



Important Announcement: Expanding Daily In-Person Student Attendance

March 11, 2021

Dear Irvington School Community,

It is with great enthusiasm that I report that our planning process to increase daily student attendance has progressed well and concluded with recommendations for the full return to in-person learning in advance of the date that I previously communicated. While my recommendation will be formally presented to the Board of Education at a special meeting on Tuesday, March 16th, 7:00 pm, it was of great importance to me to provide the school community with a timely update.

The forthcoming recommendation will be to phase in full daily attendance, phase out Flex Wednesdays beginning March 22nd, and increase attendance for ICT students as outlined below.

Recommendation Overview

| | ICT students | Flex Wednesdays Phase out | Full Attendance* <u>See note below</u> |
|--|--|---|---|
| Dows Lane | √ | √ | March 22* |
| Main Street School | √ | March 24 - Cohort B to be in person for am only | April 7* |
| IMS/IHS | March 22 - all students with IEPs <u>in ICT classes</u> to attend 4 days per week until April 12 | March 24 - Cohort B to be in person for am only (Early Dismissal schedule with shortened periods) April 7 - Cohort A to be in person for am only (Early Dismissal schedule with shortened periods) | April 12† |
| 100% distance learning will continue as an option in a <u>revised capacity</u>; detail on this option will be provided. | | | |

*** All dates dependent on the timely delivery of desk barriers**

Health and safety precautions:

The District will continue to follow all health and safety guidelines established by the New York State and Westchester County Departments of Health. In doing so, the District will continue to enforce necessary quarantines and isolations and will fulfill its contact tracing requirements. The major shift in our plans are related to the shifts in social distancing requirements. Applying existing NYSDOH guidelines, the District will:

- No longer require six (6) feet of social distancing in classrooms. Rather, where necessary student desks will be no less than three (3) feet apart.
- Classrooms will maintain a six (6) foot buffer at the front of the classroom for teachers.
- Each desk will have a barrier installed to further protect students and staff members.
- Tents have been ordered to provide additional outdoor seating during lunchtime and to offer supplemental learning spaces.

To support the above-referenced modifications to the District's student attendance plans, the custodial team will perform extensive cleaning on a daily basis. Additionally, all school buses will be cleaned between routes as is currently performed.

Surveillance Testing:

The District will facilitate surveillance testing semi-monthly. Every two weeks, 5% of the students and staff members who are physically present on school premises will be tested. This means that a total of 10% will be tested monthly. The surveillance testing program will begin the week of April 12th. While more details will be forthcoming, please see the consent form linked below, which is required for our child(ren) to be tested.

To help support school operations with more people physically present on each campus, additional protocols will be put in place in each school that may introduce changes to hallway traffic patterns, mask breaks and elementary snack time. As it is expected that many parents will transport their children to school in personal vehicles, local traffic management plans are being finalized at each school, in partnership with the Irvington Police Department. Details regarding the traffic management plans will be communicated directly to you by your child(ren)'s school principal.

In the coming days, parents will receive a survey that **must** be completed. This survey will seek your formal commitment to in-person or distance learning and, for those eligible for transportation, a determination as to whether your child(ren) will ride the bus will be needed. Additionally, for students to participate in the surveillance testing program, a consent form **must** be completed.

Over the coming days and weeks, I will provide a number of important updates, some of which will require action on the part of all parents. So, please keep a close eye on your email for these communications. As always, please know that I continue to be appreciative of your support and grateful of the trust you have bestowed in the District's staff and in me.

Sincerely yours,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

