

CPCS Reopening Plan
Parents Questions & Answers

8-21-2020

We thank you for your continued support of the Crown Point Central School. We have had a tremendously positive response to our Reopening Plan. Parents were mailed a form to elect in-person or remote learning by 8/21. Please send that in by mail or by email ASAP to help us with classroom size and bus planning. The following is a list of questions and answers we have received this week, since the posting the Q&A on 8/17. If anyone has further questions, please call us at 518-597-3285 or email to info@cpcsteam.org

Again, thank you for support as we navigate through our CPCS Reopening Plan. We are excited to see your children on September 8th! We miss our Panther Family!!!

1. What you do if a 5 year old just won't wear a mask?

Answer: Masks are required on buses, in hallways and when social distancing is not possible. If someone cannot wear a mask, a doctor's note will be needed before they can attend. We will need to ensure the safety of all students and staff and may have to make accommodations of more mask time for the rest or spacing, etc. if someone is not wearing a mask.

2. Not clear if Gym is staying?

Answer: We will have physical education classes but they will look much different to comply with the guidelines. We know our students need to have physical activity and will do our best to make it fun and productive.

3. Are the school days going to be as long, or shortened?

Answer: Same times as in the past, except, no late run. School day starts at 8:10am and ends at 2:25 pm.

4. When will they get their schedules?

Answer: Grades 7-12 will be using the same rooms at each grade level throughout most of the day. Teachers will move to them for classes. Schedules will be finalized and given to students on the first day of school. We will be putting out more information about classrooms students should report to during the first week of September.

5. If we decline bus service, but have a car in the shop, are there options for transportation?

Answer: Unfortunately, if transportation is declined, it is for the first quarter until 11/6/2020. This is necessary so that our bus runs remain the same until then. There are no other options unless families can find another way to get the student to school.

6. Why isn't everyone required to wear masks except when eating?

Answer: We are complying with the guidance from the CDC, DOH and NYSED. Many concerned parents responded to our first survey that their child could not wear a mask for very long and that they would not be sending their students to school if masks were required all day.

7. How will they keep 6' of separation in a class of 20 students? Are the rooms large enough?

Answer: We chose all of our largest rooms to be sure we have the 6'feet distancing requirements met. Our class sizes range from 14 to 32 students. We do have the space we need. We are also going to utilize outdoor space as much as possible to get fresh air and to allow students a change of scenery from their classrooms.

8. Will students be able to get their personal items from last year out of their lockers?

Answer: Personal items were removed and sent home in May and June on the weekly bus runs. We will have student materials/books available for students to have in their new classroom space. Lockers will not be used for grades 8-12. If a student is doing remote learning, parents can call to make an appointment to pick up their child's locker items.

9. Besides opening windows, what provisions for ventilation are there? Is there mechanical ventilation anywhere? Everywhere? At what ACH? Is anyone familiar with the ASHRAE 62.1 requirements? Is more outdoor air being added due to COVID? If there is mechanical ventilation, are there filters? MERV13 or HEPA? Are there provisions for UV light treatment? Are portable air cleaners going to be used?

10. Does the school have code-required ventilation via mechanical ventilation or the ability to open windows?

Answer: We do have ventilation systems throughout the building. We have both local and outside service for our systems. There are several systems due to the number of expansions of our original building. The guidance recommends opening doors and windows for increased ventilation, which we will do.

11. Were the meetings on 7/23, 7/30, and 8/5 with just the task force? Or open meetings? If open, how were they publicized?

Answer: The Task Force meetings were first Regional and then Local. Reopening planning began as soon as we closed and regional meetings began in June. The Local Task force met on those dates, with other meetings by departments for other areas of the plan. Since March our monthly board meetings have been held in the Auditorium with public invited. Due to the message of staying home, we have been diligent about our communication with families through our Blackboard system of phone calls, texts,

emails and information sent home about our planning. Currently, our website contains numerous Reopening Plan documents and information. Please visit cpcsteam.org to view them. The specific details families need to know about rooms, arrival, dismissal, etc. will be communicated the first week in September.

12. How do you breathe healthy air in the building if people are not required to wear masks?

Answer: In compliance with current guidelines, people are required to wear masks when they cannot social distance. We are wearing masks when it is required to do so.

13. The CDC guidelines do not “recommend” masks if 6’ apart. But it states they “may be considered”. Why aren’t you requiring masks?

Answer: We are complying with the guidance from the CDC, DOH and NYSED. Many concerned parents responded to our first survey that their child could not wear a mask for very long and that they would not be sending their students to school if masks were required all day. In compliance with current guidelines, people are required to wear masks when they cannot social distance. We are wearing masks when it is required to do so.

14. So, anyone who is symptomatic will be tested? How long will turn around be? Will those exposed be quarantined, or stay to infect others if it is COVID?

Answer: Any testing is recommended by and done by a primary care physician, not the school. The Essex County Department of Health has responsibility to do tracing and quarantine. We will work closely with them. Please see the previous Parents Q&A posted on the website for much more information.

15. Why are you not requiring masks? Why are you not requiring masks? Why are you not requiring masks?

Answer: See question 6, 12 and 13 answers.

16. Can students wear face shields instead of masks?

Answer: No. Masks are required when social distancing cannot be met. If a child has a Dr. note for an inability to wear a mask, a face shield would certainly be a layer that would be better than no mask at all. Our hope is that with proper practice and training, it will be a rare exception that someone will not be wearing a mask. We ask that parents have children practice at home. Possibly wearing a mask while doing something they like to do will motivate them and build their tolerance of the mask.

17. How will CPCS/Essex County health decide when testing and contact tracing is required?

18. How is a “suspected case” defined? Anyone with any symptoms? What is “close and proximate contact”? Will other students in their room/cohort be quarantined until there is a negative COVID test?

19. Parents will be instructed to call their healthcare provider for what? To get a COVID test? Above the plan said CDC/NYSED were not recommending tests. If not for a test, then for what?
20. What does “have been diagnosed” with another illness? Do they have to have a flu or strep test come back positive? Or can a doctor just say, “Nope, not COVID. It’s a cold.”?
21. What counts as our “community”? Essex County? Crown Point? What counts as a “case”? What good does it do to close school for less than 14 days? What happens to the other students/staff who had contact with the infected person? Do they quarantine?

Answer: Please see previous Q&A for answer to this question. There are responsibilities of both CPCS and ECHD in the details there and a flow chart provided by our local health department.

22. Will the travel question include being in contact with someone who has been to a state on the list? What happens if they answer yes?

Answer: The questions required by the guidance will be followed.

23. Besides hand washing for physical activity, what provisions are there to stop the spread?

Answer: Hand sanitizer is to be used when hand washing is not available. There are more strict guidelines for physical activity being at 12 feet apart as well.

24. Must visitors wear masks? What does “follow regulations for wearing protective equipment” mean?

Answer: We will be allowing visitors on a very limited basis. They will be required to follow all screening requirements, wear a mask and any other precautions deemed necessary.

25. What does “Classroom expectations which pertain to expanded mask wearing will be considered, as needed” mean? What will trigger this?

Answer: This means, we may have instances that we have to consider expanded mask, or more spacing options. For example, if someone by Dr.’s order is not wearing a mask, we will need to meet compliance by requiring either more mask time or more space to ensure safety of all.

26. Are there provisions for dividing classrooms, etc., plexiglass panels?

Answer: We did not have to divide classrooms. We chose spaces large enough to accommodate class size without dividers.

27. How are you going to assure 6’ separation in classrooms and when eating?

Answer: Students will eat in classrooms or other spaces that are set up to meet the 6’ social distancing requirements.

28. CPCS School Re-opening Continuum-What defines the various levels? E.g. why are we Level 2 and not Level 3?

Answer: We are level 2 in-person grades K-12. We plan to have students attend every day of the school calendar. We will have some students learning remotely by choice. The level 3 plan would be one that includes a hybrid of schedules like rotating days for certain grades on certain days of the week, etc. Level 3 is in-person but not every day based on the school setting up a hybrid attendance model. CPCS is Level 2.