

DATE	NAME	COMMENT
6/5/2020	Katie Shelton, Ed.S., NCSP	<p>Thank you for allowing the public the opportunity to comment on these important discussions. I am a school psychologist at Everett Meredith Middle School in Appoquinimink School District. I was disheartened to see that no school psychologists were included on any of the committees. I will plan to be an active viewer during the discussions. If you review the comments from Tuesday, you will see many other school psychologists in attendance.</p> <p>I wanted to take a moment to comment on the first committee hearing for Health and Wellness. Although I know there are a great number of topics to consider, I urge your committee to spend some real time thinking about the logistics of mental health services that come from schools and districts. It is not a topic to take lightly. It is estimated that approximately 1 in every 5 adolescents has a mental health need, and that as many two thirds of students with mental health needs receive their sole support through the school system (source: https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/mental-health/school-psychology-and-mental-health/school-based-mental-health-services#:~:text=Good%20mental%20health%20is%20critical,being%20all%20improve%20as%20well.). And that was prior to a global pandemic and a time of civil unrest. As a result of continued budget cuts, HB 100 – which would have provided funding to increase the number of school-based mental health providers such as counselors, psychologists, and social workers – is now on hold until at least January.</p> <p>Regardless of what our return in the fall will look like, I do believe we will be seeing a significant increase of students and families that will need our help. And, it is imperative to note that when a person’s mental health needs are not met, they can have difficulty with academics, as well as social, emotional, and behavioral skills. But if we do return to ‘business as usual’ – who will advocate for us to have the time to do this work? It is not enough to consider screenings for staff – because the reality is, school systems need to make resources available to those who are identified from such screenings. As a school-based provider, I can share that before COVID 19 closures, I already felt that I needed to work long beyond my contracted hours to fulfill my role. That is, of course, my choice, but I also think it is important to realize that I am far and away from being alone in this.</p> <p>I encourage your team to spend more time during upcoming meetings closely considering the mental health needs of our school system. I think the movement associated with HB 100 prior to COVID 19 is indicative that our system already needed more.</p> <p>Or, perhaps a separate committee needs to be formed if the agenda set forth for your team does not allow enough time for this critical planning. If we cannot increase the number of school-based providers, we need a team working to develop a diverse network of resources, supports, and services that can reach our families across this state. We need to get creative, and we need to act now.</p> <p>Our students deserve it.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my input.</p>
6/5/2020	Karen Antell, MD,	<p>To the Health and Wellness Workgroup for School Reopening, I am sharing this webinar from the national School Based Health Alliance and National Center for School Mental Health. It’s being held Tuesday afternoon 6/9 at 1:30 PM.</p>

MPH,
FAAFP

From: School-Based Health Alliance [mailto:info@sbh4all.org]

Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2020 4:16 PM

To: Antell M.D., Karen J

Subject: [EXTERNAL] [MARKETING] Webinar on School Mental Health Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year During COVID-19

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The School-Based Health Alliance and the National Center for School Mental Health, as part of their School Health Services National Quality Initiative, are pleased to host national webinars on innovation and emerging best practices in school health.

Information for our next webinar is provided below:

School Mental Health Planning

for the 2020-2021 School Year

During COVID-19

June 9, 1:30 - 3:00pm (EST)

Presenting Organizations

- The National Center for School Mental Health
- Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools
- National Association of School Nurses
- UCSF Health Environments and Response to Trauma in Schools (HEARTS)

This webinar will help school, district, and state education and behavioral health leaders plan for the mental health needs of the entire school community (including students, school staff, and families) and implement multi-tiered mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention supports and services in the 2020-2021 school year.

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School-Based Health Alliance

1010 Vermont Avenue NW, Ste. 600

Washington, DC 20005

info@sbh4all.org

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6/6/2020	Barbara Reed	<p>Mr Grubbs- I just read the article “Group meets to decide what’s needed to reopen schools” in today’s DE State News! I thank you and each member of the committee who are putting the time and thought in doing what is best for Delaware’s school children</p> <p>One comment I have is about having legislators on the committee to allow flexibility in hiring the necessary teachers and staff. Please please do not consider relaxing the regs on background checks! The safety of our vulnerable school- aged needs to be protected from those in a position who have and would repeat harming a child! Again thank you for your hard work. It is appreciated Barbara M Reed retired Caesar Rodney School District</p>
6/6/2020	Janet Cates, MA, CCC-SLP	<p>I have some clarification questions and concerns following the meeting that was held on Tuesday, 6/2/2020.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If school surfaces need to be cleaned on a daily basis, I would request that school buses also be cleaned on a daily basis at the minimum. Cleaning between runs would be even better. There may not be data collected regarding school bus spread of COVID19, but is that because most schools have been closed during the spring when data might have been collected? 2. How will the bus driver be able to manage good hygiene for students on a school bus when the driver’s attention needs to be focused on the road? How will the district protect drivers who drive 3 runs of different age students every morning and afternoon? 3. How often will shared spaces like the library or music room or computer lab be cleaned? On a daily basis or in between classes? 4. Will the cleaners being used to disinfect classrooms be safe for children who put objects in their mouths. 5. How will a preschool classroom manage to disinfect all materials used by students throughout a typical day in a play-based classroom. 6. Neither students nor teachers should be responsible for cleaning surfaces within the classroom on a daily basis. 7. How do we manage hand washing in a high school building with 900 students and only 12 student sinks available throughout the building? 8. How do we manage hygiene with our 2-5 year old population and with older students with cognitive or physical needs. We see students with low oral muscle tone who drool onto their desks during the day. Also how do we manage hygiene with students who have toileting needs which are often handled by educators including para-professionals? 9. Why do the custodians cleaning a room where a child has been identified with COVID19 wear N95 masks, but the educators working with the students do not? 10. Plans if a student or staff member contracts COVID19: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. You stated that that identified area would be cleared until it could be thoroughly cleaned. What happens to the educators and students in that classroom? Do they simply go to another place in the building? Will they be quarantined at home for 14 days or until they no longer test positive for the virus? How will this impact the therapists or ELL teachers or para-professionals who work in several classrooms or buildings throughout the day who may have been in the classroom during the that time the student was contagious? b. How will you trace the contacts of a student who rides a school bus, attends before or after school care, and may be involved in several community activities like sports, scouting, etc.? c. If an educator contracts the virus or is quarantined at home for 14 days due to exposure at school, will the state/district pay the teacher during this time? Educators only get 10 paid sick days during the year. A single quarantine period would use up the educator’s sick leave. Will educators who have to quarantine because of exposure to COVID19 or contracting the virus due exposure at school be eligible for workmen’s compensation? 11. What are the plans for educators and therapists who provide itinerant services to multiple daycares, preschools, Head Starts,

		<p>private schools and then return to their office in their home school.</p> <p>12. Even during Scenario One, there needs to be a plan in place for students and educators who more susceptible to the virus due to pre-existing conditions. Some doctors may not want these students or educators to risk their health returning to school before a vaccine is in place. Thank you so much for considering my questions and concerns,</p>
6/6/2020	Colleen Schmidt	<p>I would like a plan for children that have pre-existing conditions. Like asthma and allergies. Asthma is scary enough. You're already prone to pick up colds and flu. But a disease that is a respiratory disease is a problem for me. Before the schools shut down they were not social distancing at the time you couldn't be in groups of 150. But yet our schools were having 3 lunch shifts with about 300 students. Furthermore they were not distanced in class. My child told me a student in his class was forced to take their mask off and yelled at by a teacher. They didn't implement any hand washing in IR High or SMS. Some teachers didn't even supply hand sanitizer. At the beginning of the year I sent in hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes. If we don't feel safe we are not sending our kids to school. I'm not the only parent that feels this way. I think remote learning should still be available for students with health issues</p>
6/6/2020	Trish Meixell	<p>As a teacher who has taught during COVID-19, I am concerned about the equity piece of reopening schools. I feel as though I learned a lot about how to effectively create lessons that would keep students engaged. However, it was not effective for those who did not participate. In my district, face to face (zoom) meetings were not required. The rationale was that we could not be sure what was happening in students' households/lives. Students received a schedule of when teachers would be available, and teachers could decide to hold a zoom (or other platform) meeting or be available for questions. As a math teacher, I offered this daily, but few took advantage.</p> <p>I would like to suggest that if remote learning is to happen again, that there be some sort of requirement to meet with the teacher face to face, even if only for an hour each week. The way I envision it is that I have two preps - grade level math and honors math; I could offer times throughout the week that vary to help meet the needs of my students. It would be less restrictive than having them have to meet me during their required class period. It would also help with families who have multiple children who need devices, as well as parents working online.</p> <p>I also think that there could be more done with these remote conferences after school if we do return to the buildings, but I'm not sure how that would work.</p> <p>Please let me know if you would like clarification on this. Good luck with your task. It is quite an undertaking!</p>

6/7/2020	Eul Lee	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a concerned citizen who believes the high speed internet throughout Sussex County is mandatory for education and economic development, and have been in contact with several people in Sussex and Kent County.</p> <p>I belong to Sussex2030 (sussex2030.com), a grassroot group that started with the 10-year vision of Sussex County, which is aging fast due to, not only the large number of retirees moving in from surrounding areas, but also the exodus of young people.</p> <p>If possible, I would like to attend your meetings. Your advice on this matter would be greatly appreciated.</p>
6/8/2020	Erin Miller RN	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am one of the nurses at one of the bigger school in colonial. I had a few questions/thoughts.</p> <p>I have heard many ideas thrown out. Many of which are good thoughts but I had a fe thoughts/concerns. I know that the government's put out of the restrictions that they want next year. These would include kids 6 feet apart and possibly masks being worn all day long. Also there was the option that the younger kids would have a lot of restrictions on gym and recess. Also there was the thought of having lunches in the classrooms.</p> <p>I know a few of the nurses have talked about these thoughts.</p> <p>I have heard the thought of doing 1/2 days and having half the students come in from around 6-11 and then from 1-5 pm. From a medical stand point that would reduce the numbers however you make be looking at burn out of teachers and other staff.</p> <p>There was also the thought of having some kids from in on mondays, wednesdays, fridays. The other half coming in on tuesday and thursday. This also would reduce our numbers. However in both these scenarios there is the worry about if people are able to actually actually go back to work, then we run into the concern that yes we are reducing the numbers of students in schools but putting an increased numbers in daycares.</p> <p>Also I had some thoughts about the getting everyones temperature upon arrival to the school. However I have a concern of there are some school that have upwards to 2000 children and hundreds of staff. I have not been able to come up with an idea on how to make taking all their temperatures a viable option.</p> <p>Also there are some concerns about the wearing masks all day. I have trouble getting my young kids to wear masks for an hour. i don't know how we can get a kindergartener or other young children to be able to wear one all day long. Also there is a lot of questions about what we do with the students that are barely having enough money for food to be able to get themselves masks.</p> <p>I have been trying to think of ideas to assist in these questions however ever idea I come up with has it's own issues.</p> <p>I thought you might have some better thoughts as a group.</p>

6/8/2020	Deanna Bilecki	<p>I am a 1st G teacher in Red Clay S.D., NCC. Planning for school re-opening should be Pro-active and NOT Re-active. In this mind-set, it would be prudent for DOE to devise a comprehensive plan to include different phases of potential school closings that may affect the state, county, pockets of schools or parts of a school. Distance learning should be set up and ready to roll out the first day of school in August. The planning process should include additional state funding, extra resources and thinking outside the box.</p> <p>If DOE were able to connect with public broadcasting and work out a way to use that as an educational resource/tool for learning during a shut down it would be advantageous. Also, connecting with tech companies such as Apple, AT&T for the same purpose would be strategic as well.</p> <p>I was disappointed that DOE chose to hire/include people outside the Delaware School community on the committees for re-opening rather than ask the people in Delaware schools what WE need to do our jobs. It sends a message that WE don't have any insight on the matter, any ideas that We (educators and the school community) wouldn't work which invites criticism within that community that it being served.</p> <p>My hope is that a survey, questionnaire or some other open forum is created to be more inclusive of the school community to represent the students WE serve. I can be reached at the contact info. below for further comment/discussion.</p>
6/8/2020	Kristin Capone PT, DPT, MEd	<p>Dear Representative Longhurst, Representative Smith and other members of the DOE Health & Wellness Committee,</p> <p>We are physical therapists in the Colonial School District who work as part of a multidisciplinary team in schools to provide related services to support the students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Our students range in age from 3-21 and have physical disabilities and medical complexities. Due to the unique needs of many of our students, close contact, physical assistance, and personal care (bathroom support and feeding) routines are necessary throughout the school day. Many of our students have physical disabilities and require specialized adaptive equipment and specially designed instruction for participation in their school program. The physical therapists and other school support staff need to physically assist the students during transfers and changes in positions multiple times daily to address areas of need on the IEP.</p> <p>We hope the committee will work to consider the following student and school staff related concerns:</p> <p>Concerns related to student safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seating on the bus as it may be difficult to social distance with wheelchair hook ups and specialized seating requirements. ● Our students require close personal care each day by school staff members (ex: diaper changes) - what procedures should the staff use to keep our students healthy during these daily routines ? ● Will families be notified if a student/staff member has tested positive and what should the protocols be for our students who are medically complex who have tested positive or been exposed? ● How will surfaces be cleaned during the school day, especially around students who have respiratory issues? ● As part of their IEP programs, our students often travel in hallways and around the school. Will IEP goals and programs need to be adjusted if students will be limited to only their classrooms? <p>Concerns related to staff safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will there be enough PPE provided to keep students and staff safe (to allow changes

		<p>of PPE with different students)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidelines for use of PPE when working with multiple students in different rooms and school buildings throughout a school day. ● Sharing of specialized equipment--how to manage sanitization and how long between uses after cleaning it? ● Guidelines for handling/managing secretions and bodily fluids in the classroom and other school environments ● Some students may require assistance from more than 1 staff person at a time to meet their physical needs, so many staff members may need to be in close proximity several times during the school day. ● Guidelines for homebound education - how to protect staff entering students homes and to protect the students when the staff has been in several homes/schools <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We often have durable medical equipment providers and orthotists come to our schools to help our students with their wheelchairs/leg braces, etc. - will non-employee/contractor visits be limited? <p>We look forward to returning to school and seeing our students. Thank you for reviewing our concerns related to students with special needs and for related service providers, such as ourselves, who work in non-traditional classroom settings and across several school buildings. Kathleen Benson, MPT Carolyn Buckel, PT, DPT, MS Kristin Capone PT, DPT, MEd Christine Palmer-Casey PT, DPT</p>
6/8/2020	Linda Spencer	<p>Are you kidding! Why in the world is DE government putting ANY restrictions on reopening schools?! Protests are allowed with no social distancing restrictions, no mask restrictions (just wear one if you want to loot) no limits on numbers, etc,. Use common sense and let kids, teachers, administrators go back if they choose and are not vulnerable seniors or have health problems. Get the XXXX politics out of it. Even the scientists can't make up their minds what is best. Stop trying to make Trump look bad at taxpayer expense. We are not stupid! We know what is going on.</p>
6/8/2020	Karen Clark, M.Ed	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I wanted to reach out to you as discussions and policies are being formed around the plans for distance learning as public schools begin to think about returning to school buildings in August.</p> <p>I am a public school teacher and live on the outskirts of Felton. At the beginning of the pandemic, my provider Verizon gave unlimited access to internet services My daughter, who is in middle school and I had to use the services daily for Zoom classes, watching class videos and contacting parents and teachers. The unlimited services ceased on May 31st and I had to increase our services which meant more money and slower speeds. I am only able to connect through the use of my phone as a "hot spot". There are no broadband services on my road from any provider. It is not about the ability to pay for me; it is about the access to the service.</p> <p>There have been many research articles about the differences in internet access based on the socioeconomic status and racial divides with areas that do not have access to broadband internet. I would like to voice my concern about the state creating and providing more cell towers or other ways for residents to have access to internet. As one research study commented, "internet is not about luxury anymore." We need to provide avenues for all to connect and not in parking lots and parks. If we can provide</p>

		<p>services, during a pandemic then why can't it be all the time? As we think about life and school after the pandemic, it may be necessary to use more internet teaching/learning and the way that Kent and Sussex County connects to the internet is not optimal for anyone, I fear it is going to create another type of the "haves and have-nots" in education.</p> <p>I appreciate as you are meeting in committees and with businesses that you consider this a concern from a educator parent in Delaware. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or advice for me.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/8/2020	Carter Bowersox	<p>Please see below a message I sent to Mr. Green</p> <p>Begin forwarded message:</p> <p>From: Carter Bowersox <carteru@aol.com> Subject: Opening schools in the fall Date: June 8, 2020 at 6:22:57 PM EDT To: superintendent@redclay.k12.de.us</p> <p>Dear Superintendent Green:</p> <p>I hope you are healthy and well. What a challenging way for your to start off being a Superintendent!</p> <p>I have two children in the Red Clay School District. My daughter is a 9th grader at CAB and my son is a 5th grader at North Star Elementary, but will be going to CAB next year for 6th grade. I am writing to you about Red Clay Schools for the upcoming year 2020/2021.</p> <p>I want to state for the record that I fully supported the quarantine and I believe in the scientists. I think it was important to flatten the curve for our healthcare and essential workers.</p> <p>I have noticed since Memorial Day, a definite change in a majority of people in regards to quarantine and social distancing. This would include my family. We have started to see friends - first outside, but now inside homes as well.</p> <p>I have witnessed large neighborhood graduation parties and lots of kids from different families hanging out together. People are going on vacation and even taking plane trips. Additionally spring sports have started this week and camps will be starting soon. This is said without judgement- after so long in quarantine we all crave social interaction.</p> <p>I am aware that there is still a risk to get the novel Corona virus, however unless we plan to isolate until a vaccine is available, it is</p>

not feasible

to continue as we did for March, April and May. This would include educating our children remotely. As much as the teachers tried, it was not the same.

I am hoping that Red Clay will be opening their doors this fall without too many restrictions. I feel it is unfair to ask the schools and teachers to bend over backwards with Coronavirus rules, regulations and social distancing that most people are not following in their personal lives. Honestly other than maybe requiring masks for the older students, I am hoping that schools will reopen and be as normal as possible.

Also while the education that the students receive in school is extremely valuable, it is also the arts, sports and extracurricular activities that make school so special, particularly one like CAB where it is impossible to replicate the arts curriculum (whether it be dance, theater, Media Arts, band, etc) in a zoom setting. It is very apparent to me after having my children home from school that in-person teacher instruction and interaction with other students is paramount. There is a reason I do not homeschool my children.

I understand that there may be a small minority of parents that do not feel safe or comfortable having their children return to school in the fall whether it is because their child is immune compromised or they simply are not willing to take the risk. From what I am seeing they would be in the minority.

I urge Red Clay not to overburden teachers and staff with social distancing practices that are just not practical or really feasible. I think Red Clay should follow the lead of several universities who are returning students to campus for the fall.

Some ideas would be:

1. Start school a week or two early or end one or two weeks late
2. provide hand sanitizer and possibly require masks.
3. Ideally have students tested for Covid-19 antibodies.
4. Have the students off from school from Thanksgiving to the New year when the corona virus is suppose to peak again.
5. If students get sick they obviously need to quarantine at home.
6. Maybe have random Covid-19 testing in the schools for those who do not have antibodies
7. For those who have to quarantine or cannot/will not come to school, it maybe helpful to have live feeds from the classrooms so these students can get their lessons.

I am hoping that the rumors of alternate days for students to minimize the numbers in school is not pursued. This would be very disruptive and really do nothing to cut down on virus transmissions.

I appreciate that you and anyone else who has to make a decision about school starting in the Fall is in a very difficult position.

Sincerely,

6/9/2020	Brandon Bushong	<p>With the report released yesterday by the WHO, it's becoming more and more clear that there are 0 reasons to not fully re-open the schools in the fall with zero restrictions.</p> <p>"Contact tracing data from around the globe suggests that while there are instances of asymptomatic coronavirus patients transmitting the virus to others, they are not "a main driver" of new infections, World Health Organization officials said at a press conference Monday."</p> <p>The working groups only focus should be on a mitigation plan IF there is an extreme outbreak in the fall/winter. Additionally, it should be a targeted plan, NOT one size fits all. Example: If there is an outbreak in New Castle County, there is no reason to immediately close Kent & Sussex schools.</p> <p>If there is not an outbreak, the school year should be identical to Sept 2019 through early March 2020.</p>
6/9/2020	Kathie P. Cherry - Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)	<p>On behalf of Ann Fisher, Chairperson and Wendy Strauss, Executive Director</p> <p>Greetings:</p> <p>Please accept the attached comments from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) for inclusion in discussions on school reopening strategies by the Governor's Schools Reopening Workgroups. If you have any questions on our comments, please contact the GACEC office. We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you on behalf of students with special needs in Delaware. Be safe and have a nice day.</p> <p>Kathie P. Cherry Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) 516 W. Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904 (SLC: D520A) 302-739-4553 (voice) 302-739-6126 (fax)</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: kathie.cherry@delaware.gov</p> <p>Check out the NEW DeLAWARE DisABILITY HUB website</p>

6/9/2020	Sherry Long	<p>While I appreciate a special committee taking time to review needs for the reopening of schools... I wonder if we could possibly get teachers and administrators to let us know the challenges already faced thus far.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/9/2020	Dale Dunning	<p>Good Day,</p> <p>I hope this message finds you well; I think COVID19 is still a real threat and will be for the coming school year. Even if schools reopen, we are not comfortable sending our daughter to classes onsite. With this, what options are available for parents like us; will the school district continue to offer remote classes for the 2020-2021 school year? I'm certain there are others who feel this way.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/9/2020	Meg Geisewite	<p>Hi,</p> <p>As most parents, I want my kids to go back to school, but what will change between now and then? I find it strange that people think this virus will just go away or lessen with time...it will not. I for one will not be sending my kids back to school in the Fall, unless they are vaccinated.</p> <p>This is the ONLY way or change that will happen to stop the spread, everything else is too risky. My husband is immunocompromised and I cannot take that risk.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration of continuing schooling from home until they are vaccinated.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
6/9/2020	Sue Smith	<p>NO Comments - Attachment Only: Scenario 1</p>
6/10/2020	Ann Pollock	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>As a parent of two students in the Red Clay Consolidated School District (HB du Pont Middle School and AI High School) I wanted to reach out as the process of school re-openings for the fall are being discussed and considered. I am fully in support of schools reopening and getting students back full time into schools buildings for the new school year.</p> <p>The past 12 weeks have been very difficult for all and when the situation of school closures was suddenly enforced I more than appreciate the hard work that teachers, schools and district staff have put in to y and keep the students engaged but it has been hard on all and it is not only the face to face teaching that mine and every student has missed out on, school is so much more. I fully supported that we all needed to stay at home to flatten the curve and not overwhelm health professionals, and this goal has been successfully achieved and this is being evidenced by the current phased reopening of the state. The next steps are in place with increased testing and contract tracing, and a good stock of needed medical supplies which I know were some of the key things required for school openings to be considered. I have been following the rt live rate and thankfully in Delaware the rate has been ranging between 0.81-0.84 since April 21, 2020 which is another good indicator as to where we are.</p>

		<p>Looking at the daily Covid-19 data in Delaware, school aged individuals are small percentage of all positive cases to date and not withstanding underlying health issues are not in the at risk category for deaths. Whilst any death is tragic the majority (80%) of deaths have been in the older community 65+ and those living in long term care facilities and/or with underlying health issues. This demographic needs to be considered when looking at the school reopening.</p> <p>The newer studies being published by the CDC and WHO are also showing that whilst Covid-19 is of course a transmittable disease but transmission from surface contact is not the major spreader, and that following good personal hygiene and avoiding touching faces including eyes and mouth are all key steps and easy to achieve. These steps are no different to practices in place when flu season or GI illnesses hit school communities. Many reputable doctors from around the world are now stating that the virus as it changes is becoming less potent with the risk of serious complications and death being reduced.</p> <p>The bigger picture of the impact on students and their mental health has to be addressed, as even happy and mentally healthy students are suffering and this needs to stop. The students (as long as the curve stays flattened) need to be back in school buildings able to be taught in person, work with their peers, and engage in activities schools have to offer – sports, marching band, music to name a few. These things cannot be replicated via distance learning and the thought of having to motivate students to continue remotely in the fall is unimaginable at this time. There has to be a way to safely get students back where they belong and to continue their learning rather than being in the holding pattern of maintaining their learning which they have now done for the past 12 weeks. I have heard rumors about split days or part weeks and while every option needs to be considered I am unsure as to feasibly how these are going to be managed especially with middle and high school schedules, and again the impact on the students would not be favorable.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>
6/10/2020	Ryan	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I've been listening to the public meetings, and I think there is a false assumption that most students can still learn effectively through distance learning.</p> <p>Some of the concerns have been brought up, but it doesn't seem to make any difference to the draft recommendations. In reality, very few students can learn as well at home as in the classroom. To do so, the parents need to have high speed internet, each child in the home needs their own computer, at least one parent can't be working, they need to be responsive to learning through videos and online, and for elementary students, the parents need to be able to teach.</p> <p>And that doesn't even include learning that can't happen at home, like hands-on learning in labs or any of the activities in the vocational schools, or music classes, physical education, drivers education, etc.</p> <p>I hope that as the groups debate options for education, they really take into account that closing a school deprives most of the children of education and a stable social environment.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

6/10/2020

Katie
Wisniewski

To the Academics and Equity Working Group:

My name is Katie Wisniewski, and I am an elementary special education teacher in the Christina School District. I have been listening to the working groups, and I think there are three major areas that need to be addressed in this working group:

- 1.) State assessments need to be waived or exempted for the 2020-2021 school year. Districts, schools, and teachers will need flexibility with curriculum pacing and remedial instruction to account for the school closures this school year. Additional time will be needed in districts that had higher rates of students who did not have reliable, consistent access to remote learning frameworks. Waiving state assessments would allow for schools to provide adequate instruction on the missed content without also trying to fit in the entire curriculum for the current school year prior to mid-March. In addition, students would greatly benefit from the additional two weeks of instruction they would have if this time was not used for assessments in the spring.
- 2.) A great deal of focus should be placed on supporting districts that do not have 1:1 technology. In the meeting, we heard from people representing districts that had great success with remote learning and were able to regularly have students complete remote assignments. In Christina, we do not yet have 1:1 technology. This will be detrimental in both remote learning and in-person learning scenarios. First, per CDC recommendations, students should not be sharing devices to prevent spreading the virus if we are conducting in-person instruction. As of now, we do not have 1:1 devices, so this would mean that no students would be able to utilize technology. This would be a major point of inequity between districts that already have 1:1 technology. Second, the purchase of 1:1 technology would support the smooth transition to remote learning should a second wave of the virus happen.
- 3.) A plan should also be discussed for how we are going to support students who do not have access to WiFi. A better plan must be created than doing generic packets or having them go to a parking lot to access WiFi. Again, if we are focused on equity, time needs to be spent on solutions for these students to ensure that they are able to access the same educational opportunities as students who do have access to the Internet at home.

A few more thoughts:

Schools will need additional funding. We need to be able to hire staff to do additional welfare checks on students who teachers have not had success contacting. We need funding to buy additional cleaning supplies. Currently, we ask families to donate Clorox wipes and tissues. With additional health concerns, I believe that these should be supplied by the districts, which will require additional funding. We will need additional counselors to help support students who have trauma from this school closure time and health emergency. We will need additional staff to provide enhanced remediation small groups to account for the regression students will have from the time off of school, as well as staff to reduce class sizes to enable social distancing.

I also believe that some models should be presented as examples to districts of how hybrid learning could take place. This will give districts some direction when making these decisions for their unique structures. For example, I have read about some states that will have half the student body attend on Mondays and Wednesdays, and do remote learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The other half of the student body would have the opposite schedule. Then, they would use online learning programs (like iReady or Dreambox, or online test prep for secondary students) on Fridays. Teachers would create the remote learning lessons, activities, and videos on Fridays for the upcoming week. This would reduce the number of students on buses and in classrooms each day

		<p>without requiring substantial restructuring at the district level.</p> <p>I am excited to continue to discuss how we can support ALL students during these unprecedented times!</p> <p>Please contact me with any further questions.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
6/10/2020	Brandon Bushong	<p>If the state is attempting to get everyone to simply pull their kids out of local schools or move to other states that are fully opening, the first 4 meetings have done a great job pushing parents to the point of frustration where they will homeschool.</p> <p>The kids have to be back in classrooms in the fall. Expecting kids to be in a Zoom session again a few hours a day is simply outrageous.</p> <p>It would be nice to have a public meeting where parents can express their opinion.</p> <p>The kids are falling behind. Open the schools.</p>
6/10/2020	Marianne Moore	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing as a parent and an educator. I am sure you have been given the information I am about to give you already, but I would be remiss if I didn't make an effort to reach out.</p> <p>Without school and organized sports many high school students have already become involved in risky behavior that they most likely wouldn't have experimented with if school and sports had been in session. Please be sure to weigh the risks carefully. 99% of students would not be significantly impacted from Covid-19, but they certainly will from drug use that is already happening due to lack of supervision.</p> <p>Depression in teens is on the rise, thankfully things are opening up and that should help, but virtual school was a disaster and had a greater negative impact on our already underprivileged population.</p> <p>As a parent of teenagers I can also assure you, trying to social distance in school may help make people "feel better", but these kids will all get together after school. Pushing basic hygiene practices is a much better idea. I watched six teenagers go into a store where only one had a mask. They simply took turns going in, getting their items, coming out and passing the mask on to the next teen. This is not uncommon and will be an issue later. These kids would have been better off being able to go in without a mask and simply washing their hands or using hand sanitizer.</p>

6/11/2020

Tiffany
Rumbley

Hello. I am all in for reopening schools requiring face masks & hand sanitizer. I also approve of the scenario of desks 6ft. Apart in classrooms not just for health reasons but to limit cheaters, bullying and other distraction. The reality is most classrooms hold 25-30 students in their classes and it may be impossible to do that. Not to mention science rooms or hands on learning where it may be impossible to move tables, equipment. I do think the idea of breaking up classes in half and alternating weeks could work. Say classroom has 30 students total, separate 15 chairs in classroom 6ft apart then week one 15 kids come in class. Week 2 the other 15 come to class, repeat. Other questions to consider How to separate in a cafeteria when coverings are removed to eat? In reality multiple classes eat at same time. Will gym activities be changed because of mandatory masks? It is hard to breathe in them especially after running. Consider those with respiratory problems like asthma. How would class line up happen? Especially if multiple classes move at same time? I do not see remote learning working for an entire school year. Consider limited access to the net, parents working, technical difficulties or not enough devices. Then there is timing of meetings. Since remote learning began the zoom meetings were never consistent. If it must be an option then zoom meetings should be at same time and days. Parents and kids have lost track repeatedly of when to log in. My daughter who never misses regular school classes began missing zoom classes due to confusion. Had to make them up. The only pro to zoom meetings for us was they started at 9 or 10am. I think for regular school you should consider starting school at these times. The benefits are they will be more awake, more prepared to learn and less grumpy from waking up too early. Also it gives them plenty of time to eat breakfast and change clothes or do morning routines. We hate rushing to the bus stop which we have a mile walk to get to. The last thing on my mind is the remote learning packets. Not all parents understand this common core new learning. If we don't understand it how will the children learn this if they don't have a teacher going over this weekly? It seems like they were given the packets " Here figure it out on own." How the bleep are kids with learning disabilities supposed to do these packets? That was the biggest struggle with my son. He is at a 1st grade level when he is going to 5th grade. He doesn't understand math equations, still learning to read but difficulties with comprehension. He has become angry and refuses to do homework/ class work within the last couple of weeks. If packets are to be continued then make a separate set for IEP students that is very basic or to their academic levels. I do not need a response back. These are just my thoughts. I believe I am still entitled to free speech. Thank you.

6/11/2020

Terri
Wallace,
MSN, RN,
NCSN

Good afternoon,

I am also on a local reopening committee for schools and the group I am working with has brought up a thought, so I want to bring this to your attention as well.

The scenario starts with:

Often secretaries cover the front desk for one another during lunches and breaks. When on secretary leaves and another person comes to sit at the desk, the desk will need to be cleaned.

I can tell you from working in a school, the custodial staff will not come to clean a desk, phone, keyboard, chair, each time a person wants to take a break.

I have often seen this in the school where a person will say, "that is not my job" if someone asks a person to do a task that is not in their contract, they will call their union. A meeting is then scheduled and this just gets out of hand.

How can we encourage people that this is a different time, we need to take responsibility and clean up after ourselves, whether it is usually our job, or not in our job description. We may be doing a few more tasks that we are used to. Can a directive come from the State of DE?

Second question or thought:

At the school I work in, I often have cleaning supplies in my office that comes out of my budget. Staff often come to the nurse office to get cleaning supplies, wipes for diaper changes, and gloves.

With the increase in need for these supplies, will the CARES ACT, will there be an increase in budget for the nurses? Or will Custodial be in charge of ordering new/more supplies, or will each department be responsible for purchasing the extra needed cleaning supplies? How will this work?

Staff will need to be made aware that the nurses PPE was order for Nurse use only. We will NOT provide for everyday use in the classroom.

Realizing that we are in a pandemic and nurses are trying to limit visitors, to keep transmission of illness to a minimum, there may need to be a relocation of supplies so staff are not in the nurses office as much.

Another thought comes to mind as this often happens in many nurse office across the state. A parent puts their sick child on the bus after giving them a fever reducing medication and says to their child, "try and make it at least half a day, so you are counted as being in school". The student appears in the nurse office after lunch not feeling well, they have been sitting in class all morning sharing germs all morning and now it is lunch time. They come to the nurse office and as the nurse calls the parent, they either do not answer since they are expecting the call and are avoiding answering the phone, or they do answer and say, "sorry, I don't have a car" or "I am at the doctor's office right now" or some other excuse. Then they proceed with, "just let them rest in the nurse office for the rest of the day and send them home on the bus" How can we avoid this scenario this year?

Have we thought about the classroom cleaning machines that Colonial School District uses?

The Colonial School District has been using the Protexus wand to disinfect its classrooms to prevent the spread of germs that could lead to illnesses among students and staff.

Thank you for your thoughts on these questions and I look forward to hearing the responses.

6/11/2020	T.H. Leighty	<p>I have several questions regarding the reopening of schools that I hope will be addressed by these committees.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I hope that the State of Delaware will suspend State Testing in all forms for next year unless we go back to school under normal circumstances. I believe that it would be wholly unfair to students, teachers, and schools to use any of this data to make informed decisions. Will test testing be in effect next year? 2. I hope that the State of Delaware will scale back or suspend teacher evaluations for the upcoming school year. Unless we go back to school under normal circumstances. The idea of holding Teachers accountable for student learning considering teachers are still in the process of learning, on their own, how to teach online. Students are learning, on their own in some cases, how to learn at home. So will teacher evaluations be in effect next school year? 3. What will the State of Delaware's position be toward holding students accountable this upcoming school year? Unless we return to a normal teaching situation how will the State support Districts and Schools that hold students accountable for work that is not done or incomplete? <p>Thank You</p>
6/11/2020	Sue Smith, M. ED, BSN, RN, NCSN	<p>Resources for families:</p> <p>Information for parents to help support our parents/families</p>
6/11/2020	Stewart Ramsey	<p>I run a farm and we do educational field trips for students – Pre K through 12th grades</p> <p>Have any decisions been made or other guidance about the likelihood that students will be allowed to attend/travel to off site field trips?</p> <p>As you can imagine any information would be greatly appreciated to help US plan for the fall – including investments in material and resources to do field trips</p> <p>Thanks for anything you can share with myself and others</p>
6/11/2020	Eul Lee	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Is there any plan for temperature check stations at the bus drop off points or at the pick up?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

6/11/2020

Maria
Weeks
MSN, RN

Hello,

I am a nurse in the Christina School District. I first would like to thank the Operations and Services Committee for your organization, knowledge, and preparation before these meetings. I am concerned that Health & Wellness has largely focused on SEL, and not actual health issues. The recommendations made by H&W regarding transportation were reviewed tonight by O&S, and many were contraindicated due to health and/or safety issues.

Also of concern, there seems to be little involvement/input/guidance on these committees from DPH. First and foremost, this is a health crisis. The health aspect impacts all areas: transportation, nutrition, facilities, sports etc. I hope to see more involvement from DPH, providing standard health related protocols for everyone to use across the state so we are all on the same page. Things are changing as we learn more about COVID-19. Consistency is key so people know every school across the state is following the most current guidelines to keep children and the community safe.

A point brought up tonight in Operations & Services involved the impact of a positive case in a school. Questions included : Does a classroom get excluded? How many cases are there before a building needs to close? How about kids on the bus with the child who tested positive – do they stay home if school remains open? I will add my questions as a nurse here. How are we even finding out if someone is positive? Are we relying on self-report from families and staff? Will schools be receiving notifications from public health? Will there be a designated and readily available contact for schools at DPH when questions arise? These are just a few of the public health issues we are facing. We should be getting guidance from DPH as these frameworks are created.

Tonight, there were multiple comments about adding additional work to custodians who have a full schedule of building prep for fall. Think of that at the school administrator level. State workgroups are creating “frameworks” for WHAT to do, with no focus on HOW. Our district group is doing the same. Valerie Longhurst brought up a very valid concern on Tuesday night, essentially stating that HOW is important. A framework is useless if it cannot be operationalized. School based administrators have a very full schedule in the summer during the best of times and these are not the best of times. They will be responsible for operationalizing what comes out of the state and district committees. That is a huge job and time is short. Some will need more help than others. The more information that can be provided to school based administrators, including clear guidance of what is required/non-negotiable/best practices, the better.

I strongly encourage you to consult the State Lead Nurse Group also. Nurses across the state have been researching these topics for months and even submitted information to DOE.

I have attached a few guiding docs that might be helpful if you have not seen them already:

[CV-19 CHOP Policy Lab](#)
[CY-19 Missouri Reopening](#)

As I listen to these meetings, I can hear people are scared. Imagine how our kids and families feel? There is so much information out there and it is overwhelming. In the CHOP document above there is a statement on page 1, paragraph 4 that I will summarize: As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there will be a risk of spreading coronavirus at school. There are no strategies to completely prevent this. The goal is to keep the spread as low as possible so we can safely continue school activities.

		<p>We will see cases in schools. We need to have an actionable plan that is consistent across the state. It could literally mean life or death for colleagues, students, and community members.</p> <p>Thank you for your work during these challenging times. Please feel free to contact me with questions or to discuss further. Stay safe.</p>
6/12/2020	Sabra Collins	NO Comments - Attachment Only: SMART Center Return to Schools
6/12/2020	Shauna Goodman	<p>Hi and thanks for tracking public suggestions/concerns</p> <p>My concerns School cleaning Playground equipment Social distancing Bus transportation Eating criteria</p> <p>My suggestions One suggestion might be to have a half-day schooling so that children don't have to eat in the school. This would also allow for half day virtual learning with a camera on the teacher so children at home are getting the same lessons. You could split the class into two and half to go in the morning and half to go in the afternoon.</p>
6/12/2020	Susan Houghton	During middle scenario where kids need to rotate classes, consider grouping students according to schedule, and rotate the teachers instead of the students. Each teacher could have a cart of their supplies. This would minimize how many rooms each student is in, and how much cleaning needs to be done at each desk area. This should work in general for core classes, but not that great for "specials" where the classroom is subject specific like a lab or music class. But even if you can only do it for part of their schedule, it would cut down on the number of people in the halls during class change time.