

# CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 16, 2020

Dear Parent,

The purpose of this correspondence is to serve as an update on the status of reopening school in September. The District has been working on reopening plans over the past eight weeks. We have received updated guidance from the NYS Department of Health (DOH) but we are awaiting additional guidance from the NYS Education Department (SED). Our reopening plan needs to be submitted to the state by July 31, 2020. The plan will have three different instructional models, including 100% of students back to school in-person, 100% of students with remote learning, and a hybrid combination of both in-person and remote learning. We have sought feedback from parents, teachers and support staff on our draft plan and we will share the final plan via our website once it is submitted.

The Governor will make a decision about reopening schools during the first week of August. The Governor has stated that if the daily COVID infection rate remains below 5% or lower using a 14-day average, he will open schools. Once the Governor makes his decision, we will send additional correspondence to parents, and we will schedule a virtual meeting where parents can have their questions answered.

One element of the plan that presents an enormous challenge is the transportation of students. It is not possible to meet the social distance guidelines on school buses without mandating that students and the driver wear face coverings. We will also need students who congregate at common pickup areas to wear masks and socially distance. Given the challenges, we are encouraging parents to drive their children to and from school. If enough parents can transport their children, we will have a more efficient transportation solution and we can avoid changing the start and end times of the six school buildings.

We are requiring that parents provide us with information regarding transportation on each child. Please utilize this link <https://bit.ly/transportation2021> in order to complete an electronic form by Wednesday, July 22, with your transportation preferences.

If you have not already done so, parents can access the home page of our website in order to register for email/text message mass communication alerts. That platform will be our primary form of communication with families.

The District is committed to making sure the reopening of school can be done safely. Please help us by completing the electronic form on transportation. We will continue to communicate as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.

Superintendent