

Two out of three teachers in Kindergarten pods A, B & C tested positive for COVID and one child in pod A and one in pod C, which are in separate classrooms. All these cases are linked to each other and regardless of which person came to school with COVID first, it is clearly being transmitted between students and teachers, which the protocols in place are supposed to be preventing.

These are just the first cases in the school, this situation would indicate that if another person comes in with COVID, the same spreading could happen.

There are people teaching in at-risk groups for severe complications from COVID-19 because they were not offered the accommodation to teach remotely. If any of these teachers were in this Kindergarten class, they could be fighting for their life right now.

We mentioned many times this summer to the administration that a K-12 population is not the same as CUNY's adult population.

- We have longer exposure times with the students and long exposure times are linked to greater incidence of contraction of COVID-19
- The younger the students, the more likely they are to be asymptomatic and come to school and infect others.

Both these things were true in the Kindergarten pods.

What we have seen is that the protocols in place are not sufficient to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Our faculty does not feel safe returning unless we can be assured of our safety and changes are made.

We need the following before we return to work:

- 1) Testing program in place- random testing every week
- 2) Enhanced PPE provided for everyone
  - a) N95 Masks for all teachers
  - b) Face shields provided to all teachers and staff members
  - c) Face shields for students while eating that are sanitized after each use and labelled with student names
  - d) 3 side- Plexiglass barriers put in place in all student desks, teacher desks, and student eating areas
- 3) Student tables wiped down between use in the lunch tents and lunch rooms
- 4) Student desks wiped down between cohort use in 7-10 classrooms
- 5) CO2 monitors in all classrooms and a plan for what to do if CO2 sensors show CO2 is exceeding proper levels to increase outside air or move classes.  
(<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities>)
- 6) True pod separation- no mixing for recess, snack, etc. Request of families that they respect the Pod separation on their own time, to minimize risks for our community. Pods

were originally created to accommodate families traveling to HCES together. Please do not socialize outside of the pods.

- 7) Reconfigure 7-10 grade classes so that there is no cohort mixing at all
  - a) Suggestion that would work: redo schedule so that classes that kids are grouped by math class (even though this is not ideal) and then have all the same subjects. Have foreign language only be on remote days, as there are many problems with the hybrid system and language classes. You can have double period foreign language on remote days and each would meet twice a week and then have double period of other classes on in person days.
- 8) Remote Reasonable Accommodations Granted to:
  - a) Anyone age 65 or older
  - b) Anyone on the CDC list of conditions
  - c) Anyone with a family member they care for that fits (a) or (b) above
- 9) HEPA filters always turned on the maximum
- 10) Provide the complete airflow data set for all rooms and spaces in both buildings
- 11) Give us the plan for cold weather including air assessments
- 12) Community Norm agreements about quarantining, travel, playdates
- 13) Decrease Elementary School Contact Hours
- 14) Provide answers and clarify these protocols:
  - a) Remote Teaching Locations and Office Spaces-- Please list all the rooms teachers will be using for remote teaching and verify that those rooms are adequately ventilated.
  - b) What is the bathroom policy and how are COVID precautions being implemented? There is concern about young students walking to bathrooms by themselves because there are no hallway monitors nearby and their classroom is on a different floor. Do they go with a buddy, alone ??
  - c) What is allowed and not allowed in the classroom in terms of physical movement and passing out of materials due to COVID regulations? We've received conflicting information. Please put in writing.
  - d) What is the policy for recess and use of playground equipment? There seems to be many pods at recess at the same time and on the equipment at the same time violating the social distancing policy the school put forth.
  - e) What are the protocols for fire drills and lockdown drills since we now have COVID rules to follow?
  - f) Please clarify the Everbridge App protocols for students, especially those coming to school on the bus?
  - g) What are the protocols for handing out technology equipment and sanitizing of devices?
  - h) What is the proper setting for HEPA Filters and what is the protocol in place to make sure the filters are changed? How often will the airflow in each room be monitored?

- i) What are the protocols and policies in regards to students who consistently take off their masks?
- j) Should all kindergarten bus children from 4 different pods (2 pods from each K class) be allowed to be supervised by one AT from 1:45 to 2:15 until they board the bus? Two AT's alternate to supervise these four pods twice a week each.
- k) Recess/courtyard supervision - kindergarten has one teacher assigned to do lunch duty for two in-person pods from the same class. Should the children in two different pods be mingling and touching one another during this free play time?
- l) What is the policy regarding early dismissal? (Where do students wait and with whom)
- m) What is the lunch duty coverage schedule? ATs are entitled to a lunch and a prep each day, it is a violation of their contractual rights if they don't receive that.
- n) What is the policy about absence from in-person and parents wanting their children to attend remote pod meetings? How can they either attend with their in person cohorts or with teacher's input remotely. This would encourage families traveling to foreign countries over Thanksgiving to adequately quarantine upon their return, to keep the community safe.
- o) What is the schedule for cleaning the playground equipment surfaces?
- p) For Pod classes, what is the role of the assistant teacher, substitute teacher, and college aids? Please put in writing each person's responsibilities.
- q) For the ES, for urgent technology issues, who do teachers contact especially when the ticket system is not working?