

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Offices



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Message from the Superintendent

August 18, 2020

HASD Reopening Health and Safety Plan Revised

First Day of school August 31, 2020

Mask covering update as of August 17, 2020

Parent resources for consideration

Dear Parents, children and staff:

We empathize with all of you during these most difficult times. Being, remaining, or learning to be flexible is requested for all of us. We are trying to provide the safest learning environment we can, based on science and guidance, as timely as we can, to assist you and your child for this upcoming school year. We will continue to empathize with all the changes and adjustments we make that impact your daily lives and schedules. However, it is with the fullest intent to provide the best education possible during the current pandemic. We request your support to make this work. Thank you in advance.

On Monday, August 18, 2020 the Huntingdon Area School Board approved two major revisions for the start of the school year, the first being the reopening plan, the second being delaying the first day of school.

Reopening Plan

The reopening of HASD from 100% in person to 50% in person (blended model of instruction) will start Monday **August 31, 2020**. Please click on this [hyperlink](#) for schedule information, or visit the Huntingdon Area School District website at www.huntsd.org and then click on the [Covid 19 Updates](#) link, then click on the [Schedule](#) link for the hybrid/blended learning model. We will be operating, at this time under the Yellow phase, 50% capacity, moderate instructional model. You will find information in regards to what days your children will attend in person and what days they will be working remotely.

First Day of School adjusted to August 31, 2020.

The original start date of August 27, 2020 was revised and approved to start August 31, 2020. In summary, scheduling for online enrollments, supplies, construction, cleaning, training, guidelines/recommendations related to reopening, curriculum and policies are all items that impacted our ability to open as scheduled. Since we are starting at 50% in person, per the above links to the schedule, your child may not attend their first day of school until September 3, 2020. After they attend their first in person day of instruction, the remote learning schedule provided will start to become clearer as to what and how that will work. Our first few days will be more focused on processes and their social and emotional well being, more so than academics. Please be patient with this, we beg of you.

Mask Covering update as of August 17, 2020

This is the message we have received from the Department of Education.

- As you know, the health and safety of Pennsylvania's school communities is top priority, and the guidance we release to support and maintain the health and safety of school communities is rooted in science, data, and research. As more data and research becomes available, the information that becomes guidance must evolve – something we've shared with you since we began releasing reopening guidance.
- 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.

Parent resources for consideration

Finally, I provided these resources during our board meeting last night and wanted to ensure you all had access to this information to assist and guide you in your decision making for this upcoming school year.

- School Decision-Making Tool for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians Deciding How to Go Back to School (8 pages)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/decision-tool.html>
- Back to School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians and Caregivers, Checklists for Going Back to School (9 pages)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-checklist.html>

Thank you,

Fred Foster, Superintendent