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April 09, 2021

Good Evening Upper Darby School District Community:

We are providing you an update on our plan to reopen schools for more in-person instruction. We have reviewed our current data for students attending in-person instruction following March 26th. After a considerable review of the data, here are our tentative plans for the remainder of the year:

- At the Elementary level, we must continue with the current elementary school plan of 4 half days of in-person instruction and synchronous instruction on Wednesdays. After considering many different iterations of a full day model at the elementary level, the team identified the following significant barriers for moving forward with more full days of in-person instruction: staffing, adhering to CDC recommended social distancing protocols while unmasked in the cafeteria (at least 6 feet), the creation of a brand new schedule. We simply do not have the space or resources to provide enough social distance in all of our cafeteria spaces.
- At the middle school level, we will collapse cohorts from five cohorts to three cohorts. This means that there will be two in-person cohorts and one virtual cohort. Cohorts one and two (combined) will be coming in on Mondays and Tuesdays (full days of instruction). On Wednesday (considered cohort three day), everyone will be virtual/synchronous except the students from our Low Incidence Programs who will be coming in for a half day of in-person instruction (same as current plan). Cohorts four and five (combined) will be coming in on Thursdays and Fridays (full days of instruction). We will be going to 3ft. of social distance in classrooms, but we will remain at 6ft in the cafeteria. We will only be able to sustain this if the students opting for virtual learning remain virtual for the remainder of this school year.
- At the High School level, we will be able to collapse our cohorts from three to one in person. This means there will be in person students and virtual/synchronous

students. The High School students will continue to receive their lunches after classes end, therefore the cafeteria is not a concern for us at this level. We will be going below six feet of social distancing at the High School but will be able to maintain at least three feet in all areas.

We are hoping to institute these changes for our secondary students by Monday, April 19, 2021. I have been and will continue to visit Home and School meetings for each school throughout the month of April. I will also provide and update on this information during my Superintendent's report on Tuesday, April 13th. We are tentatively planning a vaccination clinic for Upper Darby High School students who are 16 years and older by April 19th for May 5th (second shot on May 26th). Upper Darby High School Principal, Ms. Kelley Simone, will be sending out a communication regarding this information.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Daniel P. McGarry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools