



Buffalo Public Schools

Reopening Update January 13, 2021

Dr. Kriner Cash, Superintendent



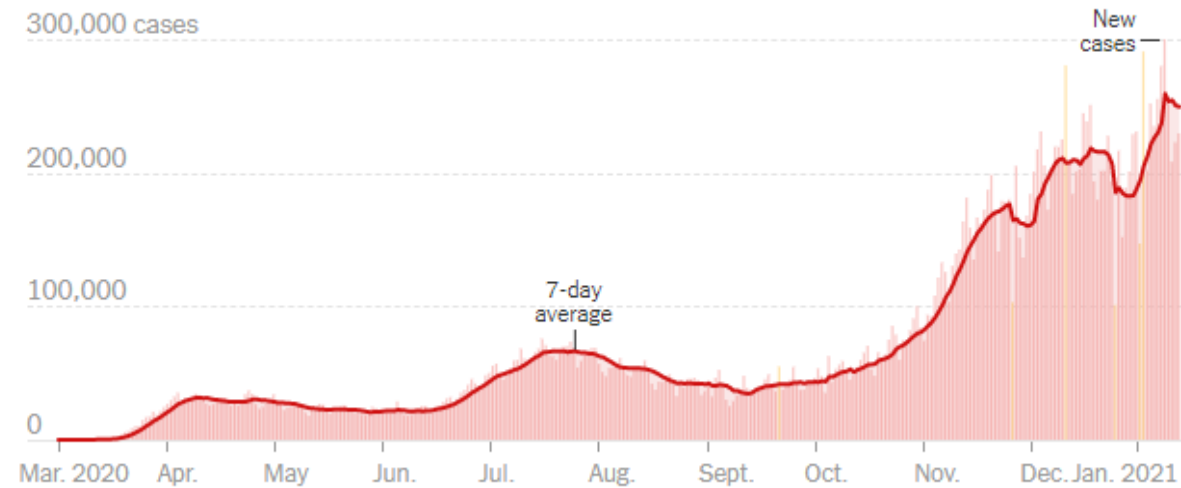
COVID FACTS TODAY:

- Cases 23 million+ nationwide, 14-day change is up 37%
- Deaths 380,882 nationwide
- Averaging over 3,000 deaths per day
- Averaging 250,000 cases per day
- Dramatic acceleration from the 650 to 750 new daily cases in WNY
- Hospitalizations remained elevated this week, yielding 143 COVID-19 fatalities in the first two weeks of January, 2021 in WNY
- More than 68,300 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in WNY
- New mutated strain (B117) rising across the country

Buffalo Public Schools

COVID FACTS TODAY:

New York State trending up



COVID FACTS TODAY:

- Cases 16, 713 confirmed cases in Buffalo as of yesterday
 47,575 confirmed cases in Erie County
- Deaths 1,614 confirmed cases in Erie County
 Almost 40% of those deaths occurred since Dec. 1, 2020

Cumulative Number of Child COVID-19 Cases

- 2,299,666 total child COVID-19 cases reported, and children represented 12.5% of all cases
- Over two weeks, 12.24.20 – 1/7/21, there was a 15% increase in child COVID-19 cases
- Neurological symptoms in younger people & multi-inflammatory syndromes in children; long haul COVID cases; a lot of unknowns regarding children

GROWS

- Increased outreach / connection with families
- Innovation (e.g., virtual and self-paced PD, virtual meetings, teaching strategies)
- Strategic use of technology (e.g., Nearpod, Schoology, Teams, Lexia, Zearn, myON, Moby, ARC libraries, One Drive)
- Increased student voice (e.g., SE, Multilingual, CLRI, focus groups)
- Distance learning plans track specially designed instruction (SDI) during remote learning

GROWS

- Grow technology skills → PD, IT office hours, ITCs, Workplace
- Increase student engagement → SEL, share strategies through Workplace, PD
- Spotlight on equity → providing 1:1 devices to students, securing internet access

COHORT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5-Day Remote Learners	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote	Remote
M/T In-person Learners	In-person	In-person	Remote	Remote	Remote
Th/F In-person Learners	Remote	Remote	Remote	In-person	In-person
5-Day In-person Learners	In-person	In-person	In-person	In-person	In-person
Students in senior support sessions report one day per week.					

CONCURRENT INSTRUCTION SAMPLE					
SAMPLE 90 min period	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
30 min	Synchronous, whole group lesson	Synchronous, whole group lesson	Synchronous, whole group lesson	Synchronous, whole group lesson	Synchronous, whole group lesson
30 min	Teacher works with remote learners In-person learners work asynchronously	Teacher works with in-person learners Remote learners work asynchronously	All students work asynchronously while teacher rotates small groups, holds writing conferences	Teacher works with in-person learners Remote learners work asynchronously	Teacher works with remote learners In-person learners work asynchronously
30 min	Synchronous, whole group writing lesson	All students work asynchronously while teacher rotates small groups, holds writing conferences	All students work asynchronously while teacher rotates small groups, holds writing conferences	All students work asynchronously while teacher rotates small groups, holds writing conferences	All students work asynchronously while teacher rotates small groups, holds writing conferences
Break out rooms can be used during synchronous, whole group instruction as well as during asynchronous instruction. In-person and remote learners may be paired to foster both engagement, connectedness, and accountability.					

DEVICES and INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

- Student devices and internet access
 - 30,334 devices distributed PK-12
 - 5,024 hotspots distributed to date
 - 595 Spectrum Stay Connected equipment kits activated
- School internet connectivity
 - 30 Wireless Access Points repaired or replaced
 - Newer iPads distributed to PK-2 students equipped with internal SIM card that acts as a hotspot

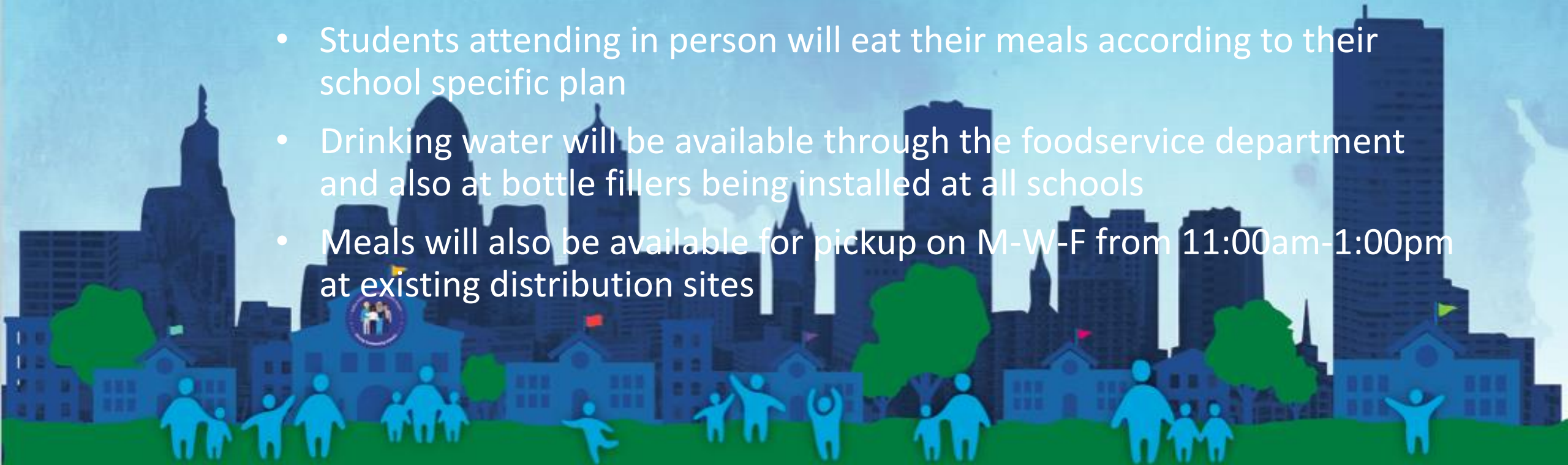


Handwashing/Sanitizing

- Frequent handwashing will be encouraged
- Hand Sanitizing Dispensers have been converted to alcohol based and are available throughout schools, both wall mounted and portable.

Meals/ Water

- All students will have access to free breakfast and lunch
- Students attending in person will eat their meals according to their school specific plan
- Drinking water will be available through the foodservice department and also at bottle fillers being installed at all schools
- Meals will also be available for pickup on M-W-F from 11:00am-1:00pm at existing distribution sites





Cleaning/Disinfection

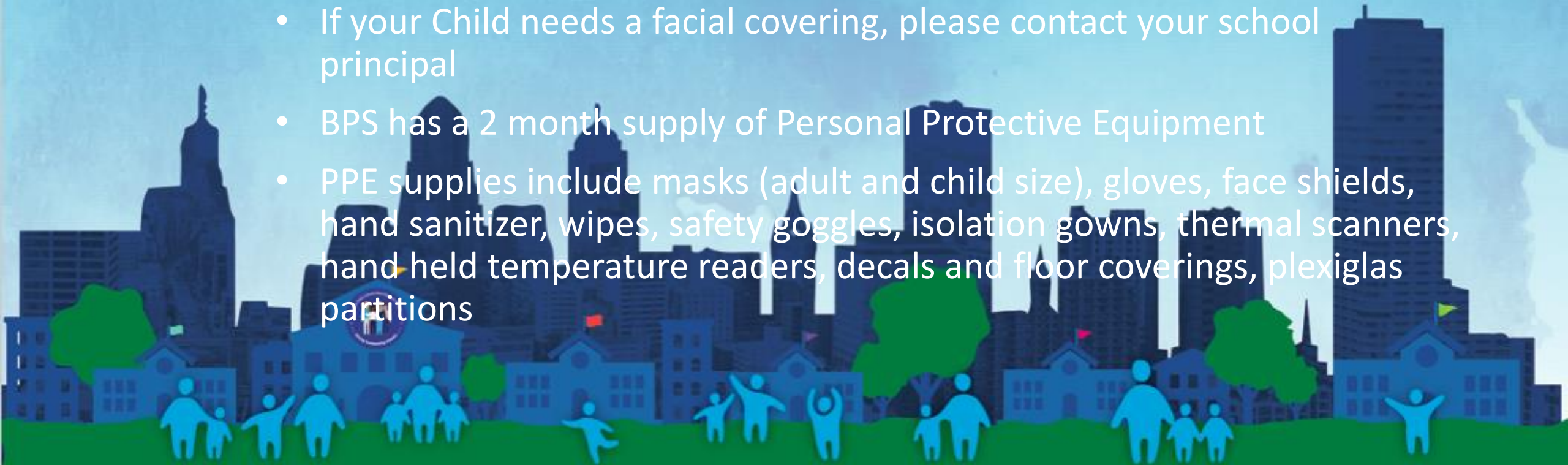
- Arrival of Students: Clean and Disinfect all area's used by groups during arrival.
- During the School Day: Clean and Disinfect High Touch Area's including door handles, stair railings, and elevator buttons 3 times daily.
- Clean and Disinfect Bathrooms 2 times daily, during and after school.
- All Staff will support cleaning efforts to the extent practicable
- Regular School Cleaning and Maintenance will occur daily after school including disinfection with Electrostatic Sprayers.
- Principals have been provided with a comprehensive cleaning checklist





Personal Protective Equipment/Facial Coverings

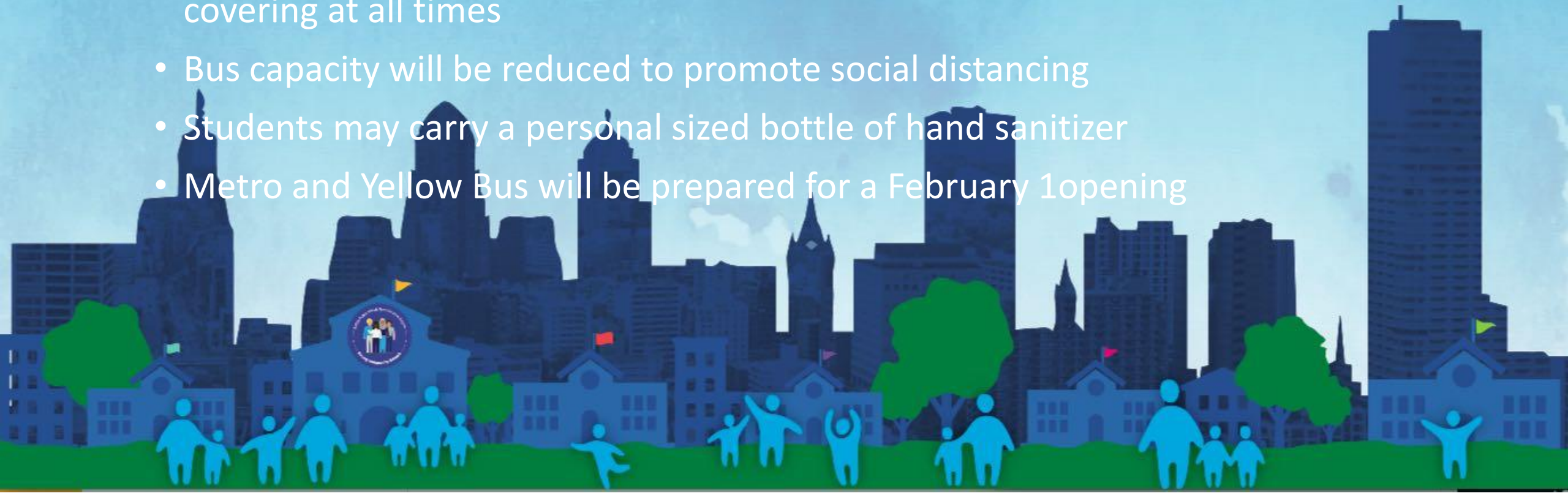
- Uniform policy will be enforced, and facial coverings will be required for everyone on both bus transportation and in school
- Facial coverings must be a double layer of cloth and be snug fitting to cover both nose and mouth
- If your Child needs a facial covering, please contact your school principal
- BPS has a 2 month supply of Personal Protective Equipment
- PPE supplies include masks (adult and child size), gloves, face shields, hand sanitizer, wipes, safety goggles, isolation gowns, thermal scanners, hand held temperature readers, decals and floor coverings, plexiglas partitions





TRANSPORTATION

- All buses will be disinfected daily
 - High touch areas will be cleaned intermittently throughout the day
- Bus drivers, bus aides and students are required to wear an acceptable face covering at all times
- Bus capacity will be reduced to promote social distancing
- Students may carry a personal sized bottle of hand sanitizer
- Metro and Yellow Bus will be prepared for a February 1 opening



BPS Random Antigen COVID-19 Test

- Per the New York State Department of Health, it is required that 20% of all returning students and staff must be randomly tested monthly. Testing will begin the week of 1/25/21.
- All testing will be conducted by the district's Licensed Medical Nurses, who receiving training to conduct the Binex Now Nasal Rapid Test, which is less invasive and which will provide results within a 15 minute time frame.
- Close to 9,000 test kits have been received by the district and will begin to be disseminated to schools next week. They will be monitored and systematically given to schools by Student Support Services Division.



COVID 19 IS STILL SPREADING EVEN AS THE VACCINE IS HERE

The Threshold For The Safety And Wellness Is Very High, Thus:

- As of 1/11/21, teachers, substitute teachers, school leaders, student teachers, para-professional and support staff, and contracted school district bus drivers are able to receive the vaccination.
- Ordered PPE Equipment
- Mobile Health Units
- Weekly Meetings With our Medical Director Staff
- Training with Nursing Staff

In short, be assured that all of our practices and protocols are directly aligned to CDC, NYSDOH, and ECDOH requirements, recommendations, and guidelines

What is the District's obligation to provide accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act?

Under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done during the hiring process. These modifications enable an individual with a disability to have an equal opportunity not only to get a job, but successfully perform their job tasks to the same extent as people without disabilities.

The ADA requires reasonable accommodations as they relate to three aspects of employment:

- 1) ensuring equal opportunity in the application process;
- 2) enabling a qualified individual with a disability to perform the essential functions of a job; and
- 3) making it possible for an employee with a disability to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment



How will the District be supporting employees with underlying health conditions?

The District will provide necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ensure protocols related to COVID-19 guidance are in place and followed to support employees with underlying health conditions to return to in-person work.



Buffalo Public Schools

Are employees still entitled to take paid sick or expanded family and medical leave under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)?

As of December 31, 2020, the federally mandated Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provisions of paid sick leave and expanded FMLA for child care have expired. We are now under the Paid Leave provisions of NYS that apply to COVID-19 diagnosis and quarantine mandates. This allows for 10 illness days to employees. Employees who have requested to work remotely due to childcare may apply for a contractual leave. Information about contractual leaves can be found at: <https://www.buffaloschools.org/Page/2101>

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

To be completed for any paid or unpaid leave of absence of twenty (20) working days - Please attach requests for daily personal leave requests must be submitted on the proper form.

Name Last		First	
Address		City	
State		Zip	
Date Requested		Termination	
Days		Total	
Request Reason		Termination	

Please check the box for the reason forterminating your leave as a number of

1. BCBA	2. Food Service	3. CTSB	4. TAD
5. BEST	6. Local 261 - Service Center & Cook	7. TAD	
8. B7F	9. Local 629		

Types of Leave Allowed: (check the box for the type of leave after which you are requesting)

1. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	2. Education Staff (2.1267)	3. Maternity (1.1114)
4. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	5. Education Staff (2.1267)	6. Maternity (1.1114)
7. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	8. Education Staff (2.1267)	9. Maternity (1.1114)
10. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	11. Education Staff (2.1267)	12. Maternity (1.1114)
13. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	14. Education Staff (2.1267)	15. Maternity (1.1114)
16. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	17. Education Staff (2.1267)	18. Maternity (1.1114)
19. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	20. Education Staff (2.1267)	21. Maternity (1.1114)
22. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	23. Education Staff (2.1267)	24. Maternity (1.1114)
25. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	26. Education Staff (2.1267)	27. Maternity (1.1114)
28. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	29. Education Staff (2.1267)	30. Maternity (1.1114)
31. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	32. Education Staff (2.1267)	33. Maternity (1.1114)
34. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	35. Education Staff (2.1267)	36. Maternity (1.1114)
37. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	38. Education Staff (2.1267)	39. Maternity (1.1114)
40. 1-30 day leave extension (4.215)	41. Education Staff (2.1267)	42. Maternity (1.1114)
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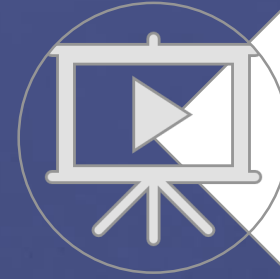
If I am mandated to quarantine, how do I request a paid leave?

- a. If you request leave because you are subject to a quarantine or isolation order or to care for an individual subject to such an order, you should additionally provide the name of the government entity that issued the order.
- b. If you request leave to self-quarantine based on the advice of a health care provider or to care for an individual who is self-quarantining based on such advice, you should additionally provide the name of the health care provider who gave advice. Please send information via email to Jamie Warren and/or Tameki Hollie McGee

****Please also note that all existing certification requirements under the FMLA remain in effect, if you are taking leave for one of the existing qualifying reasons under the FMLA. For example, if you are taking leave beyond two weeks of emergency paid sick leave because your medical condition for COVID-19 related reasons rises to the level of a serious health condition, you must continue to provide medical certifications**



Staffing Coverage Plan



Substitute Teacher Training

Training for 800 subs January 22nd and January 29th



Activating Temporary Employees

75 Temporary teachers who are currently inactive have been contacted



Onboarding Student Teachers

50 student teachers who have worked under our Master Teachers



Teacher Aides/Teacher Assistants

COMMUNICATIONS

Multiple means of communication with families, employees, and community stakeholders will be disseminated through the following modes:

- Automated text, voice, and email messaging to families and employees in our top 7 languages
- Weekly digital newsletters
- Social media posts on various platforms
- District letters and news stories
- Television, radio, print, and digital media news coverage
- BPS telephone support hotline
- Dedicated webpage on District website

Buffalo Public Schools

Q&A AND SURVEY RESULTS



DISCUSSION





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