

Superintendents report Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Reopening of Schools Plan

The following is a shared statement generated by the CSIU.

“As a 5-county region, the 17 school districts and 3 CTEs that make up the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) have partnered with experts from Geisinger Medical Center and Evangelical Community Hospital to use local and global research and best practices, along with the most current recommendations from the CDC and PDE to create a regional plan to reopen schools for our 37,000 students and 4,000 educational staff members. The collaboration between the medical and educational communities will be ongoing throughout the duration of this global pandemic to inform shifts in the virus, as well as emerging medical trends. As a unified region we are committed to keeping our students and staff safe, while providing the highest quality education possible for our students and families in person and through virtual learning tools.”

Timeline for Line Mountain’s reopen plan:

- Ongoing joint local meetings with other local school district stakeholders sharing ideas and current best practices until the end of this pandemic.
- A regional Superintendent and stakeholders meeting for a work session facilitated by the CSIU on Monday, July 13, 2020.
- At the Tuesday, July 14, 2020 school board meeting review and approve a proposed reopen plan. This plan will be available on the district web-site for review and comments for 2 weeks.
- At the Tuesday, July 28, 2020 school board meeting have board discussion and public feedback on the proposed reopen plan. Upon completion of discussion and feedback approve the final reopen plan.

Current Goals of the plan:

- Plan to reopen school to all students and staff in person using the approved district calendar date of Monday, August 17, 2020.
- Maximize the protection of lives while minimizing educational and social disruption.
- Allow our district to operate as normally and effectively as possible.
- Develop a screening process for all staff and students each day using a tiered approach where most screening occurs at home and is reported through a system.
- Flexibility regarding attendance policies for students and staff to encourage anyone feeling ill to stay home as students and staff will be encouraged to stay home if feeling sick.
- Plan to isolate symptomatic individuals and send home.
- A plan to work with healthcare professionals and families on a case by case basis to determine what steps are required if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.
- Physically distance students and staff as much as facilities allow - limit/adjust procedures and activities where physical distancing is difficult.
- Require and enable students and staff to wash hands with soap and water or antibacterial gel thoroughly and often.

Reality and unpredictability:

The virus will not disappear by Monday, August 17, 2020; but, as being witnessed currently its level of spread may change. Realizing Covid-19 will be present throughout the foreseeable future and outbreaks may be determined and change as our community continues to reopen, flexibility will be an upmost priority. Although we cannot identify a finite number, the district's plan will be committed to adjusting its approach based on the reality of the virus' spread in the region.

The district continues to be thankful for your patience and understanding in these unpredictable times.