

Whitehall-Coplay School District

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Dear Whitehall-Coplay Families,

June 24, 2020

It is my hope that you are all safe, healthy, and enjoying the beginning of the summer break. In an effort to provide you with communication about the reopening of school in the fall, I will be providing updates throughout the summer.

PDE recently released a requirement for all Pennsylvania Schools to develop a Reopening of School Health and Safety Plan that must be approved by the School Board and placed on our District Website prior to the reopening of School. All Lehigh and Carbon County Superintendents have been working with our Intermediate Unit in consultation with the State Department of Health and our area health care providers to develop a comprehensive plan that will guide our return in the fall. Additionally, WCSD has a workgroup consisting of teachers, administrators, specialists, and school board members who will use this guidance along with the survey feedback gathered from parents and staff to individualize the plan to meet the needs of our district.

We are targeting an approval date from our School Board for our district's Health and Safety Reopening Plan by the end of July. You will be receiving a detailed guide, providing descriptions of procedures that will be put into place for the school year no later than August 1st.

We thank you all for participating in our survey, as we received an outstanding response rate. The results indicate that the majority, 60% of families, would like to return to school in the traditional "face-to-face" model with social distancing measures put into place. As a district leadership team, this is our first choice as well.

Therefore, we will be refining our plans for a reopening of school that will look as "normal" as possible with distancing measures put into place to the extent feasible, prioritizing the health and safety of our staff and students. We will simultaneously plan for a more robust online delivery model of instruction in the event we are advised to alter our attendance plans or close schools.

If you have any concerns about your child's particular medical conditions, please consult with your child's physician for advice about returning to school.

Our aim is to provide you with as much information as early as possible to allow you to make decisions for your family.

In closing, please take some time to relax and enjoy the summer!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorie Hackett
Superintendent of Schools