

## South Williamsport Area SCHOOL DISTRICT

# HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN SUMMARY FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has required that each school district create a Health and Safety Plan which will serve as the local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities. This plan, following PDE guidelines, is tailored to meet the needs of the South Williamsport Areas School District and the communities we serve. Consultation was provided through UPMC Susquehanna and other local health care providers. As we have seen since March, the pandemic and state directives in response to it, are dynamic. The plan seeks to incorporate enough flexibility to adapt to these changing conditions.

The health and safety of students and staff has always been our first priority. COVID-19 has necessitated a refocus to combating a virus and keeping it out of our schools and community. This plan creates a pathway for students and staff to safely return to school in the midst of this emergency.

We are committed to educating every student every day, but we also recognize that much of the pandemic is beyond our control. To ensure that their education continues, at the start of the school year, every student and teacher will be issued an iPad. These devices, along with expanded wireless connectivity, will ensure that teaching and learning continues whether in-person or working remotely. Students will be engaged in learning every day.

The district's health and safety plan will remain posted to the district web site. Building principals will follow with more detailed back-to-school directions for families and staff.

The district will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the plan throughout the year and make changes as necessary. A Pandemic Response Team of students, staff, and parents, will advise the administration and Pandemic Coordinator on the effectiveness of the plan and recommend changes. Hotlines and direct emails are being added to facilitate communication.

We recognize the reservations of returning to school. The first days will be anxious for all of us. The administration and staff are working hard to ensure that necessary changes are made to keep everyone safe and healthy so the education of students continues.

Sincerely,

*Mark Stamm*

Dr. Mark Stamm

Superintendent of Schools

# HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

## CLEANING AND SANITATION:

- The district will follow all CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting. More aggressive measures are being taken also.
- Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer will be available where needed beyond normal soap and water.
- Electrostatic spray disinfectants will be used in targeted areas daily and others as needed.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

- District will provide a face shield and a cloth face mask for every student and staff.
- Parents and staff are requested to maintain their own supplies of masks, but the district is working to maintain a stock for individuals when needed.
- Hand sanitizing stations are being installed in classrooms and hallways.
- Additional breaks / time will be allowed for handwashing during the day.

## TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL:

- To ensure accurate accounting of students on each bus, families will need to tell the district that they will or will not ride the school bus.
- Face coverings are necessary while riding the bus.
- Buses will be disinfected between the AM and PM bus runs and before / after any additional trips.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL:

- Parents and staff will be provided resources and asked to screen students / themselves at home for signs of illness before coming to school.
- To alleviate crowds of students, each building will use multiple entry points for arrival and dismissal. Students will be dismissed by groups to avoid congestion in hallways / lobbies.

## THE SCHOOL DAY:

- Every student and teacher will be issued an iPad to ensure learning continues every day.
- Beginning and end of the school day will remain the same for most students.
- No significant changes are planned to the school year calendar.

- Non-school visitors and non-essential school travel / field trips are restricted.
- Excess furniture has been removed from all classrooms to maximize spacing between desks.
- Facemasks are encouraged but are **not** necessary in classrooms or other spaces where 6 feet of social distancing can be maintained.
- Elementary students will have recess.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Additional seating / dining areas are now available.
- Facemasks are encouraged but are **not** necessary in dining areas while eating or where 6 feet of social distancing can be maintained.

#### **HIGH-RISK STUDENTS AND STAFF:**

- Individual meetings will occur with each family / employee who has underlying health conditions or other factors that need considered.

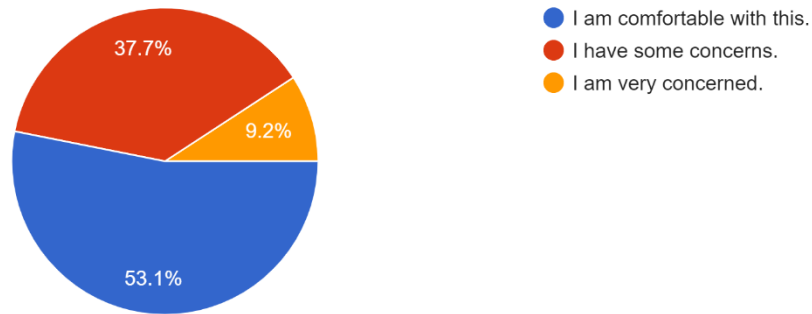
# SURVEY RESULTS

This survey data was collected in mid-June to help inform the plan development.

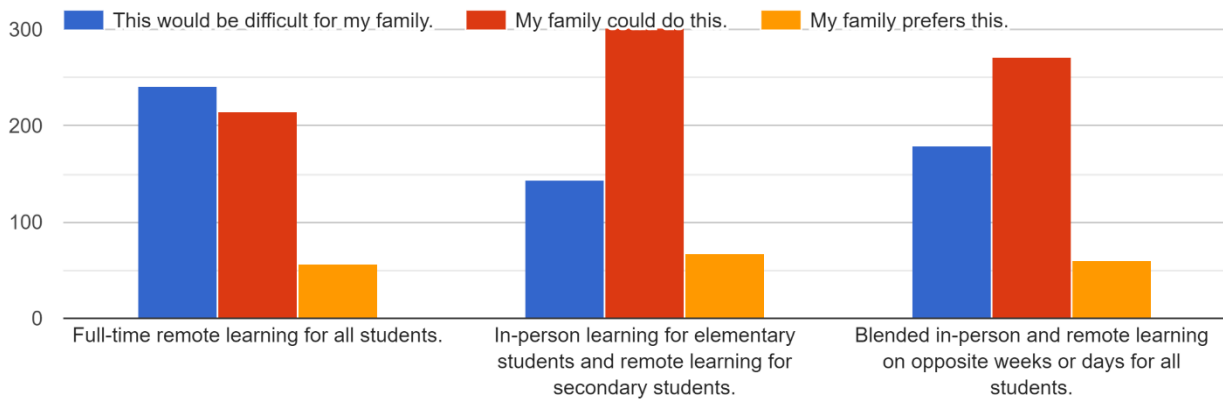
From Families:

What is your comfort level with sending your student back to school with health and safety guidelines in place.

512 responses



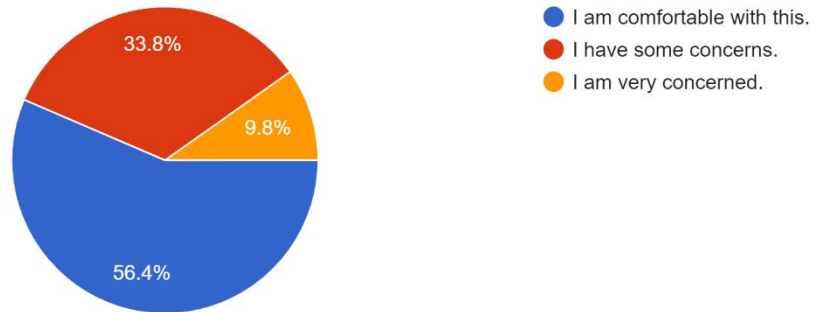
While Lycoming county remains in "Green" we will provide in-person instruction daily for all students. However, if Lycoming county returns to "...e tell us how you feel about the following options:



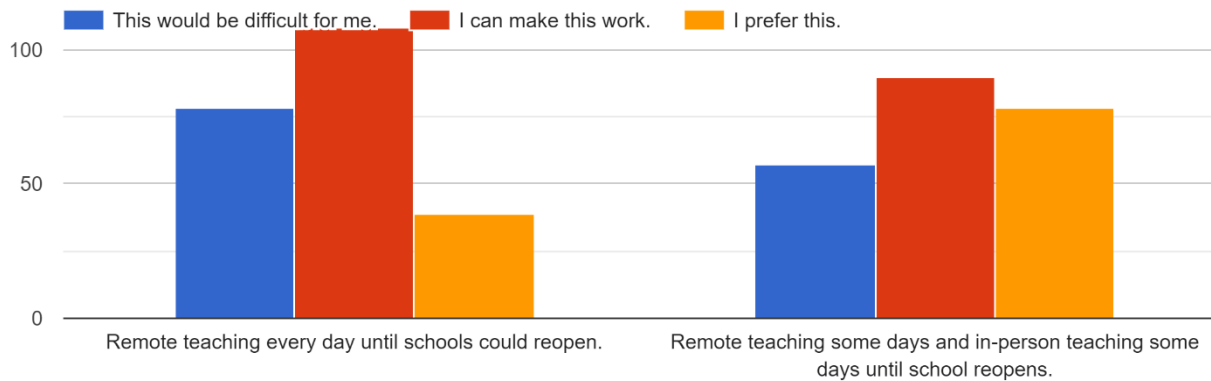
## From Students:

Regarding COVID-19, what is your comfort level with returning to school?

225 responses



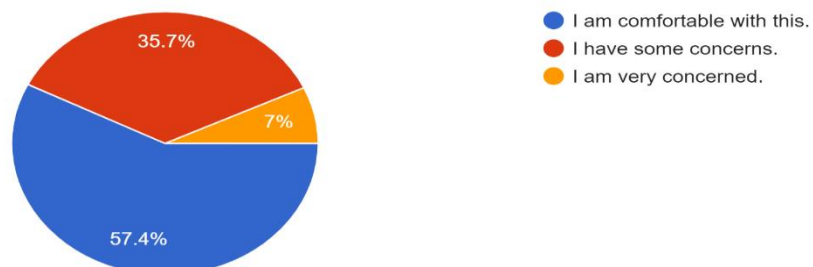
When school begins, every student will receive an Apple iPad. If we need to move from in-person teaching to remote (at-home) teaching, how do yo...about the following options for remote teaching?



## From Staff:

Regarding COVID-19, what is your comfort level with returning to school with students?

115 responses



## PREVENTION BEFORE ARRIVAL

This image will be printed as a refrigerator magnet for all families and all staff as a morning reminder.



### — BEFORE SCHOOL —

- Are you/is the student taking any medication to treat or reduce a fever such as Ibuprofen (i.e. Advil, Motrin) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol)?
- Are you/is the student experiencing any of the following?

<b>Group A</b> <i>1 or more symptoms</i>	<b>Group B</b> <i>2 or more symptoms</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever (100.4 or higher)</li><li>• Cough</li><li>• Shortness of breath</li><li>• Difficulty breathing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sore throat</li><li>• Runny nose/congestion</li><li>• Chills</li><li>• New lack of smell or taste</li><li>• Muscle pain</li><li>• Nausea or Vomiting</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Diarrhea</li></ul>

#### **STAY HOME IF, YOU OR THE STUDENT:**

- *Have one or more symptoms in Group A or...*
- *Have two or more symptoms in Group B or...*
- *Are taking fever reducing medication.*

## WHILE AT SCHOOL

Signage and educational materials will be used throughout the schools to keep everyone informed on how to protect themselves and others. Example of one sign below.

# Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!



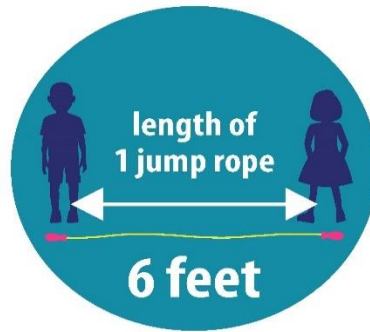
Wash your  
hands often



Wear a cloth  
face cover



Cover your coughs  
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space  
between you and  
your friends



CS316683-A 04/30/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## PHASED REOPENING

Although Lycoming County remains in GREEN, the state-wide mitigation efforts of 6 feet physical distance and face coverings is requiring us to respond as if in YELLOW.

### PHASE I - IN-PERSON BLENDED (HYBRID) INSTRUCTION

This will reduce the schools daily population by 50% allowing for students to move and learn more freely without face coverings. Face coverings can be removed in classrooms, other learning spaces, and in dining areas.

Students will attend school on an A / B rotation. "A" will attend Monday and Thursday. "B" will attend Tuesday and Friday. All students will work remotely on days opposite their in-person instruction and on Wednesdays.

Changes to the A/B groups will be made for students who reside in the same household. Parents may also request that their students not attend on the same day if that is their preference.

Students with IEPs who need daily intensive instruction (For example: Life Skills, Autistic Support, etc.) will be educated in school every day. These are IEP team decisions with each family.

Transition to PHASE II will be re-evaluated at each academic quarter.

### PHASE II - IN-PERSON FULL TIME INSTRUCTION (M-F)

The district, with input from the Pandemic Response Team and other agencies, will monitor and recommend when conditions allow for a return to school every day for all students. These factors may include:

- Rate of community spread
- Changes to state targeted mitigation requirements (physical distance, face coverings, gathering restrictions, etc).
- Availability of a COVID-19 vaccine



## OTHER OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Families will have a brief period of time to notify the school if they intend to enroll in a full time cyber learning option or begin home schooling. A letter outlining this option will be mailed to all families on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. Responses are needed by Thursday, August 6, 2020.

### **MOUNTIE ACADEMY** ([www.mountieacademy.org](http://www.mountieacademy.org))

Mountie Academy is the district's cyber learning program. Students enrolled in this program will receive cyber instruction at-home full-time. Students retain status as a South Williamsport student for school counselors, activities, clubs, etc. The district will pay an additional \$5,000.00 per student for this option.

### **HOME SCHOOLING**

Home schooling is an educational option all families have in PA. Parents must meet state requirements and submit an educational plan to the superintendent for approval. Evidence of completion is also required at the end of the school term. In this option, parents create, provide, and direct daily learning.

### **OTHER CYBER SCHOOLS**

Other state-wide cyber schools remain available to families. Their programs will be identical to Mountie Academy, but your student will be unenrolled from South Williamsport Area School District and lose access to school based supports and other programs. Transition back is often problematic. These also come at a significant cost to the local school district. Cost to the local school district for each student is approximately \$11,000 or \$21,000 for students with an IEP.

## RESPONSE TO A CONFIRMED CASE IN SCHOOL

The most recent guidance from the CDC (July 24, 2020) advises that a school will most likely not need to close for a single case of COVID-19 infection especially if the rate of community transition is not high. If a confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs with a student or staff member, we will follow all directives and protocols established by the department of health. In addition, we have set the following local protocols:

### PROTOCOLS FOR CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOL

- Notify the Department of Health
- The SWASD Pandemic Coordinator will initiate contact tracing under supervision of the Department of Health
- Individuals in close contact will be informed of recommendations from the DOH for testing, symptom monitoring, and quarantine if necessary.
- Initiate communication to families of confirmed case, precautions, and recommendations while maintaining confidentiality.
- The district may close one or more buildings for cleaning purposes following the Health and Safety Plan guidelines.
  - Close off the areas used by a person who is sick and wait 24 hours (or greatest time possible) before initiated cleaning.
  - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick beginning with electrostatic spray and followed by deep-cleaning.
  - If it has been greater than 7 days since a positive person was in the building, additional cleaning and disinfecting will not be needed. Continue with regular cleaning as outlined in the plan.

# PANDEMIC ACADEMIC ENROLLMENT DECISION FORM

The following will be sent to all district families on July 28, 2020.

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The South Williamsport Area School District is taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of students and staff as we return to school. Like you, we are excited to have students back in school, but we feel a phased approach to re-opening provides the greatest safety and greatest opportunity for learning.

## PHASE ONE – BLENDED OR HYBRID LEARNING

For the 2020-21 school year, all students will begin in Phase I which is a blended or hybrid learning plan. Every student will attend either (A) Monday / Thursday or (B) Tuesday / Friday for in-person instruction. On opposite days, and on Wednesdays, students will complete work remotely. This will allow us to reduce the number of students in each class and building by half, maximize physical distancing, and reduce time in face coverings.

Every student and teacher will be issued an iPad for remote learning while not in school. Policies and insurance enrollment information for iPads will be coming home in the next few weeks.

## PHASE ONE – SAME HOUSEHOLD

The district will make accommodations for grouping of students who reside in the same household. If you have more than one student in your household, please email the building principal of the youngest student with the following information **by Thursday, August 6, 2020**:

1. Parent / guardian first name, last name, and preferred daytime phone number.
2. Statement that your request is to have your students grouped (or not grouped) together because they reside in the same household.
3. First Name, Last Name, and Grade level of each student.

## OTHER OPTIONS

If you are not comfortable with sending your child to school on an A/B rotation schedule and you intend to have them complete a different educational option below, email your student's principal with your other educational decision **by Thursday, August 6, 2020**. No action is needed if you are sending your child back to school on PHASE ONE – Blended or Hybrid Learning option.

- Mountie Academy – Full-time cyber learning at home while maintaining enrollment as a South Williamsport student. District cost for this program is \$5,000 per student.

- Home School – Education designed and provided by parents.
- Other Cyber School – Un-enrolling your student from South Williamsport School District and enrolling them in a separate cyber school district. District cost for this program is \$11,000 (Regular Education) or \$21,000 (Special Education).

#### **BUILDING PRINCIPAL CONTACTS:**

- JR / SR High School (Grades 7-12)      Mr. Jesse Smith      [jsmith@swasd.org](mailto:jsmith@swasd.org)
- Rommelt Elementary (Grades 5-6)      Mr. Scott Hill      [shill@swasd.org](mailto:shill@swasd.org)
- Central Elementary      (Grades K-4)      Dr. Michele Loomis      [mloomis@swasd.org](mailto:mloomis@swasd.org)

Once principals have finalized their A and B rosters, parents will be notified of their student's instructional day cycle no later than August 14, 2020. Please review the due dates for notification so that we can prepare accurate rosters and balanced classes.

#### **MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO FACE COVERINGS**

Additional information regarding medical documentation requirements for students unable to wear face coverings will be provided to all families soon. In preparation for that process, if your student has a medical reason they are unable to wear a face covering, please contact your primary care provider and request that information in writing. The documentation should address face-masks AND/OR face-shields as appropriate.

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I appreciate the difficulty these decisions present to students and families. These educational options are intended to provide each family the flexibility to make informed decisions that are in your best interest as we move through the school year.

Sincerely,

*Mark Stamm*

Mark Stamm, D.Ed.

Superintendent of Schools