

Reopening FAQs

As of July 20, 2020: Please note that due to the evolving nature of research, guidance and community input, these FAQs are subject to change. We will do our best to notify you promptly of any substantive changes.

WILL A HYBRID SCENARIO OF REMOTE AND IN-PERSON LEARNING TAKE PLACE IN “GREEN” OR JUST “YELLOW”?

Depending on the conditions, it is the Prep’s intention to bring more students on site more often as the COVID 19 virus is brought under control. For the foreseeable future, it is likely that instruction will be provided at least one day a week on site and four days a week virtually. Fridays will be reserved for seniors scheduled for in-person instruction and underclassmen who require additional help, support or tutoring on site.

IN THE HYBRID MODEL, WILL SIBLINGS BE ABLE TO BE IN SCHOOL OR AT HOME ON THE SAME DAY?

The Hybrid Model we have designed provides for students to be on site on certain days according to grade level. Siblings in the same grade will attend on the same days. Siblings in different grades will need to attend on the day they are assigned.

WILL FAMILIES BE ABLE TO PICK WHICH DAYS THEY WANT THEIR STUDENTS TO BE IN SCHOOL OR AT HOME?

Exceptions may be made only in extreme circumstances, but the logistical challenges of balancing the numbers of students in classrooms and keeping siblings on the same schedule is already very complex, so requests will not be accepted.

HOW WILL REMOTE LEARNING BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS OFFERED IN THE SPRING?

Remote learning will be more robust. The Prep will ensure that all students in grades 9-

12 will be issued their own Chromebook for use during the upcoming school year. Additionally, our teachers, who will spend significant time this summer participating in professional development learning to utilize the new, Schoology LMS will be better able to implement remote teaching techniques. Please remember, parents/guardians must have a working e-mail address in order for their student to receive a Chromebook.

IF I DON'T WANT TO SEND MY CHILD FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION, CAN MY CHILD CHOOSE ALL REMOTE LEARNING?

Prep Charter High will accommodate parent requests to have their students receive all of their instruction remotely. However, parents who elect for total virtual instruction must ensure their students log on for live stream instruction on the days their student would be scheduled for in-person learning at school. Students who do not log on to the live stream instruction for the full time period will be marked absent from the class.

WILL THERE BE CAMERAS IN CLASSROOMS SO THAT STUDENTS CAN WATCH LIVESTREAMS OF THEIR CLASSES FROM HOME?

Livestream instruction from classrooms will be provided to those who request a virtual model until the COVID 19 virus is totally under control, as well as for those who are unable to attend on their designated day for other reasons. Students must log on for the full live stream lesson on the days scheduled or they will be marked absent from the class.

WHAT IF MY CHILD ALREADY HAS A COMPUTER? WILL THEY BE REQUIRED TO USE THE CHROMEBOOK ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL?

Students attending Prep must use the Chromebook which they will be issued at the start of the school year. In order to maintain the security of the school's network on which all students and staff depend for the instructional program, Prep will restrict use to the Chromebooks issued by the school. The primary reason for this policy is to reduce the threat of viruses being introduced to the network from outside devices.

WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME?

Internet access is extremely important, especially during a pandemic. But many families can't afford home internet and don't know how to get help. Parents/Guardians may use the following link for information on how to obtain free/affordable Internet: <https://www.internetessentials.com>

WITHIN A HYBRID SCENARIO, WILL EXCEPTIONS BE MADE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS SO THAT THEY CAN BE IN SCHOOL MORE FREQUENTLY?

Prep Charter's Special Education Department is cognizant of the need to carefully consider how to effectively provide the necessary supports and services to students with special needs within a hybrid scenario. Space will be provided whereby staff can ensure proper social distancing in order to provide as much in-person support and assistance as is required on an on-going basis.

CAN STUDENTS RIDE BICYCLES TO SCHOOL?

Bicycle racks will be provided. Students who can safely ride bikes to school are encouraged to do so. Students will need to provide their own lock.

WHAT TIME WILL SCHOOLS OPEN FOR PARENTS TO DROP CHILDREN OFF IF THEY DRIVE THEM RATHER THAN HAVING THEM TAKE A BUS?

The school will be open by 7:30 a.m. Students will be required to report directly to their designated area for instruction. Students may not congregate and must adhere to all face mask and social distancing guidelines once they enter the building. Instruction is scheduled to begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. each day. Also, because we are already operating on a condensed in-person schedule, students will not be permitted to enter the building if they arrive after 8:30 a.m. unless the tardiness is related to their SEPTA bus failing to run on schedule.

WILL AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS AND/OR SPORTS BE OFFERED BY OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS OR BY TEACHERS?

At this time, no Prep clubs or sports, nor any outside organizations, are able to use indoor school facilities. This will limit additional potential exposure to COVID-19 for our students and staff and allow time for proper cleaning. We will keep you informed as

circumstances allow for more extracurricular activities to occur.

WILL THE SCHOOL TEST STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR COVID-19?

Testing for COVID-19 or antibodies is not done in the school setting. The school cannot require testing for COVID-19 or antibodies except at the direction of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDOPH). PDOPH provides direction to schools if cases of COVID -19, including whether there is a need for isolation, quarantine, contact tracing, notification of families etc. Our school nurse is in close contact with the PDOPH.

WHAT WILL THE EXPECTATIONS BE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO CHECK CHILDREN FOR SYMPTOMS PRIOR TO SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL?

Parents/Guardians will be expected to complete a screening at home each morning, prior to sending students to school. If the answer is “yes” to any of the following, students should be kept home:

1. Do you have any of these symptoms that are not attributable to another condition?

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

2. Do you have a temperature at or above 100.4 F?

3. Have you been in close, direct contact with; or a caretaker for an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past week?

WILL THERE BE TEMPERATURE CHECKS WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVE AT SCHOOL?

Most children with COVID-19 do not have symptoms or have very mild symptoms

that do not include a temperature above 100.4. Prep Charter will routinely check all students' temperatures; however, the nurse may check students who are symptomatic or students who are unable to communicate how they are feeling. Parents will be asked to check students at home as part of a daily screening before sending children to school.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO STUDENTS WHO DISPLAY SYMPTOMS? WHERE WILL THEY GO UNTIL THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN PICKS THEM UP?

Our school nurse will designate separate areas for general nursing care and for students displaying COVID-19 symptoms. Parents/Guardians must be ready to pick up sick children promptly. They will be kept away from others to the extent possible until they are picked up. Working phone numbers and email addresses for parents/guardians will be required before the school year begins.

IF A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, WHO WILL HAVE TO STAY HOME – THE CLASS, THE SCHOOL?

Prep Charter will follow guidance from the Philadelphia Office of Public Health regarding isolation, quarantine periods and the necessity to close the school. Parents/Guardians will be notified of any occurrence where a student who has been on-site tests positive for COVID 19.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN IF MY CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Parents must contact the school immediately upon learning of their child's diagnosis of COVID-19. The school nurse will work with the parent/guardian to ensure the appropriate contact is made with the Philadelphia Department of Health and that instructions for quarantine, contact tracing, etc. are followed by both the parent/guardian and school officials.

WILL STUDENTS HAVE TO STAY HOME IF A FAMILY MEMBER HAS BEEN EXPOSED OR TRAVELED TO A “HOT ZONE”?

Prep Charter will ask families to follow guidance from the Philadelphia Office of Public Health regarding isolation and/or quarantine periods after travel and/or exposure.

HOW ARE SCHOOLS PREPARING TO HELP STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL?

We are preparing social-emotional supports to ensure students feel safe and comfortable returning to school. In addition, Prep’s school counselors will be available to support the social emotional needs of students, school and class-wide discussions regarding safety, resiliency, problem-solving, and stress management are also being planned.

HOW CAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR THE RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Help your children get comfortable wearing a mask and with maintaining appropriate social distancing by modeling these behaviors and practicing at home, where they feel safe. Encourage children to decorate and personalize their masks, as this may help create a sense of ownership and control of the situation. Be on the lookout for signs of discomfort (physical or social/emotional). And remind students that they can speak with their teachers and other school staff if they are feeling anxious, nervous or uncomfortable.

WILL STAFF WEAR MASKS ALL DAY?

Staff will follow state guidelines for using face coverings, similar to students. In some cases, staff members may wear face shields in addition to or instead of masks. This may include staff who work with students with special needs, nurses, etc.

WILL ALL STUDENTS HAVE TO WEAR MASKS ALL DAY?

Students will be expected to follow state guidelines for using face coverings.

Face coverings may be removed to eat when social distancing can be maintained, for exercise outdoors and during “mask breaks” when social distancing can be maintained.

State guidelines allow exceptions for health conditions that prevent mask-

wearing. Students may wear face shields that extend below the chin instead of a mask, if preferred, over or in addition to a mask.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO STUDENTS WHO REFUSE TO WEAR MASKS?

Students who refuse wear face coverings and are not exempted from doing so may only participate in the school’s virtual learning program. Also, students must log on for the live streaming of the classes they would attend if they were on site on their designated day. Failure to log on for the live streaming classes on the day scheduled will result in the student being marked absent.

WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE MADE FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY WEARING MASKS AND/OR FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING/COMMUNICATING WITH STAFF IN MASKS?

We encourage parents/guardians to practice mask wearing with their child prior to the start of the school year so they become comfortable with them. Students may wear a face shield that covers their face to below the chin instead of a mask. We understand that wearing masks may hamper communication between students and staff. When appropriate, some staff may wear a face shield instead of a mask.

WHAT PROVISIONS WILL BE MADE FOR EATING LUNCH?

Current guidelines only allow masks to be removed for eating if six-foot social distancing can be maintained. Prep plans to make sack meals available to students in the areas of the building where they will be assigned for instruction. Hand sanitizing and

ample access to fresh drinking water will be available in all areas of the school where students will be eating breakfast and/or lunch.

WILL THERE BE PARTITIONS BETWEEN DESKS IN CLASSROOMS?

In most cases, no. Partitions require additional cleaning. All classrooms will be set up with desks spaced six feet apart and facing forward. Students will need to wear face coverings while in the building.

HOW WILL SOCIAL DISTANCING BE MAINTAINED DURING CLASS TRANSITIONS?

Prep Charter has designed a schedule that will reduce the need for students to move between classrooms. Teachers will move to students, and in some cases, small groups of students will be escorted to areas of the building where small group instruction or tutoring may be provided, ensuring that the six foot social distancing guidelines are followed.

HOW WILL HAND-WASHING OCCUR?

Hand sanitizers will be provided in all areas of the building utilized by students and staff.

WHAT CLEANING PRODUCTS WILL BE USED IN SCHOOLS AND HOW OFTEN

WILL CLEANING OCCUR?

High-touch areas throughout schools will be cleaned multiple times each day. Every classroom will be cleaned between sessions. All spaces will be thoroughly cleaned nightly, with further deep cleanings between cohorts in a hybrid scenario. Please review the Health & Safety Plan on the Prep website for more specific information on products and methods that will be used to clean and sanitize the school.