

Newtown Public Schools

**Re-Entry Wellness & Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting
June 30, 2020**

Minutes of the Re-Entry Wellness & Mitigation Subcommittee meeting on June 30, 2020 at 8 a.m. by video-conference

Attendees:

Anne Dalton
Michelle Ku
Lisa Kilcourse
Kerri Sommer
Karen Powell
Donna Culbert

Guiding documents for Health and Wellness:

American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC recommendations, Connecticut State Department of Education

Highlight Items of Immediate Importance – Decisions that will need to be made sooner rather than later

Ventilation –

- UV lights not recommended in schools (AAP); whether this refers to UV in the room or within ducts is unclear
- Building check prior to opening – ventilation and other systems (contracted service?) recommended to happen early
- Ventilation (CSDE, p.9)
- Will fresh air be a part of ventilation plan? Fresh air is recommended, but has been discouraged in the past due to interference with building HVAC

Touchless fixtures

- Doors – the group discussed whether it was important to have touchless door operation as much as possible, particularly at the building entry/exit and bathrooms; the alternative is to emphasize the hand sanitizer use at the door and increased surface cleaning.
- Bathroom fixtures, trash cans, paper towels – as much as possible (CSDE, p.10)
- Hand sanitizer dispensers - hallways, cafeteria, entrance/exit

Plexiglass Shielding

- Locations where this will be needed – offices (main office, nurse, guidance, counselor, library, security stations). Plexiglass stands are practical for desks.

Cafeteria Use

- How to manage classroom lunches. The MS/HS cafeterias will not provide enough space for social distancing (especially without masks while eating) in full lunch waves. Yet cleaning, staffing, and allergy management will be challenging in classrooms.

Social Distancing

- Will kindergarteners have desks (these would help students maintain distance)
- Markings on the floors

Water fountains

- Water fountains should not be used except if they can serve as water-bottle filling station
- Filling stations and access to water should be available - particularly important in schools with no air conditioning

School Liaison (CSDE, p.7)

- Designation earlier rather than later is important
- Needs to be well-communicated
- The need to send out information early (how to get students used to wearing masks)

School Based Health Center

- Can help with getting students up-to-date on immunizations (as well as local pediatricians)
- In other communities, they are doing COVID testing. Would it be possible for them to provide testing (for students outside of MS?)
- Anne Dalton will ask Melanie Bonjour about the possibility of SBHC COVID testing

Temperature screens in school

- Not required in the CSDE Guidelines. In the schools, as a daily screen on all staff and children, will be a challenge. Not effective/practical in school as an entry screen, but education/communication to parents and staff about health screening, including taking temperature, each day and staying home is important (CSDE p.9), and offering thermometers to families could be effective. Staff will need to be (and likely will be) hyper-vigilant. School nurse should be the one taking temperatures when needed.

Bus Monitors

- Needed initially at least to help students learn new expectations. Kindergarteners will need help.

PPE

- Lead time needed for purchasing
- What kind of PPE has been ordered?
- What will be requirement when teaching?
- Are Kid-sized masks going to be available?
- Will buses have a supply of masks?

Survey to find out how many students will be in classes and on buses?

- Social distancing will be affected
- Timing of the survey is important – answers may depend on current frame of mind – but staffing implications need to be addressed

Assignment for next meeting (July 8, 8am). Continue to fill in the spreadsheet, concentrating on columns E, F, and G with references where possible. Add more issues to the last rows (to preserve current numbering).

Michelle – lines 1-17

Karen – 18-34

Donna – 35-52

Kerri – 53-70

Lisa – 71-88

Anne – 89-102

Next meeting will be used to briefly review the spreadsheet and to focus on the contingency planning.