
Commack U.F.S.D. Board of Education

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
JULY 15, 2020



Criteria for Reopening Schools

On July 13, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced new, data-driven guidance for reopening schools in New York State. Schools in a region can reopen if that region is in Phase IV of reopening and if its daily infection rate remains below 5 percent, or lower, using a 14-day average since **unPAUSE** was lifted.

Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9 percent, using a 7-day average, after August 1. New York State will make the formula determination during the week of August 1 to 7.



Schools in Regions in Phase IV Can Reopen if Daily Infection Rate Remains Below 5 Percent Using a 14-Day Average



Schools Will Close if Regional Infection Rate Rises Over 9 Percent After August 1 (using a 7-day average)



Reopening Task Force

Envisioning the Reopening of Commack Schools Under COVID-19

The steering committee will identify items to consider related to the opening of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations will be made to the Superintendent for inclusion in a “Blueprint” for re-entry under COVID-19.

Our goal is to keep learning alive and our students connected while maintaining the health, wellness and safety of the entire school community.

Task Force Members:

Dr. Donald A. James – Superintendent of Schools

Jarrett Behar – Vice President Board of Education

Laura Newman – Assistant Superintendent for Business\

Jordan Cox – Executive Director of Instructional Services

Leslie Boritz – Principal Commack High School

Michael Larson – Principal Commack Middle School

Katherine Rihm – Principal North Ridge Primary School

Nicole Kregler – Director of Guidance

Richard Schramm – Director of Facilities

Eugene Girardi – District Physician

John Murray – Commack CTA President

John Kelly – School Psychologist

Diana Bishop – Nurse

Christopher Guiffre – Security

Instructional “Blueprint” for Reopening Commack Schools

2020-2021 Guiding Principles

The health, safety and security of our students and staff is paramount in the successful reopening of Commack Schools

It is critical to have strategies and supports for students, families and staff members in place for each phase of recovery (before reopening, immediately after reopening and long-term support).

Due to the loss of formalized education as a result of COVID-19, it will be necessary to deliver a program that ensures the successful growth of our students toward the end of the 2020 -2021 school year

It is necessary to establish a collaborative relationship with parents and the school community

Formal Guidance



Department
of Health



Districts have received formal guidance from the CDC, the NYS Department of Health and preliminary guidance from the NYS Education Department. Facets of this guidance were used in developing our protocols and plans for possible “re-opening.”

NYSDOH of Guidance:

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools MasterGuidance.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K%20to%20Grade%2012%20Schools%20MasterGuidance.pdf)

NYSED Preliminary Guidance:

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/2.%20Recovering%2C%20Rebuilding%2C%20and%20Renewing%20the%20Spirit%20of%20Our%20Schools%20School%20Reopening%20Guidance.pdf>

Health and Safety

Focused on preventive actions in schools:

Health Checks



- schools must instruct staff to recognize signs and symptoms of illness in students and staff, and health screenings per DOH guidance.

Management of ill persons

requires persons with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 to be isolated until they can be sent home.

Social Distancing

- schools must develop plans to maximize social distancing whenever possible.

Face Coverings and PPE

- requires students and staff to wear face coverings (or PPE based on job functions), per DOH guidance.

Health Hygiene

- schools must instruct students and staff in proper hand and respiratory hygiene and provide necessary supplies.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- reviews cleaning and disinfecting procedures for the school in accordance with CDC recommendations.

Commack UFSD Health Screening Protocols

Parents will receive notification through our COVID App with a form required to be completed related to health screening necessary to determine their child/children may attend school and should consult with a doctor.

Buses and vans will be at 50% seating capacity and all riders will be required to wear a mask.

Temperature Screening

Upon arrival, all students will pass through a temperature scanner and their COVID App form will be cross-referenced “an individual who screens positive for COVID exposure or symptoms must be immediately sent home with instructions to contact their Health Provider...”

NYSDOH Guidance:
Responsible Parties
should encourage
parents/legal guardians to
drop off or walk students
to school to reduce
density on buses

Temperature Sensors



Commack UFSD

Staff Health

Screening Protocols

- All staff will complete a Health Screening/Entry Requirements Questionnaire using our COVID App.
- All staff shall wear face coverings or PPE based on job function per NYSDOH guidelines.
- All staff are required to pass through a Temperature Scanner necessary to enter the School.
- Any person failing the health screening may not enter the building or return to work until medically cleared.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



Department
of Health



- 1. A staff member or student comes into direct contact (within six feet) with a person with COVID-19, they must report such to the school District.**
 - This is immediately reported to the Department of Health.
 - They are then disallowed from entering school property and would likely be self-quarantined by the Department of Health for 14 days.
 - Subsequently, if they had entered a school or building, said building would be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before students and staff would be permitted to return. This may call for the facility to be closed for a period of time.
- 2. A staff member or student with COVID-19 enters a school facility.**
 - This is immediately reported to the Department of Health and the school closed until the DOH assesses the situation and makes the appropriate recommendations regarding cleaning, disinfecting and possible self-quarantine of others and/or possible closing of the facility.

Classroom Social Distancing

Every classroom will have 10-15 students (depending on room size) so they can be seated according to the NYS Department of Health guidelines. (6 ft. apart)

Students will be required to wear face coverings when not seated at their desks (i.e. hallways, restrooms, common areas).

Phase 1:
Explore

Phase 2:
Reorient

Phase 3:
Normalize

Phase 1:
Explore

Phase 2:
Reorient

Phase 3:
Normalize

Social Distancing in Hallways etc.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All staff and students are required to wear face coverings.

Exceptions include:

- Those who are medically unable to tolerate a face covering
- While eating
- During instruction while seated (socially distant)
- Short breaks

We are asking students and staff to provide their own face coverings. However, in the event someone does not have an adequate face covering, the District will provide one.

Phase 1:

Explore

Phase 2:

Reorient

Phase 3:

Normalize

Phase 1:
Explore

Phase 2:
Reorient

Phase 3:
Normalize

Health and Hygiene

*Wash your hands, wash your hands,
wash your hands! – Dr. James*

- Students and staff will be trained on proper hand washing techniques and frequency.
- Ample supplies will be provided in classrooms, bathrooms and hand sanitizing stations.
- Students and Staff will be required to sanitize and/or wash hands upon entering the building.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Our Schools

- Cleaning Schedules
- Daily Logs
- Redeployment of Staff

Our facilities will be disinfected several times a day in accordance with CDC guidelines:

- Hospital Grade Disinfecting Solutions
- Electrostatic Disinfectant Sprayers

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



Department
of Health



Be assured we are doing everything the DOH and CDC indicates to keep our schools clean and healthy.

Such as:

1. Cleaning/Disinfecting of School Facilities: Our custodial staff have been and will continue doing an amazing job of assuring all classrooms, common areas, bathrooms and hallways are disinfected with hospital grade sanitizing solutions. Further, they are following cleaning protocols in all buildings based on the direction of the Department of Health and the CDC.
2. Hygiene: In addition, the Department of Health recommends maintaining healthy hygiene through regular hand washing. Therefore, our custodial staff has assured that every soap dispenser in every bathroom is full and check them throughout the day. When soap and water are not available, students can use hand sanitizer that is provided in school or they may bring in sanitizer themselves.

Reopening Schools

- Commack and Suffolk County are in the Long Island Region.
- The Long Island region is currently in phase 4.
- The Long Island rate of infection is currently below 5%.
- If the above holds true through the first week in August, it is expected the Governor will allow schools to reopen.



Schools in Regions in Phase IV Can Reopen if Daily Infection Rate Remains Below 5 Percent Using a 14-Day Average



Schools Will Close if Regional Infection Rate Rises Over 9 Percent After August 1 (using a 7-day average)

Parent Survey: Return to School

Provided students can return in the fall, would you anticipate allowing your child(ren) to return with the proper social distancing guideline?

2,085 responses

18.8% Unsure

77.6% Yes

3.6% No

Parent Survey: Ride the Bus

Provided students can return to the school buildings in September and transportation is provided following social distancing guidelines, how likely are you to send your child(ren) on the bus?
2,085 responses

Response 1	412	19.8%
Response 2	144	6.9%
Response 3	315	15.1%
Response 4	276	13.2%
Response 5	938	45%

Parent Survey: eLearning

In speaking with your child(ren) which of the following reflects examples of "engaging" eLearning experiences? (please select all that apply)

2,085 responses

Live interactive sessions with teachers	1445
Choice and flexibility in assignment selection	809 (38.8%)
Collaborative work, e.g. slides, docs, etc.	670 (32.1%)
Project based assessments presented in Google Classroom, but completed at home	591 (28.3%)
Lessons that were interactive using platforms including, Pear Deck, Nearpod, etc.	451 (21.6%)
Simulations	267 (12.8%)

Parent Survey: eLearning


Which of the following improvements would you like to see our district make as it relates to eLearning? (please select all that apply)

2,085 responses

More guidance on student achievement	1116 (53.5%)
	514 (24.7%)
Fewer assignments	418 (20%)
More assignments	355 (17%)
Increased feedback	959 (46%)
More live lessons per week	1281 (61.4%)
Provide a clear schedule	1432 (68.7%)
Post grades on Infinite Campus	840 (40.3%)



Traditional Brick and Mortar



Guidelines for social-distancing cannot be met, staffing and transportation to alternate sites cannot be provided.

- Students attend in-person Brick and Mortar Schools.
- Focus on core instruction, recovery of skills, and subsequent growth.
- Prepare staff, students and families to transition to eLearning in the event of a subsequent school closure.

PRELIMINARY

The Commack Model

Every Day Elementary, A/B Secondary School

1



Contingent on Resolving
Transportation Issues



Elementary Every Day On Site Instruction (Example)

- Elementary classes are divided into two groups (A & B)
- AM: Classroom teacher will provide group A with core instruction focusing on literacy and mathematics
- Lunch in Classroom or Designated Social Distancing Areas
- PM: Classroom teacher will provide group B with core instruction focusing on literacy and mathematics
- Special Area Classes, Enrichment, Movement in the Arts, Mandated Services, and time to complete reinforcement materials with support will be provided for Group A in the PM and Group B in the AM

Secondary Every Other Day On Site Instruction (Example)

- **On Site:**
 - 50% Capacity (students would attend every other day)
 - Extended Periods (teachers change classes whenever possible)
 - Students will be scheduled in “cohorts” and as often as possible remain in the same room throughout the day.
 - Lunch in Classrooms or Designated Social Distancing Areas
- **eLearning:**
 - Students will engage in live Virtual Electives, Art, Music, Health, PE, etc.
 - In addition, Students will complete reinforcement materials and engage in live virtual meetings.
 - Standardized schedules for virtual instruction will be provided to students.

The Commack Model

Transportation Alterations Necessary for The Commack Model

- In order to meet social-distancing guidelines, our buses can seat 22 Students per bus as depicted.
- In order to meet this guideline and have Brick and Mortar (in-school classes) every day K-5, ridership would need to be reduced by 50%.
- In an effort to determine whether parents would support this we will be sending a survey and opt-out of bussing form to parents.
 - *The opt-out of bussing would be for the 20-21 school year only.*

PRELIMINARY



Every Other Day K-12



If Option 1 is not feasible,
Option 2 will be implemented.



Elementary (Example)

- **On Site:**
 - 50% Capacity (students would attend every other day)
 - Students onsite would receive Core Instruction focusing on literacy and mathematics
 - Lunch in Classroom or Designated Social Distancing Areas
- **eLearning:**
 - Students off site would complete reinforcement materials (Virtual meetings and support with Teachers) and have virtual Special Area Classes
 - Standardized schedules for virtual instruction will be provided to students.

Secondary Every Other Day On Site Instruction (Example)

- **On Site:**
 - 50% Capacity (students would attend every other day)
 - Extended Periods (teachers change classes whenever possible)
 - Students will be scheduled in “cohorts” and as often as possible remain in the same room throughout the day.
 - Lunch in Classroom or Designated Social Distancing Areas
- **eLearning:**
 - Students will engage in live Virtual Electives, Art, Music, Health, PE, etc.
 - In addition, Students will complete reinforcement materials and engage in live virtual meetings.
 - Standardized schedules for virtual instruction will be provided to students.

In School Learning

- Training and instruction on health and hygiene protocols and procedures.
- Focus will be on core instruction, recovery of skills, and subsequent growth
- Build and develop strategies and supports for students, families and staff members for each phase of recovery (reopening, immediately after reopening and long-term support)
- Train secondary staff, students and families on remote learning for eLearning (off-site) days
- Prepare staff, students and families to transition to eLearning in the event of a subsequent school closure



Schools Will Close if Regional Infection Rate Rises
Over 9 Percent After August 1 (using a 7-day
average)

Long-Term Remote Learning (eLearning)

Standardization of Remote Learning

- Schedule
- Shift in Instructional Practice
 - Small Group Instruction
 - Mini-Lessons
- Attendance
- Participation
- Grading
- Assessments
- Communication/Feedback



- Block Scheduling Elementary – Live Virtual Instruction (Example)
 - AM: Live Core Instruction focusing on literacy and mathematics
 - Lunch
 - PM: Live Special Area Classes and All Support Classes
- Scheduling Secondary – Live Virtual Instruction (Example)
 - Course specific live lesson schedules will be developed and established for the duration of remote learning.
 - The majority of lessons will be live. However, some may be prerecorded, content and course specific.

Curriculum and Assessment Review: Relates to In-School or Remote

- We will assess all students regarding their academic and/or social-emotional indicators for the purpose of identifying students who are at-risk, and may require support that varies in terms of level, intensity, and duration.
- We will then engage general curriculum review panels to look at areas in need of adjustment, such as mathematics, literacy and science.
- Further, the Multi-Racial Curriculum Review Panel will utilize some of the assessment information as well as a complete review of our current ELA and Social Studies curricula to determine necessary adjustments, deletions and/or additions to assure a culturally diverse curriculum with a focus on multiple perspectives.
 - The panel chaired by Jose Santiago and Jordan Cox has solicited parents (134) , teachers, and administrative representatives and our first meeting is scheduled in August.



Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



Department
of Health



Other activities and events:

Field Trips: At this time, we have canceled all field trips until further notice.

Co-curricular Activities: We are making determinations regarding co-curricular activities (i.e. clubs, intramurals) on a case by case basis.

Athletics: A determination will be made by NYS Public School Athletic Association and/or Section XI regarding Athletics and the District will abide by that determination. If they determine Athletics will take place, parents that are uncomfortable may withhold their child by said athletics.

Large Group Events: All large group events have been canceled until further notice.

Community Use of Schools: All community use of facilities are disallowed until further notice. However, once permissible by the State, the District will begin to approve field usage.

School Visitors: Responsible Parties should limit on-site interactions (e.g., designating separate ingress or egress for faculty and staff, eliminating bidirectional flow of individuals to the extent practicable). As a result, we will limit visitors to essential and/or necessary functions (i.e. picking up your child). This means parents will not be present in classrooms, hallways or other areas.

Other Considerations Based on Task Force and NYSDOH Recommendations

Reimagine: In these constantly changing times we must adapt and provide virtual opportunities for our student population.

- ❑ Field Trips
- ❑ Assemblies
- ❑ Presentations
- ❑ Lunch
- ❑ Physical Education and Recess
- ❑ And more...



Proposed School Calendar Adjustment

Due to the significant amount of training, planning and preparation necessary to implement any of the models discussed in slide 20, it is necessary for us to adjust the school calendar.

At this time, we are recommending that September 8, 9, 10 and 11 are now designated as additional Staff Conference Days. Therefore, the first day of school for students will be Monday, September 14, 2020. This does not necessitate any additional changes to our school calendar at this time.

Please be aware we will send information for students and parents related to Chromebook distribution, logging into Google Classroom and suggested reading materials for use during September 8-11, 2020.

Questions from the Board of Education?



Commack School District

PUBLIC HEARING

DISTRICT-WIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN 2020-2021

District – Wide Emergency Response Plan

Purpose:

- Provide instructions, procedures and guidelines to all for the overall safety of students, staff and visitors in an emergency situation

Scope:

- For all buildings (including rental buildings)
- Each building will prepare a customized emergency plan based from District-Wide plan

Authority:

- District-Wide Incident Commander is Superintendent of Schools (or designee)
- Building Incident Commander is Principal (or designee)
- NYS requires all school districts to have written plan in place and review annually



Emergency Response Plan Process

July 15, 2020
Public Hearing

- Public Comment/Review begins
- Public Comment/Review closes on August 14, 2020 (30 Days)

District-Wide
Emergency
Response Plan

- On our website:
- Go to Homepage/District Office/District-Wide Emergency Response Plan
- Direct Link:
https://filecabinet4.eschoolview.com/0342523C-1FE3-434C-9AA3-FD74A03FF8C0/DistrictWideEmergencyResponsePlan20_21.pdf

Public Comments

- Email to:
 - Rschramm@commack.k12.ny.us

July 15, 2020 to
August 19, 2020

- Reviewed by District Officials and Various Staff

August 2020

- Administration Completes Review of District-Wide Emergency Plan
- Board of Education adopts District-Wide Emergency Plan



Emergency Response Plan

Conclusion of Public Hearing

