

UPDATED INFORMATION BELOW IN YELLOW

August 17, 2020

Redbank Valley School District Re-Opening Plan Summary

Dear Redbank Valley Parents/Guardians:

August 31, 2020 is quickly approaching and marks the first day of school for students. I anticipate changes will continue to be provided by the various state agencies. On August 17, 2020 the DOH and PDE released new guidelines regarding the wearing of face mask by students. Please take the opportunity to read below outlining this change. Students will be required to wear a face mask/face covering while in school with only limited exceptions.

The District continues to work to establish a safe and instructionally beneficial return to school for students and staff. As new information becomes available, updates will be posted on social media and the district website.

Numerous surveys collected data from you and staff and was used to assist in the development of our return plans as well as information from a number of state agencies listed below. On July 16, 2020, school districts received updated guidance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The new guidance clearly states, *"All Pre-K to 12 schools should implement strategies that limit the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students. All schools should have protocols for distancing student desks/seating and other social distancing practices that allow at least 6 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day to the maximum extent feasible."*

Last week, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) released an update to their guidance strongly recommending children age two and older should wear face coverings at all times to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Prior guidance we released in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) stated students in schools could remove their face coverings as long as six feet of social distancing could be maintained. Given this recent change from the AAP, and consistent with the Secretary of Health's Face Covering Order issued on July 1, 2020, **DOH is requiring students wear face coverings at all times while in school, even when six feet of social distancing can be achieved.**

There are limited exceptions:

Under what circumstances are students permitted to remove their face coverings (e.g. masks and face shields)?

Schools may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:

- Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task; or
- At least 6 feet apart during "face-covering breaks" to last no longer than 10 minutes.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Waivers/MaskWearing/Pages/default.aspx>

The health and safety of the Redbank Valley community is a top priority as we return for instruction. Therefore, the district will abide by all mandates determined by state agencies. On August 3, 2020, the Board approved a revised school calendar that modifies the start of the school year. In addition, the Board approved the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan, both of which are summarized below. If you would like to view the complete documents, please visit the district's website. The plan and summary will be updated to reflect new guidelines, mandates, and requirements.

We understand that you may have many questions related to the return to school. It is our goal to provide additional documentation on the district's website with more detailed information regarding our return to instruction.

The following information is intended to provide an overview of the processes and protocols that will be in place for the return to school. We will continue to refine our intentions. These are unprecedented times. Navigating the return to school under the circumstances of COVID-19 has created a new environment in schools. The return to school will not be anything like we have experienced in the past, but it is our goal to provide the best educational experience for our students as we return to instruction.

* Disclosure – This is a working document and is subject to change based on updated information from the Governor, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Education or the CDC.

August 24 – Teacher In-service

August 25 – Teacher In-service

August 26 – Act 80 day (no students) for teachers to prepare

August 27 - Act 80 day (no students) for teachers to prepare

August 28 - Act 80 day (no students) for teachers to prepare

August 31 – First day of instruction for students

The following information is reflected in the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan approved by the Redbank Valley School Board on August 3, 2020 and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan will be amended at the August 18, 2020 Special Board meeting.

This document along with the Phased School Reopening plan has reviewed the requirements and recommendations outlined in documents from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Secretary of Health, PA Department of Education, Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, and a task force document created by PAIU, PSBA, PSEA, PASBO, PARSS, PA Principals Association, and PAC & TA.

We have taken the information and created a plan that provides for a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. If the plan were to change as a result of new mandates, the community will be notified and updated.

If the County is recognized in each of the following color phases, the district has provided a summary of each item listed below to assist you in making a decision.

GREEN PHASE

INSTRUCTION: These options are being provided in order for you to make an informed decision based on your comfort level and specific family needs. It is the intent of the district to provide a consistent educational process for our students while maintaining the health and well-being of the students, staff, and our community.

- Attend Redbank Valley schools in person five (5) days a week for face-to-face instruction with Redbank Valley staff.
- Attend Redbank Valley schools remotely five (5) days a week for instruction with Redbank Valley staff. Instruction will mirror that of face-to-face instruction. Technology provided by Redbank Valley School District.
- Attend Redbank Valley Cyber academy using Edgenuity for courses. Instruction provided by staff of Edgenuity. Students remain students of Redbank Valley. Technology provided by Redbank Valley School District.

CAPACITY:

- All K-12 students able to physically return to a school building
- Classrooms arranged to maximize social distancing
- Seating arranged to maximize social distancing
- Clearly marked traffic patterns in hallways
- Limited visitors inside buildings
- Parents/children complete home health assessment/monitoring daily. Methods of student temperature/symptom check are still being discussed and investigated
- Employees will self-monitor for temperature and symptoms

MASK:

- Each student/student's family will be responsible for providing a face covering and it should be worn at all times following the guidelines issued by the DOH and PDE on August 17, 2020.

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FOOD SERVICES:

- K-12 eat in cafeteria or alternate locations to increase social distancing to the fullest extent possible
- All items will be handed to students by staff (food, beverage, utensils, etc...)
- Serving lines will be protected by a plastic shield
- Students will be issued a student scan card rather than use the pin pad

SCHEDULE/INSTRUCTION:

- K-12 face/to/face instruction on campus following CDC guidelines, and/or state orders in place at that time (subject to change)
- K-12 remote at home instruction by assigned Redbank Valley Teacher
- K-12 remote instruction with Redbank Valley Cyber Academy through Edgenuity
- Selected option is recommended for the first nine weeks

TRANSPORTATION:

- The district encourages parents to transport their child(ren) to/from school
- Face coverings will be required while on the bus
- Students will sit 2 per seat
- Buses/vans will be loaded from the back seats first

CLEANING/DISINFECTION:

- All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized frequently during the school day
- All restrooms will be sanitized and fogged frequently during the school day
- Buses and vans will be cleaned following runs
- Buildings sanitized each night
- Sanitizer in all classrooms and common areas

SANITIZER/HYGEINE:

- All classrooms will have hand sanitizer available
- All common areas will have hand sanitizer available
- Signage will be placed throughout the buildings
- Frequent reminder on hygiene and hand washing
- Hand washing built into the schedule

YELLOW PHASE

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RED PHASE

CAPACITY:

- All campuses closed
- Essential workers/employees only

FOOD SERVICES:

- District will continue to provide meals

SCHEDULE/INSTRUCTION:

- K – 12 remote learning full-time through Redbank Valley staff

The district is committed to providing a safe school environment enabling students to experience the best educational opportunities available. The circumstances that our community is facing are those being faced by schools across the nation. Working together as a community will assist the school district as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. John R. Mastillo
Superintendent of Schools