air changes per hour per classroom.



Transportation



- Maximum of two students per seat; siblings seated together when possible
- All students wear a mask
- Bus drivers wear a mask
- Buses disinfected and sanitized between runs
- Parent drop off times assigned – due to an increased number of parents driving students to school

Questions

Can parents just choose to remote in every day and keep children at home?

Yes, however the instruction may not be as synchronous as it is in the Full Remote 2.0 model.

Can parents who chose cyber, return to hybrid? - *Yes, however if we have to revert back to Remote 2.0, parents will not be able to re-enroll in WC cyber.*

Parent Chats Online

October 1 – 6 pm for elementary

October 1 – 7:30 pm for secondary

What happens if there is a positive case in a school? - *We will follow guidelines from Chester County Health Department. Most likely the school will close for a 14 day quarantine and remote learning 2.0 will begin for that school.*

Will child care be provided? - *Yes, “A Child’s Place” will continue to operate child care centers for before, during and after school care, in our elementary schools.*

Thank You To Our Staff

Teachers and all staff have done an incredible job under
Extremely challenging circumstances.



Final Thoughts

- This is still a pandemic
- The options are not optimal.
- Our students are trying their very best.
- We all have to work together.
- No one wants to see anyone struggle
- Maintain patience and positivity



Questions?