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Subject **Superintendent Update**
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School Directors,

The attachment is a copy of the template PDE has provided all school districts to develop their Health and Safety Plan for reopening plans in the fall. Page three states the following:

All decision-makers should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities. All school activities must be informed by Governor Wolf's Process to Reopen Pennsylvania. The administration has categorized reopening into three broad phases: red, yellow, or green. These designations signal how counties and/or regions may begin easing some restrictions on school, work, congregate settings, and social interactions:

- **The Red Phase: Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning, whether using digital or non-digital platforms. Provisions for student services such as school meal programs should continue. Large gatherings are prohibited.**
- **The Yellow Phase and Green Phase: Schools may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health and Safety Plan, to be approved by the local governing body (e.g. board of directors/trustees) and posted on the school entity's publicly available website.**

Based on your county's current designation (i.e., red, yellow, green) and the best interests of your local community, indicate which type of reopening your LEA has selected by checking the appropriate box in row three of the table below. Use the remainder of the template to document your LEA's plan to bring back students and staff, how you will communicate the type of reopening with stakeholders in your community, and the process for continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments throughout the school year.

Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) designating the county as being in the red, yellow, or green phase. Some counties may not experience a straight path from a red designation, to a yellow, and then a green designation. Instead, cycling back and forth between less restrictive to more restrictive designations may occur as public health indicators improve or worsen. This means that your school entity should account for changing conditions in your local Health and Safety Plan to ensure fluid transition from more to less restrictive conditions in each of the phase requirements as needed.

As you can see there are 22 requirements that have been addressed with 66 recommendations on how best to create a safe environment for students. These recommendations are based upon a school district being in a yellow or green phase. A red phase situation closes schools and we would transfer to online learning. These recommendations were a collaborative compilation of Dr. Damsker, the 13 Bucks County Superintendents, and Dr. Hoffman and his cabinet at the Intermediate Unit. On page 4 of the document (see below) you will see the four possible types of reopening scenarios school districts are preparing for based upon the current county designation of Red, Yellow, or Green. All districts are anticipating option one to be the designation based upon a yellow or green phase scenario in the fall.

Based on your county's current designation and local community needs, which type of reopening has your school entity selected? (SELECT ONE BOX BELOW)

- Total reopen for all students and staff (but some students/families opt for distance learning out of safety/health concern).
- Scaffolded reopening: Some students are engaged in in-person learning, while others are distance learning (i.e., some grade levels in-person, other grade levels remote learning).
- Blended reopening that balances in-person learning and remote learning for all students (i.e., alternating days or weeks).
- Total remote learning for all students. (Plan should reflect future action steps to be implemented and conditions that would prompt the decision as to when schools will re-open for in-person learning).

Anticipated launch date for in-person learning (i.e., start of blended, scaffolded, or total reopening):

(INSERT DATE)

We will be prepared for all scenarios. Currently we have 4 committees working on this document from their various employment perspectives. Examples of committee representation include transportation, FEMO, HR, Business Office, teachers, administrators, athletics, special education, nurses, social workers, and parents from across the district including all grade levels. These committees had a leadership meeting with me last week and those leaders will be contacting and holding meetings within their own committee groups this week. These committees will review current attached recommendations and suggest additional recommendations that may need to be included.

We will have our plan prepared for the school board to examine in early July and upon review discuss an appropriate adoption at either our July or August meetings. PDE has also stated they plan to introduce education guidelines within the next three weeks which we will have to review and gain an understanding as to any additional requirements we may have to consider and add.

So, where are we currently? I believe we are in a good place preparing for the fall. I am not in a hurry to rush these plans. Our intention is to get it right and work with each other, the board, and community clearly communicating our plan. I will continue to update and inform the board and community as we progress but will not send out information due to public pressure and what others are doing. Our task is to do what is best for the Central Bucks School District and that will remain our intention. I can express to all of you we are not behind and quite frankly we are in a good position to move forward. We have consistently communicated and moved our progress forward according to the phase we are assigned. As we moved into **yellow** we have opened our three stadiums for public use, opened our tennis courts and playgrounds. I will have an athletic plan according to PIAA guidelines for the board to review this week with the intention of placing it on our June 23, 2020 agenda for approval. If the athletics plan is approved our athletic teams will be allowed to begin their practices according to the plan guidelines on July 1, 2020.

These steps are progressive and in line with current guidelines that have been given to all districts across Pennsylvania. I will continue to communicate to the school board our plans as we progress and update our public as we move forward. I will prepare a detailed Superintendent's Report for the June 23, 2020 meeting and every remaining meeting throughout the summer communicating our plan to the community. I will continue to work with Angela and provide information and updates on a weekly basis to inform our community. I realize these are difficult and trying moments that have challenged us all. However, we also understand the expectations and are determined to meet every encounter head on seeking best resolutions to serve the needs of every child.

Lastly, thank you. I appreciate the support the board has given us over these last few months. I do not take it for granted that all of you have invested great effort and time to serve our school district and help us achieve successful outcomes for our students. I value your input, insights, and opinions and they are important drivers as we continue to work toward solutions that help our students and school district reach positive results. Simply, thank you I know if we continue to focus on what is best for children and work together we will remain a formidable team.

As always if you have any questions please call me.

Stay Well,

John

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