



ADVANCING SY2020-2021
EDUCATION SAFELY

Hybrid Learning Plan

Phase 1: PreK-2 Students

The Urgency of Now



- President Biden has made it a national priority to safely reopen our schools.
- While some students can thrive in a digital learning environment, many do not.
- The lack of in-person learning disproportionately harms low-income and minority children. **This means our most vulnerable children are falling further behind.**
- Escalating gun and domestic violence and feelings of isolation across our city are all tragic consequences of the pandemic, further threatening the health and well-being of our young people.
- Resuming in-person learning is a crucial step to help restore a sense of familiarity, community and connectedness for students.

Science Shows the Spread of Coronavirus In Schools Is Low When Precautions in Place

JAMA[®]

The Journal of the
American Medical
Association

Jan. 26, 2021

“The preponderance of available evidence from the fall school semester has been reassuring. There has been little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission.”

-- wrote three CDC researchers, JAMA

“The conclusion here is with proper prevention efforts ... we can keep transmission in schools and educational settings quite low. Even in places with high infection rates, there is no evidence that schools will transmit the virus at rates that are any higher than those seen in the general community. ”

*-- Margaret A. Honein,
lead for the CDC State and Local Health Department Covid Task Force*

We Will Phase Students in Slowly and Safely, Starting with PreK-2

- **PreK-2 students will phase in first.** Staff supporting PreK-2 students will return prior to students returning.
- Hybrid learning students will be assigned specific days for in-person learning 2 days/wk and specific days for digital learning 3 days/wk.
- Families can help support everyone's safety and well-being by ensuring their child comes to school for in-person learning only on their assigned days.
- Our goal is for other student groups to slowly and safely phase in as circumstances allow.



Teachers Will Teach From Their Classrooms Whenever Possible



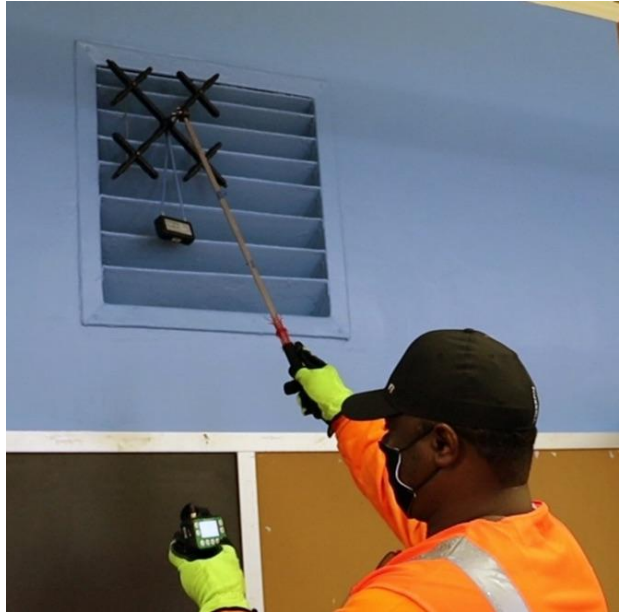
- New cameras and speakers are being installed in PreK-2 classrooms, allowing classroom teachers to effectively engage students who are learning in person and virtually.
- Other instructional models will be explored in instances where teachers have an approved accommodation and are unable to teach from the classroom.
- Our goal -- ***as much as possible*** -- is for students to remain with the teachers they have been with since the beginning of the school year.

We've Been Preparing Our Schools With Recommended, Proven Health & Safety Measures Since Spring 2020

- pre-screening requirements for students and staff
- PPE for staff & students to support mandatory mask wearing & facial covering
- New classroom, bathroom and cafeteria setups to promote social distancing
- plexiglass partitions in offices
- touchless hand sanitizer stations in all hallways
- touchless hydration stations in hallways
- maximum occupancy signs outside each room
- safety signage throughout
- enhanced cleaning protocols using EPA-approved cleaning products



Ventilation Assessments Have Been Completed for All Schools



- Ventilation systems are being repaired as needed to provide air flow in areas that did not meet ventilation standards.
- For rooms where window fans have been installed to support fresh air flow, the fans will deliver enough outside air to support safe occupancy for 18 people.
** Note: Social distancing guidelines would still be applied.*
- **Any room that we cannot ensure will meet ventilation standards for any reason will not be used.**
- School schedules are built to maintain all health and safety protocols, including complying with safe occupancy levels as informed by ventilation standards.
- School ventilation reports are available at www.philasd.org/aes.

We've Invested Over \$250 Million In 2020 To Advance Our Building Improvement Efforts

- Certified 28 more schools as lead safe
 - Total # of lead safe schools = 100
- Addressed asbestos at 183 schools, such as through abatement, remediation or repair projects
 - Removed over 229,000 square feet (five acres) and 77,000 linear feet (14 miles) of asbestos containing material from schools
- Completed major projects like new science and computer labs, bathroom renovations, locker installations, mechanical systems upgrades at 11 schools
- Modernized 147 early literacy classrooms in 11 buildings



Another Layer of Safety: Rapid Testing for Students

The School District is conducting symptomatic and asymptomatic testing.

- Testing is required for all students in grades Prek-2 participating in hybrid learning.
- Parents and guardians must consent to their child receiving a test for COVID-19.
- Student testing will be administered by school nurses.

Asymptomatic Testing

Identify COVID-19 in students who are not showing symptoms

20% of eligible hybrid-education students enrolled in the school will be tested weekly.

Students who are unable to wear a face mask or stay 6 ft. apart due to a medical or mental health condition or disability will be tested weekly throughout the duration of the school year.

Symptomatic Testing

Conducted when students are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19

Students who display symptoms during the school day, consistent with a COVID-like illness will be tested.

Another Layer of Safety: Rapid Testing for Staff



Onsite Asymptomatic Testing

All onsite staff will be required to get tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis upon students' return to buildings to ensure everyone's safety during this time.

We've contracted two trained health partners who will administer the COVID-19 tests, Docs Health and Wellness Coaches.



Symptomatic Testing

The district is providing the opportunity for staff and students who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms to be tested at no cost. This opportunity is for all staff - including those working virtually.

This opportunity will be available at five accessible locations across Philadelphia in mobile units set up in parking lots. Locations will be shared next week.

With all these layers of safety in place, in alignment with CDC Guidelines, we can slowly and confidently welcome our students back to our classrooms.





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For videos, safety protocols, Q&As and other information
Visit: philasd.org/aes