



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BRENTWOOD

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March 4, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As of Monday, March 1, 2021, Allegheny County officially transitioned from the substantial phase to the moderate phase of COVID-19 cases. With this transition, the attestation form (located on the COVID-19 tab of the district website) is no longer in effect. Kindergarten through fifth grade students returned to in-person learning four days a week in February. Allegheny County's transition to the moderate phase of COVID-19 cases now enables the middle and high school to reopen four days a week as long as the mitigation strategies remain in place.

On Monday, March 8, 2021, families in grades six (6) through twelve (12) will be asked to complete a survey for returning to school. All mitigation efforts will remain in place; however, six (6) ft of distancing will only be guaranteed in the areas designated for eating.

Families in grades 6-12 will be asked to select one of the two options:

Option 1- Attend school four (4) days a week in-person

Wednesdays remaining online for the remainder of the school year

* Modified 2020-2021 school schedule will remain in effect

Option 2- Attend online schooling five (5) days a week for the remainder of the year

* Modified 2020-2021 school schedule will remain in effect

The timeline for the transition will be as follows:

- Monday, March 8- Survey opens for middle and high school families
 - Wednesday, March 10- Survey closes at 7pm
 - Thursday, March 11- Wednesday, March 31- Preparing for additional students
 - Thursday, April 1- Monday, April 5- School Closed for Spring Break
 - Tuesday, April 6- All schools reopen four (4) days a week
- Wednesdays remain virtual for all students

Mandate Updates

The Governor also made the following changes to the statewide mandates:

a) Revised maximum occupancy limits for indoor events to allow for 15% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing, and hand hygiene still must be enforced. **The 15% of maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.**

b) Revised maximum occupancy limits for outdoor events to allow for 20% of maximum occupancy, regardless of venue size. Core public health measures such as face covering (mask-wearing), social distancing, and hand hygiene still must be enforced. **The 20% of maximum occupancy is permitted only if attendees and workers are able to comply with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement.**

c) Eliminate out-of-state travel restrictions. In November, the Department of Health provided an updated travel order requiring anyone over the age of 11 who visits from another state to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test or place themselves in a travel quarantine for 14 days upon entering Pennsylvania. **This order was rescinded.**

Standardized Tests

All school districts in Pennsylvania were notified that standardized testing will be required this school year. The standardized tests include the PSSAs for students in grades 3-8 and Keystone Exams in identified courses. Our administrators and professional staff are working to create flexible schedules to accommodate the tests.

Mass Vaccination for Staff

The Governor announced on Wednesday that mass vaccination clinics will be established for educators. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was designated to go specifically to educators so that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines may continue to go to Pennsylvania residents in the 1A category. The Johnson & Johnson clinics are expected to begin next week. To ensure that instruction is not substantially disrupted, teachers have been directed to post asynchronous lessons if their scheduled vaccination appointment is during the school day.

Due to the elementary teachers will be vaccinated at one time, it may be necessary to keep students at home for one to three days. If this is required, families will be notified as soon as possible. If your child(ren)'s teachers do not receive it next week, they will receive it in the second round which is anticipated to be held about three weeks from next week. We will keep families updated as this evolves.

End-of-Year Traditions

Many end-of-the-year traditions are also planned during this time, but due to the restrictions in place, we may not be able to celebrate them as we have in the past. Last year, we utilized videos and virtual ceremonies to celebrate our students' accomplishments. It appears that we may need to utilize these methods again this school year. We will continue to monitor the restrictions and will inform families of any changes.

Sincerely,



Amy M. Burch, D.Ed.
Superintendent of the Brentwood Borough School