

July 29, 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to update all stakeholders of Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School's Pennsylvania Department of Education's Pandemic Health & Safety Reopening Plan. As you are aware, this has been a trying time for everyone across the country. I have designated myself as the Pandemic Coordinator and will lead our group in the development of our plan. Other members of the team include: school administrators, community members, board members, teachers and parents. I encourage all stakeholders to review our tentative plan and provide feedback so we can prepare to bring our students back into our buildings and supply a quality educational program while keeping everyone as safe as possible. Our final plan will be presented to Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School's Board of Trustees for approval and implementation on August 20, 2020.

At this time, Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School is committed to the school year as scheduled on August 31, 2020. We are continuously participating in meetings and being provided with information from our local school districts, Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Center for Disease Control, health care providers, and Adelphoi to provide ongoing guidance and support as we reopen our schools as safely as possible. Below you will find a summary of our tentative plan. Full tentative plans will also be posted on our website for review.

Classrooms will be organized to facilitate social distancing to the greatest extent possible. All tables will be removed and replaced with individual desks to maintain six feet of social distancing to the greatest extent. Instructional staff will be encouraged to ONLY facilitate learning from the front of the classroom to mitigate possible transmission. Each instructional space has been measured for maximum capacity and signage will be placed on the floors as to where student desks will be positioned.

Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School will use the Center of Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and establish guidelines from the PA Department of Education (PDE) to determine use of communal space. At this time, students will consume all meals within their classroom, meals will be individually packaged and delivered by food service staff. Weather permitting, physical education classes will be held outdoors utilizing activities that will promote social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Although Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School does not provide transportation for our students, we will work with sending school districts to stagger arrival and dismissal schedules. Prior to the pandemic, all students and staff entered through in one central location. We will now use multiple points of entrance and exits to mitigate to the greatest extent large gatherings.

It is the expectation of all staff and students that masks are worn covering the mouth and nose. If a student or staff is unable to meet this expectation, a physician's note will be required and accommodations will be put into place. It will be the goal of Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School to implement mask-free intervals throughout the day.

Throughout the GREEN and YELLOW phases, students and families will have the option not to return to the brick and mortar school. Since learning is essential to a child's development, online instruction will be provided, asynchronously or synchronously, to students who choose to learn from home. All students will have the opportunity to obtain a Chromebook and WiFi access as needed. Students who choose to attend the brick and mortar school will not be required to participate in online instruction. Students' academic schedule may need to be adjusted based upon instructional staff deficiencies and/or instructional programming.

While in the GREEN phase, Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School students will return to the brick and mortar setting with a traditional instructional schedule which will provide ability to exchange classes following CDC recommendations and PDE guidelines. Families who choose not to return to the brick and mortar school will have the option of participating in a full Online Instructional educational program using Google Classroom with synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing of high traffic areas will continue throughout the school day and all areas of the school will be cleaned, disinfected and sanitized at the conclusion of each day.

Should we move to the YELLOW phase, students will be grouped and self-contained. Instructional staff will move from classroom to classroom. Families who choose not to return to the brick and mortar school will have the option of participating in a full Online Instructional educational program using Google Classroom with synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing of high traffic areas will continue throughout the school day and all areas of the school will be cleaned, disinfected and sanitized at the conclusion of each school day.

As we get closer to the start of the school, you will be notified of the approved Health and Safety Plan and the Continuity of Education Plan. Again, I highly encourage you to contact myself or another member of the administrative team with any comments, concerns and/or clarification.

Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School recognizes that with the ever changing government mandates and public health concerns may cause abrupt changes to our reopening plans. Regardless of the situation, if we all do our part to mitigate the spread of this disease, be patient, flexible, and understanding, we will come out of this a stronger community and school.

Sincerely,

Eric Guldin
Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School