

Huntington UFSD Reopening Plan – Frequently Asked Questions

I. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Learning models

I heard that the school year will begin under a *hybrid model*. What does that mean?

It means that students will be learning in school on some days and participating in distance learning on other days. Kindergarteners and students in the special class (15:1:1 and 12:1:(3:1)) setting are scheduled to attend school daily.

I heard that students will be assigned to *cohorts*. What does that mean?

Under the hybrid model, students will be placed in groups that will report to school together on designated weekdays. At the elementary level, there will be two cohorts established for each school. One will attend on Tuesday/Wednesday and the other on Thursday/Friday, alternating on Mondays. At the secondary level, there will be four cohorts at each school, assigned in school on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (with Mondays rotating among them). Siblings at the same or different schools will be assigned to corresponding cohorts. See plan *Appendix A* for specifics.

I heard that the plan is set up in *phases*. How will that work and when will phase changes occur?

The plan delineates three phases that progress from fewer students in school at the same time in Phase 1, an increased number in school together during Phase 2, and the return of all students to school in Phase 3. Timing of whole or partial phase transitions will be determined based on risk of COVID-19 infection in the community and regionally (based on testing metrics and positive cases) and the success of planned health/safety measure implementation (e.g., mask-wearing, social distancing, etc.).

Do I have the option of keeping my child home to participate in a full distance learning program?

Parents must complete an [online form](#) to alert the district that they wish to do so and for how long (month, quarter, semester or longer).

What will the learning program and schedule look like for hybrid model students and full distance learning students when they are home?

Students at home will follow the same schedule as students at school. They will log into their classes in the Google platform and will see the SMARTBoard and hear all that is happening in the classroom. Teachers will gather and provide feedback to students at home using synchronous (while they are logged into the class) and asynchronous (after

class) strategies. Note that if school buildings need to be closed entirely, schedules will shift to those delineated in *Appendix A – Full Distance Model*.

After choosing the full distance-learning model, can my child switch back to hybrid?

What about from hybrid to full distance?

The desire to make a change in either direction must first be shared with the building principal. While in Phase 1 or Phase 2, a student may switch from full distance to hybrid after a pre-determined period of time. During plan Phases 1 and 2, a child can switch from hybrid to full distance after notifying the principal.

Devices and Internet access

Will my child be provided with a device and WiFi access?

Yes. Returning students may use their Chromebooks from the prior year. New students, including kindergarteners, will be issued a new device. Those without adequate WiFi access will be issued a mobile hotspot device.

Does my child need to bring his/her Chromebook back and forth to school on days that they are in the building?

Yes, for students in grades 4-12. Students in grades K-3 will have individually assigned devices in their classrooms in addition to the devices they keep at home.

What if my child's Chromebook is not working?

Send an e-mail to chromebooks@hufsd.edu or leave a voicemail at (631) 812-2381 with the child's name, school and a description of the issue. A repair will occur or replacement issued promptly.

When my child is using a District-issued Chromebook, will their privacy be protected and will they have access to sites that may not be age-appropriate?

The District works only with software and digital service providers that can provide assurances related to data privacy and security in alignment with Education Law. The District subscribes to a protective service, *Go Guardian*, that will prevent students from accessing inappropriate sites and material at all times.

This past spring, there was variation among the platforms teachers were using for distance learning. Will that still be the case?

In an attempt to standardize, teachers across the grade levels will generally use the Google platform. Lessons may still include activities using other learning software applications, all of which can be accessed through *Clever*. Google and application

tutorials in two languages are available at <http://www.hufsd.edu/assets/pdf/resources/2020/dlp/video-resource-links.pdf>.

Other Curriculum, Instructional & Scheduling Considerations

Will attendance be taken in every class? If so, how?

Attendance will be recorded in each class. It will be based on presence in school or distance learning engagement.

Will the district still be running a UPK program? If so, what schedule will students follow?

Yes. The district will maintain its partnership with SCOPE in running half-day sections in each primary school, with one full-day section at Jefferson Primary (dependent upon sufficient enrollment). SCOPE and the District are working to arrange for children to be in school each weekday, but the program may need to start under the Phase 1 elementary hybrid model. More information will follow.

Is the District open for kindergarten registration? When will my child be screened?

Yes, the District registration office is open. Please contact the registrar at (631) 673-2974 or nhernandez@hufsd.edu to make an appointment. Screenings will be conducted in August to the extent practicable and will continue into September.

With no state assessment data from the spring, how will the District determine who is in need of extra academic support?

The Response to Intervention (RtI) process is not based on only one criterion. The district will continue to utilize a range of other criteria, as listed in the plan, to make such determinations.

Will the District's SEARCH program continue in 2020-2021? If so, how will students be selected? (NEW – 8/1/20)

The District's SEARCH program will continue in uninterrupted fashion for currently enrolled sixth grade students. Entry into the program for fifth graders will remain based on multiple criteria, but will not include outcomes from spring NYS assessments (as they were not administered). Teacher recommendations will remain an important consideration. The Otis-Lennon Student Ability Test, typically administered in the spring, will be administered early in the new school year. This may delay selection until November; however *all* fifth grade students will participate in an enrichment unit based on the NYS Computer Science Standards, during the first marking period.

In the spring, grading processes were modified at all levels. Will that process continue?

No. Grading will return to the standard processes (i.e., 1-4 at the elementary level; numerical at the secondary level); however, teachers will be flexible and understanding of those students who face extraordinary circumstances.

Will my elementary child have recess each day?

Yes. Being outdoors is a positive! Times may staggered and locations modified so that the number of students in one area may be limited, but all students will have recess and opportunities to use playgrounds in a safe and healthy manner.

Before- and After-care

Will there be in-district childcare before and after school?

Yes. The district will maintain its partnerships with SCOPE and the Huntington YMCA and therefore maintain opportunities for childcare in district schools. The organizations will adhere to all guidelines set forth in the District's reopening plan.

II. SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Students, staff and families have been through quite a bit during the past several months. How will the District assist in the back-to-school transition?

Priority will be placed on helping all re-acclimate at a time when anxieties are at high levels. Staff will focus on activities that remind students their schools are safe places, and places where care and compassion will take center stage. Whether it be through a multi-tiered support system (MTSS), "check-in" processes or each school's social and emotional learning curricula, the well-being of students and staff will remain a primary point of attention in terms of both the learning process and staff professional development.

III. FACILITIES/PPE

Face Coverings, Social Distancing, Barriers and Shared Materials

What requirements are in place that will help protect my child from COVID-19 spread?

All students and staff will be required to wear masks (rare exceptions outlined in plan) and maintain a distance of six feet from each other. In addition, translucent barriers will be used in many learning spaces.

What types of masks are acceptable? (NEW – 8/10/20)

Two-ply cloth masks and surgical masks are acceptable. Single-ply cloth masks (e.g., bandanas) and neck gaiters are not.

What if my child is uncomfortable wearing a mask? Will there be times during the day when he/she can remove it?

It is particularly important to desensitize younger children before the year begins through trusted adult modeling and providing periodic opportunities for them to wear their masks at and outside the home. Age-appropriate mask breaks will be incorporated throughout the day at times when children are six feet or more apart.

Will barriers be used in learning spaces?

Yes. The district is in the process of securing three-sided translucent barriers for use on desks and tables that will further prevent the spread of aerosol particles from person to person. They will be sanitized after each use.

What measures will the District take to clean and sanitize buildings and classrooms, particularly high-contact areas and surfaces?

District staff will continue the regimen of intensive daily cleaning and disinfection of such high-touch surfaces as handles, knobs, stairwell rails, etc. with anti-viral solutions that are EPA-approved for use in school buildings. Buildings will also be sanitized thoroughly at least once each week with an electrostatic cleaner *after* the regular cleaning. Ozone disinfection carts will be used to clean/sanitize individually assigned devices (e.g., Chromebooks).

Will students share materials and supplies?

No. Sharing of items will be discouraged. Individual sets of supplies and material will be prepared for all students, including in such areas as art.

Social Distancing

What does it mean for students to be appropriately *socially distanced* and how will it be achieved?

Social distancing refers to the ongoing space that should be maintained between individuals so that aerosol droplets emitted from one person are unlikely to reach another. In the majority of circumstances, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends six (6) feet; however, a distance of 12 feet should be maintained between students engaged in activities that may result in more forceful droplet emission such as aerobic physical activity, singing or playing a wind instrument. Teacher direction and use of floor markings and signage (e.g., in hallways) will help all to maintain required distances. Classrooms desks will be arranged accordingly and face in the same direction. Separate and, in some schools, multiple doors will be used for building entry and exit.

Will safety drills be conducted? If so, how will social distancing be maintained when they occur?

Eight fire and four lockdown drills are still required. These and other drills will be conducted in a staggered or slightly modified manner in an effort to maintain appropriate social distancing; however, it will be impressed upon students that in an emergency situation (e.g., evacuation), safety needs will supersede social distancing efforts.

Will my middle/high school student have access to an assigned locker?

Lockers will not be assigned until further notice. Efforts will be made to ensure that items typically placed in lockers remain at home, in classrooms or other designated school locations.

What measures will be taken to maintain social distancing and sanitary practices in bathrooms?

Touchless sensors have been or will be installed on all toilets and sinks. Some sinks will be taken off line if they are within six feet of an adjacent sinks. Monitors and/or signage will assist in minimizing restroom occupancy at any given time.

How will the district ensure appropriate ventilation in classrooms and other building areas?

The district will circulate outdoor air where possible, ensure acceptable airflow (e.g., increase fan motor speeds), add air scrubbers and HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters where applicable to clean the air in an area, and conduct routine inspections of air handling systems. Any location deemed to have less than acceptable airflow and circulation will not be used.

Will children be able to use water fountains?

Standard water fountains will be taken offline. In some locations, they will be replaced with touchless bottle filling stations. Bottled water will be available for students in schools/areas as needed.

Will children be reminded to wash their hands routinely?

Yes, students and staff will be reminded of the importance of when and how to wash their hands – see Plan *Appendix C*.

What if my child's classroom does not have a sink for hand-washing?

Rooms without sinks have been equipped with hand sanitizer dispensers, containing a 65% alcohol solution that is safe and approved for school use. Parents who do not want

their children using the sanitizer should let their school principals know in writing. Keep in mind that a thorough hand-washing is preferred over use of sanitizer.

Will visitors be allowed in school buildings?

Only those visitors deemed essential will be permitted entry into any Huntington school building. Essential visitors will include district employees who must be on-site as part of their responsibilities to school, outside vendors or contractors whose services are required for the safe provision of school services, and parents (by appointment) when meetings cannot be scheduled virtually. These visitors will be health-screened and temperature-checked before they enter. Outside groups will not be permitted to use district facilities until further notice.

IV. HEALTH AND SAFETY

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms vary by individual and age group. The list of symptoms is fluid. It is included in the plan, however a list that is updated regularly can be accessed on the [CDC website](#).

What measures will the District take to ensure that those entering a school are healthy?

Understanding that there are no guarantees related to any individual, daily health screenings in the form of a *questionnaire* (on symptoms, contacts and travel) and *temperature checks* (using a walk-through infrared scanner) for students, staff and visitors will be conducted. The questionnaire will be accessible via dedicated phone app.

What should I do if I answer YES to any item on the questionnaire? (LINK ADDED)

Do **NOT** place your child on the school bus or send him/her to school. If the child is already at school, he/she will be guided to a supervised isolation room for parent pick-up. If the child displays symptoms, contact a health care provider promptly. (For those with insurance needs, Suffolk County has a [comprehensive network of family health centers](#).) If the child was in direct contact with anyone who has tested positive or traveled to restricted area as per the [New York State Travel Advisory](#), he/she must quarantine at home for 14 days as mandated by the Department of Health.

Where can I or my child be tested for COVID-19? (NEW – 8/8/20)

Local testing sites can be located at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

What if I forget to complete the questionnaire and/or take my child's temperature before he/she arrives at school?

All individuals (students and staff) will walk through the temperature scanner at a building entry point. Further, an administrator or nurse will follow up with all students (parents/guardians) who do not complete the questionnaire.

What happens if my child arrives at school and records a temperature of greater than 100.0°F on the scanner or displays other COVID-19 symptoms?

Anyone registering at or greater than 100.0°F will be rechecked with a handheld scanner. If the temperature is confirmed, the child will be guided to an isolation room for parent pick-up and cannot return to school until criteria designated in the plan are met. School staff will report any illness (students or staff) to the school nurse or principal in compliance with FERPA and Education Law. The same isolation/parent-pick up response will follow.

How will my child learn proper practices for hand-washing and respiratory etiquette?

Teachers and staff will model and reinforce. Signage will be posted in each building to assist. Guidance has been shared with parents/guardians so that they may reinforce at home as well. (See *Appendices C & D* in Plan.)

How will a school or the district respond upon receipt of information that an individual who displayed symptoms in a school building is confirmed COVID-19 positive?

Please understand that there is a chance that this will happen! The District will follow local and state guidelines for reporting confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. The nurse or an administrator will notify and consult with the Suffolk County Health Department, as well as provide information that allows Health Department officials to initiate contact tracing. Those deemed to have been in contact with the confirmed positive individual must quarantine for 14 days. This may impact a class or classes, or an entire school.

Under what circumstances would an entire school or the district close and a shift to full distance learning occur?

School districts are directed to shut their buildings for in-school learning if the regional (Long Island) percentage of test-positive cases reaches 9%. It may also occur (for a school or the entire district) when positive cases in the school or community present as concerning, regardless of the regional metric. Again, District actions will be taken in consultation with the Health Department. If the district closes all buildings, the educational program will quickly transition to the "full distance learning" schedule outlined in *Appendix A*.

If I am informed that my child must quarantine for 14 days, do I have the right to know the identity of the individual who tested positive?

While the District will communicate promptly in general regarding a confirmed positive case, HIPAA laws protect the confidentiality of the infected individual therefore no specific information can or will be shared.

Why would the District wait 24 hours to thoroughly clean and sanitize a classroom or other area in which an infected individual was present?

While the area(s) will be cordoned off promptly, CDC and Department of Health guidelines include a 24-hour waiting period in an effort to protect those who will clean the area(s). The areas will be reopened upon completion of the cleaning and sanitizing.

Under what conditions would a person suspected of displaying COVID-19 symptoms, and who subsequently tests negative, be permitted to return to school?

Such individuals may return once they have no fever (without the use of fever reducing medicines) and have felt well for 24 hours; or if they have been diagnosed with another condition and have written documentation from a healthcare provider that they are clear to return.

Under what conditions would a person who tests positive for COVID-19 be permitted to return to school?

Such individuals may return only after ten days have passed since first symptoms AND three days have passed since the individual had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicines) AND other symptoms have resolved.

Why is the quarantine period (14 days) for a seemingly healthy individual longer than the isolation period (10 days) for an individual confirmed COVID-19 positive?

The CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness if infected, thus it is possible that an infected individual could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined.

Are routine health physicals and scheduled immunizations still required?

The District will continue to accept proof of health examination, regardless of the form on which it is completed, for exams conducted on or before January 31, 2021. State-required vaccinations must be obtained according the established [grade level schedule](#).

V. NUTRITION

How will food service change for students under the current circumstances?

Meals will be prepacked and choices more limited, all in compliance with the State Child Nutrition program.

How will use of currency (paper and coins) be reduced when students purchase lunch?

Parents/guardians will be encouraged to use the District's *MySchoolBucks* point-of-sale system for advance payments, as applicable, to avoid the exchange of currency. The District will absorb all transaction fees associated with doing so. The District also seeks to establish a mechanism for meal pre-order that will save additional time, anticipated October 2020.

How will social distancing occur during mealtimes?

Elementary students will routinely eat in their classrooms, with desks already distanced appropriately. Middle and high school students will eat in cafeterias. Two lunch periods will be added. Appropriately spaced desks will replace tables; all desks will face in the same direction. Barriers will be placed on those desks, as warranted.

Will students at home (hybrid or full distance) have access to school meals?

Yes, meals will be available at the same cost as is in school and can be picked up in designated locations at each building.

I think I may be eligible for free- or reduced-price meals. How do I apply?

New applications for free- or reduced-price meals may be filed at any time during the school year. Applications will be available online and in school main offices.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

Will face coverings and social distancing be required on school buses?

While buses are among the more considerable challenges, the District regards them as extensions of the classroom. As such, face coverings and social distancing will be required. If a child at a bus stop does not have a mask, the driver will provide one. Routes and seating will be established to promote appropriate social distancing.

Will bus drivers or monitors check student temperatures prior to the students boarding buses?

No. We will need to rely on parents to complete the temperature checks and questionnaires at home prior to a child boarding the bus. A child should be kept home if there is a 'yes' response to any questionnaire item or if they present with a temperature of 100.0°F or higher.

What is the maximum number of students that will be permitted on a large bus or van?

As of now, the maximum number of individuals on an in-district route/large bus will be 22, or slightly higher if members of the same household are riding together. The maximum on an in-district van is 8, or, again, slightly higher if riders include those from the same household. These numbers also include staff other than the driver (if present).

How will drivers know if a student belongs on a particular bus?

Drivers will take student attendance daily. It is important for these records to be available in the event that contact tracing is needed.

Will buses be cleaned and sanitized routinely?

Huntington Coach Corporation will thoroughly disinfect buses between daily morning and afternoon runs, with particular attention paid to high-contact surfaces, using an EPA-approved anti-viral agent.

Will drivers and monitors be health screened daily?

Yes, all Huntington Coach employees will undergo daily screenings, similar to those conducted by the District. Those who do not pass the screening will be sent home and must have medical clearance prior to returning.

VII. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

My child is classified and I would like him/her to participate in a full distance learning model. Is that possible and does it require the CPSE or CSE to recommend a change in placement?

Most likely, yes, but some services may more limited when participating remotely. While the CPSE or CSE may convene to discuss if and how such accommodations can be made, a shift from hybrid to remote does NOT represent a change in placement.

How will referrals, evaluations and reviews be conducted under the various learning models?

Procedures and timelines for referrals, evaluations and annual reviews will remain aligned with IDEA and Commissioner's Regulations section 200.4(a). A referral may not be warranted if the reason for underperformance is due to school closures and a change in the learning model/schedule. Procedural safeguards and prior written notice requirements will be maintained, however prior written notice is not required for a shift in learning model as long as a student's educational placement is not changed. Appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure full CPSE/CSE participation when it is needed (in person or virtual).

VIII. BILINGUAL EDUCATION, ELLS & CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

How will English language Learner (ELL) identification and placement be determined?

For students who enrolled during the spring school closure and for those who enroll this summer of 2020 and during the first 20 school days of the 2020-2021 school year, the ELL identification process (i.e., screening, identification and placement) will be completed within 30 school days of the start of the school year. After the first 20 days of 2020-2021, identification of ELLs will resume within 10 school days of initial enrollment as required by Part 154 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

How will English language Learner (ELL) new language proficiency levels be determined?

ELLs will be instructed according to their most recently measured English proficiency levels on the NYSESLAT or NYSITELL or, in that the 2020 NYSESLAT was canceled, use of locally determined diagnostic/progress monitoring/data collection tools will be used instead.

Will there be any changes to the District's dual language program under the current circumstances?

Aside from the changes that all students will experience, the dual language program will run in its typical manner.

IX. EXTRACURRICULARS, ATHLETICS & FIELD TRIPS

Will afterschool clubs run in 2020-2021?

Clubs may run on a more limited basis to start the school year, with meetings and/or activities occurring virtually or in a socially distanced manner.

What is the status of the fall interscholastic athletic season and athletics in general?

As of right now, the start of the fall season has been delayed until September 21, 2020. If that does not occur, the next step will be adoption of a condensed season plan that would start sports in January and result in reducing the length of all sport season

Will field trips be permitted?

There will be no off site field trips until further notice. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.

X. FAMILY COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

How will the District communicate updates on the impact of COVID-19 on our schools and how often?

Communications from the Superintendent of Schools and building principals will continue regularly via the Blackboard Connect system. Parents/guardians should make certain that cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses are updated. To do so, they should contact school main offices upon the start of the school year or the District registrar at any time this summer to provide updated information.

Will parent forums, conferences, open houses and other events be held in the fall?

Day and evening forums related to the reopening plan have been scheduled throughout August. Building principals will communicate information on fall events and conferences shortly, some of which may be held virtually.