



Springfield School District families,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying some well-deserved summer relaxation. I wanted to update you regarding our planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan for reopening schools centers on in-school learning and social interaction, which are essential for students' emotional well-being and their academic growth. The plan was developed in conjunction with recommendations from local public health and medical professionals, including those from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Bucks County and Chester County Departments of Health.

This letter has three key sections: 1) Guidelines for Reopening Schools for 2020-2021, 2) Timeline for the Completion of the Health and Safety Plan, and 3) Expert Recommendations for Safely Opening School Buildings. **We understand that parents may have questions/concerns about the details of the plan, but please remember that the guidance for school districts continues to evolve, and so, our plans may evolve with it.** We will communicate with you any changes to our planning as we move through the summer months.

Guidelines for Reopening Schools for 2020-2021

As noted in my previous letter, barring any unforeseen state closures or restrictions, Springfield School District is *planning to open schools for in-person instruction this fall*. Based on recommendations from local health resources, the primary focus of our reopening plan adheres to four areas: screening, hygiene, distancing, and masking.

- **Screening** - The foundation for the success of our plan is for parents and staff to conduct daily symptom screening of students and themselves at home prior to arriving at the bus stop or school. *Students/staff who do not feel well need to stay home.* Throughout the summer, we will communicate symptoms and guidance to support our school community in this effort.
- **Hygiene** - We have purchased signage and CDC approved sanitizing products and equipment to strengthen hygiene practices in our buildings. Time for frequent hand-washing will be built into the school day. Disinfection and cleaning of common areas will occur on a regular basis. Additional fogging machines, hand sanitizer stations, and Plexiglass have been purchased to promote hygienic conditions in all of our school buildings.
- **Distancing** - Classroom configurations will be altered for maximum physical distancing as feasible. Using alternative spaces, students/staff will be spread out during lunch periods to encourage physical distancing. Individuals will be required to sanitize or wash their hands prior to, and after, eating. Buses can operate with a maximum of two students per seat, with the understanding that masks will be required of those riding the bus. Parents who choose to transport their children in lieu of following the masking requirement will be permitted to do so. Specific, singular services will be accessed on an individual basis (i.e. special education services, etc.).



- **Masking** - We understand that masking is a topic of discussion among our stakeholders, but please know that we will follow the recommendations of our health and medical experts. As stated in my prior communication, we are not going to unilaterally require students to wear masks; however, students will be required to carry masks/face coverings at all times and will be asked to use them when physical distancing is not feasible (high-traffic areas, hallways, cafeteria, nurse's office, etc.).

Staff will be required to wear shields/masks while engaging with students and colleagues or when physical distancing is not feasible.

Timeline for the Completion of Health and Safety Plan

Each school district is required to submit a Health and Safety Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) prior to reopening for in-person instruction. Below is the timeline for submission and approval of the plan:

- Thursday, July 9th - Health and Safety Academic Plan shared with public via district website
- July 9th-July 23rd - Health and Safety Academic Plan available for public review and comment via district website
- Monday, July 27th - School Board votes on Health and Safety Academic Plan

Expert Recommendations for Safely Opening School Buildings

One of the medical professionals that we have been consulting with is Dr. David Rubin, Attending Physician, Director of CHOP PolicyLab and Director of Population Health Innovation at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Recently, Dr. Rubin presented his recommendations for safely opening school buildings at a Haverford School Board meeting. In speaking with him, we decided to share the link to his recommendations for school reopening, providing critical information sooner rather than waiting for our meeting in July. You can view his testimony at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FVoef5bLYE&feature=youtu.be>.

Your feedback is always appreciated. Please visit www.ssdcougars.org/feedback to connect with us. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Anthony Barber

Superintendent of Schools