



VCSD Reopening Steering Committee

August 11, 2021
1:00-3:00 PM



Agenda

1. 8/5 CDC Guidance; 8/10 SED Memo
2. Updates from the Operations Subcommittee
3. Updates from the Instructional Subcommittee
4. Questions/Discussion
 - a. Next Steps: Instructional Committee Will Meet Again on Friday, 8/13
 - b.



Operations Subcommittee Updates

- Both the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics are recommending that students be back in school in person. [Latest CDC Guidance](#)
- We are still awaiting guidance from the New York State Health Dept. regarding reopening guidelines. [Memo from Commissioner Rosa](#)
- Nationwide, about 80% of COVID cases estimated to be the Delta variant, which is about as contagious as Chickenpox. Some concerns expressed about more severe pediatric cases. The variants may behave differently.
- Members of the Operations Subcommittee seemed to lean toward masks for all when indoors, but no recommendation has been finalized and State and County Health Dept. guidance may have the final say
- Final social distancing requirements will be very important. If we're at 3 feet, then a full return to five days a week is doable.



Operations Subcommittee Updates (cont.)

- Extensive conversation about communication
 - Need to actively push out information
 - Parents/community need to understand the “why”
 - Need to stress that measures are to protect the health and safety of younger siblings and the community at large
 - Need to stress that measures are temporary and will be re-evaluated as the pandemic progresses and guidance from Health authorities changes
 - Need to be able to message by bus run, but Traversa (transportation) software does not communicate back to School Tool (and by extension, other communication applications such as Remind)
- There was discussion about whether temperature checks and daily screeners were needed. If they are needed, could the screeners be digital or a one time document signed by the parent/guardian for the entire school year?



Operations Subcommittee Updates (cont.)

- Facilities and transportation are struggling with labor shortages
- Facilities: Last year CDC eventually backed away from some of the more labor intensive disinfection guidelines. Ventilation has been maximized.
- Food Services: Remote meals will be challenging if also largely in person
- We have not received guidance on social distancing during lunch times.
- Athletics still plans to take same measures as last year (i.e., avoid unnecessary close contact, schedule games later to ease transportation needs, allow parents/guardians to transport student athletes to and from games)



Instructional Updates

- The Instructional Sub-Committee met on 8/5
 - [Brainstorming Around 3 Scenarios](#)
 - [Instructional Questions Document](#)
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- Next Steps
 - Instructional Subcommittee will reconvene on Friday, 8/13
 - If the District can attempt to outline at least tentative answers to the major health & safety questions, then the instructional subcommittee can begin digging into possible lesson structures for the three proposed scenarios
 - We envision creating a number of different lesson models that could be used as examples of deeper teaching and learning in the various contexts... There are plans to introduce these models on the September Superintendent's Conference Days
 - Draft "Minimal Expectations for Technology Integration" Memo



Upcoming Meetings

- August 12, 2:00-4:00: Operations Subcommittee
- August 13, 9:00-10:00, Instructional Subcommittee
- August 19, 4:00-5:00, Full Reopening Steering Committee



Important Links

- [8/10 SED Memo](#)
- [8/5 CDC Guidance](#)
- [June 7, 2021: Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [July 9, 2021: CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- [July 27, 2021: CDC Guidance: “When You’ve Been Fully Vaccinated”](#)