

Dear OSS Families,

We shared this in last week's communication, but in case you missed it, here is what you can expect next week if your child is returning for in-person learning.

### **In-Person Teaching Team**

As we mentioned in an earlier family communication update, your child's in-person special education teacher, general education teacher, and related service provider might be different from your child's remote learning teachers and providers. Staffing may shift during in-person learning, as staff members may need to take a leave of absence or shift to remote teaching due to extenuating circumstances. Our district is doing everything we can to quickly provide you with your child's in-person teaching team prior to the start of in-person learning.

### **Push-In/Pull Out** (From Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, July 9 Memo: Guidance on Fall 2020 Special Education Services)

When planning for the physical distancing requirements for students and adults in a classroom, schools, and districts should be mindful of the additional special educators and related service providers who will need to enter the classrooms throughout the school day to provide services to students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. As such, CPS will do the following:

- Develop classroom assignments and service delivery schedules for students with disabilities so that they receive services consistent with their IEPs in the least restrictive environment, while also maintaining the current health and safety protocols. This may mean that a special education teacher or related service provider could provide services in the classroom remotely from within the building via video conference, instead of coming into the classroom to provide services. This practice will help to minimize foot traffic in and out while also providing access (p. 7).
- If students are not able to receive services remotely via video conference, then other options may need to be considered. When determining classroom arrangement to accommodate physical distancing requirements, schools and districts should factor in the additional special educators and related service providers who will need to enter the classroom to provide services for young children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. In light of the Department's guidance that students at the elementary level remain in one classroom for the majority of the day, districts may want to consider whether pull-out services can be offered in accordance with the health and safety guidelines or, instead, if services should be pushed into the classroom (pg. 12).

### **Mask Wearing**

It is important for everyone to wear a mask to reduce the spread of transmission while in public spaces. However, we are aware that for some students, wearing a mask is not feasible due to a preexisting condition or as a result of a child's disability. If this is the case, please inform your

child's case manager by next Wednesday. If a child is unable to wear a mask, a face shield will be attempted. **Please see the *Mask Requirements and Tips* document attached or use this link [Here](#).**

To help you encourage your child to wear a mask, we have provided the following resources developed by one of our behavioral specialists, Kaitlin Barlow: How to Get Your Child to Tolerate Wearing a Mask (Google Slides) [Watch Video](#)

### **Students Sharing Materials (Toys, Books, Equipment)**

Students who are in the same classroom or cohort can share a set of materials, as long as they wash their hands before and after material use. If a student chews or sneezes on a toy, book, or other shared classroom material, a staff member will disinfect the material using the EPA approved disinfectant cleaner the district has acquired. The staff member will also put the material aside for 24-48 hours before allowing another student to use it. This will remove any traces of disinfectant. Both the student and the staff member should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after.

### **Meals**

Schools will develop a meal schedule that allows students to eat as a class outdoors or in their classrooms.

Additional procedures will be followed:

- Breakfast will be available in a “grab and go” format as students enter the school building, and may be brought to the classroom.
- For lunch, meals will be ordered in bulk during the process of taking attendance. Lunch will be delivered to the classroom door by staff members identified within each school.
- Students will eat outdoors or inside their classroom with at least 6 feet of social distancing maintained. Students will be provided with a quiet activity to do at their seat when they have finished eating, to ensure that they do not talk, shout, or move around while masks have been removed by all or a portion of students.
- Drinking fountains will be turned off to avoid confusion, but buildings have bottle fillers and cups will be provided. To avoid crowding at bottle fillers, students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle each day.

### **Drop-Off/Pick-Up**

For information regarding student drop-off and student pick-up, please refer to the school's procedures.

### **Transportation**

- For the safety of drivers and students, it is very important for students to wear a mask or face covering while riding the bus. A virus shield or hat with a shield installed in the

brim may be more comfortable for students with sensory or other issues making it impossible to wear a mask.

- 1. When the bus arrives at a stop, the monitor will step off the bus to supervise boarding.
- 2. After ensuring that every student is wearing a mask (providing back-up masks if needed), the monitor will spray hand sanitizer on students' hands as they board.
- 3. On standard-size buses, tape will be placed on seats to remind students to sit in a staggered pattern, with one child per seat.
- 4. When boarding the bus, students must move to the back of the bus, and sit in the last available open seat. Students will be instructed to stay in their seats when they arrive at the school or at home until it is their turn to get off the bus.
- **Please speak with the Office of Student Services if you believe your child will be unable to meet this requirement so that our transportation provider can plan ahead to keep drivers as safe as possible.** Drivers *will* allow students to board the van or bus even without a mask, but it is important to respect their safety by providing advance notice of the issue so that maximum physical distancing can be put in place.
- Caregivers of a student with IEPs are entitled to mileage reimbursement if they choose to drive their student to school (in Cambridge or at an out-of-district placement).

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact your child's case manager or building principal.

In Partnership,

The Office of Student Services