



## Review of 10/22/2020 Superintendent's Letter to the Community

### Travel Advisories

- Please continue to check the [New Jersey's Travel Advisory](#) list.
- As mentioned in our Reopening Plan, students and staff members returning from a state on the Advisory list must quarantine for 14 days before returning to school.
- Students may participate in remote learning during the quarantine period.
- In addition to the New Jersey Advisory, the CDC also provides [Travel Recommendations by Destinations](#) which lists countries under low, moderate, or high COVID-19 risk.
- We also encourage you to research your travel destination to see if they have their own quarantine protocols or travel restrictions which could impact your return to New Jersey.

### Quarantine

- The District will continue to follow our Department of Health's recommendation that travelers quarantine for 14 days after visiting a state on the Travel Advisory list, regardless of how long you were there.
- According to the Travel Advisory, quarantining is not necessary for those "who passed through a designated state for a period of limited duration (i.e. less than 24 hours) through the course of travel".
- Please note that this only applies to the course of travel.
- If you stay overnight at a hotel in a designated state, you still must quarantine for 14 days upon your return.
- As a reminder, quarantine keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home. For the health and safety of our entire community, please follow quarantine guidelines.

### Q&A

Is there a consideration to implement virtual learning for all for 2 weeks after the Thanksgiving Holiday?

- There are not any plans right now to implement remote instruction for the two weeks after Thanksgiving. Our remote plan will be implemented after the winter break. Remote 1/4/2020 - 1/18/2020, return to in person on 1/19/2020.

Are there Covid metrics that if we hit a certain percentage or number that the state or health department will shut the schools down?

- DOH recommends closing school when there are two or more positive cases within 14 days that are not related or that cannot be connected to a confirmed or suspected case. We have not had this at Lincoln Hubbard.

### Can you speak to the Standardized Tests and if there will be a review again on expectations?

- Per previous coffees - no update on Standardized testing at this time.
- I will be sure to advise when we receive word or updates from the District/State level.

### Substitute teachers/ Ability to have a substitute for Remote Learning Students.

To confirm - the application and role of substitute teachers in the current school model has been reviewed and established by the District.

- General - We will not be expecting subs to login and navigate Google Classroom. They do not have the training and there is a security issue providing account login information
- That said - we work to try and continue with our synchronous learning model when at all possible.*
- If we have an internal aide or staff member who is able to cover a class - they can login under their own account and join as a co-teacher in a Google Classroom (aor added by me - as I have access to all classrooms). This is because these staff members are District employees with their own Google accounts.*

### **BASIC -**

- As in the past, all teachers have a prepared sub folder in their classrooms with student information, seating chart, and basic plans. These folders are visible in your classrooms and labeled "Sub Folder"

### **Scenario #1 - Teacher knows he/she will be out and would like a sub - non District employee - to continue lesson content**

- Teachers will have a hard copy lesson plan for that day available and ready for the sub
- Teacher will post the similar lesson content and activities in the stream for remote students
- Remote students will work on the content at home, independently.
- A message from the teacher to the remote students should accompany the posted assignments to help them navigate the day.

### **Scenario #2 - Teacher is ill or has sudden matter where they can't prepare plans to send**

- Sub will use the "basic/prepared day lesson" lesson that will be in the Sub Folder
- Teachers will have a similar "basic plan" that they will click on/send through the class stream to remote students with a message for students to work on assignments
- Basic plans might include - independent reading, independent writing, practicing IXL/RAZ Kids, viewing SS/Sci video content. Studying words/vocabulary, Learning games***

### **Additional Notes:**

- To confirm again, the goal is to continue with synchronous instruction - if we are able to do so and have the personnel, this includes the Principal.
- If staffing on a particular day allows me to reallocate/reassign current personnel to achieve synchronous instruction - I try to do so.
- Finally - As this question can get raised annually - teachers also can get ill, have children that can get ill, experience family crisis or need to attend to personal matters within the school year.

Accordingly, they do have days within their contract that they are able to apply in such instances.

- We understand that our teachers are the experts, and our substitutes are there to do their best to not only cover the class, but keep the instructional pace going to the best of their ability and professional background.
- Our goal is to certainly do our best to continue with the level of instruction and application in the absence of a teacher, while also recognizing that teachers are also navigating circumstances and even challenges in their own lives. Ultimately, the application and assignments of substitutes falls under my oversight as the building principal - in tandem with the hiring process and guidance at the District level.
- In the event you have a question about a substitute matter - contact me directly.

Can you please confirm how far apart the children are during mask breaks? Is it 6 feet and how is distance enforced?

- Students are 6 feet apart
- Custodians have measured marked off at each location
- Students arrive in line order and have designated spots
- Mask Break Aide monitors and oversees. If needed - tell a student to stay on their spot
- Continue to reinforce distancing, monitoring

My kids complain about not having the ability to eat their snack and get outside when it is raining. It causes them anxiety to see it is raining out and they won't be able to get outside during school. Can anything be done about this? What is the plan as the weather cools more.

Snack

- Goal is to try and keep the students outside and engage in the outdoor mask breaks
- Again, doing our best to keep things going and be responsive to needs - including snacks - amidst the realities and challenges of the pandemic, trying to keep schools open and keeping everyone safe
- We are not allowed to facilitate snacks indoors - per the County Health Office
- We have continued to do our best - even during inclement weather - when I say inclement weather - I am speaking to downpours, winds, etc..
- Unfortunately, we keep losing tents that, even secured, are being destroyed by high winds.
- If there's a need to go indoors - due to inclement weather - we have approval for students of 3-4 to step into the hallway, 6 feet distance - remove mask and take a sip, etc. of their water.
- As far as the weather cooling and the approach of colder weather - like we do in any year - we expect to get kids out for breaks to the best of our ability- using below 32 degrees (including wind chill) as a guideline. We will most certainly do our best to get students outside, ultimately the decision is mine based on my review of the conditions. As mentioned in previous coffees - my decisions are based on my review of the conditions for both students and staff.
- Because we will continue with outdoor mask breaks to the best of our ability - students should be dressed appropriately - this is where we rely on the parents to do their best to support our efforts. Students are still coming to school in shorts, no jackets. This oversight begins in the home before a child steps out of the house or out of the car upon arrival.

### If schools close, will the teachers be teaching at home or at school?

- ❑ We have been working on contingencies already
- ❑ The format/finalization of school closure model - specifically for the teacher is not finalized, - but the groundwork has already been addressed in terms of surveying and preparing resources - such as tech - in the event there was a closure and teachers would not have access to buildings for a duration. Teachers and I have already discussed and we are coordinating at the District level.

I am so happy that grab and go has been offered to my children. At the same time I am surprised at how unhealthy some components of the meals are. Specifically high sugar content. Is there any plan to revamp the Districts menus?

### [From Pomptonian Food Service - Corporate Dietician](#)

- ❑ Serving healthy meals to students is a priority of the Summit School District.
- ❑ We are in unique circumstances due to the COVID-19 crisis, requiring the added logistics of feeding students while keeping them and the staff socially distanced.
- ❑ Due to this situation, we are serving breakfast kits in the morning and grab-and-go bagel and yogurt bags as an alternate lunch option daily.
- ❑ The Bagel and Yogurt Bag is meant to be an option for students who do not prefer the daily special and ensure we have a vegetarian option daily.
- ❑ Our goal is to return to the wider selection of options the community is used to once the pandemic has passed.
- ❑ This transitions to your concern of sugar content.
- ❑ No more than 10% of calories should come from added sugar as opposed to total sugar.
- ❑ The breakfast kit, on average, contains 10-12 grams of added sugar, which is in line with the US Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- ❑ The juice does contain additional sugar, but it is naturally occurring sugar.
- ❑ The yogurt in the bagel and yogurt bag contains 14 grams of sugar, but out of the 14 grams, 10 grams is added sugar.
- ❑ The Bagel and Yogurt bag has less than 10% of calories from added sugar.
- ❑ As part of our Food Service Program we offer Interactive menus, which display the nutritional information.
- ❑ On a side note, Upstate Farms yogurt is local yogurt and is a cooperative of over 300 family-owned farms. Their website is informative: <https://www.upstatefarms.com/about>
- ❑ Please visit <https://summit.linqnutrition.com/> to access the lunch menus as well as additional information regarding the program