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## Livingston County Schools

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### **Reopening School Update**

**July 13, 2020**

We are excited to start the new school year and our working on plans to provide high quality instruction in a safe and healthy learning environment. We are currently seeking information regarding the needs of our students and families for the upcoming school year.

In order to return to school, the guidance provided from the state requires us to maintain social distancing and requires the use of masks when social distance cannot be maintained. The district has developed a survey and is currently asking for input from parents regarding the educational needs of their children. Several avenues for reopening are being explored including returning on an A/B hybrid schedule or returning daily and all families have the option of virtual/home study for those who are not comfortable returning to in-person classes.

While we would like to return to in-person classes daily, in order for our students to maintain social distance and not be in a mask the entire day, the district is currently exploring the possibility of using an alternating schedule for the first 9 weeks of school. This alternating schedule will result in 2 days of in person classes and 3 days of structured Live RED at Home work, known as Home Study, on an A/B schedule. Half of our students will attend class on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the other half will attend on Wednesdays and Fridays. Mondays will be Home Study days for all students. The work provided on those Home Study Days will be based off of the in person instruction that students will be receiving two days a week and will be new learning aligned with the curriculum. We also understand that some of our families may request students to receive at Home Study for all 5 days each week for the first nine weeks.

The possibility exists to return all students to classes every day however this will require that students 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades and all staff wear masks daily. Returning each student to school every day does not allow for social distancing practices as does the A/B schedule.

The current survey being conducted asks parents which method they prefer for their children when school does reopen, seeks input as to the availability of internet service and technology for our students, and also asks whether their students will be utilizing district bus transportation when school does reopen and asks families if assistance with childcare will be needed if an alternative A/B schedule is implemented. These questions allow the district leadership team to evaluate the needs of the families and provide suggestions and recommendations on the safe and healthiest method for reopening school. This information will allow the district to determine bus routing and needs and gives staff an idea of how to plan lessons for those students who will be participating in the virtual/Home Study option.

The district is currently securing the appropriate PPE and materials needed for reopening. KDE has provided the district with 44 no touch thermometers and the Livingston County Emergency Management is helping with securing



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other PPE items such as masks. There are several community volunteers who are making washable face masks for our students. Cleaning and disinfecting procedures for facilities and transportation are being evaluated as well as operational procedures for Food Service and Preschool.

The district currently plans to return to classes on August 12<sup>th</sup> as was designated in the original calendar. While we could opt to use the variable calendar option (starting school on the Monday closest to August 26<sup>th</sup> and being bound to the 1062 hours and not the 170 student attendance days), this would require us to extend the length of our instructional day and to reevaluate our scheduled breaks which we believe are extremely important, especially during this pandemic. The goal for reopening is to provide as normal of a school experience as possible while striving to keep our students, families and staff safe and healthy.

The results of the survey should be available by July 21<sup>st</sup>. District level leadership will be meeting with school officials from other districts along with the Pennyville District Health Department Director on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss final plans for reopening school.