

APPLE  
QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS

IMPORTANT COMPONENTS of OUR SCHOOL'S RE-OPENING PLAN

REMOTE LEARNING:

All our students will participate in remote learning, either 100% of the time or as part of our hybrid model.

Any family who requests 100% remote learning will be accommodated. Families who select 100% remote learning can opt for another model only at set times during the school year. For example, the first date will be November 1 for a November 20 switch date. This is so the school can plan for any needed staff changes and to initiate bussing.

Families can switch to 100% remote learning with one-day notice.

*NOTE: All students will be placed in 100% remote learning if mandated by the Governor or Mayor or other legal authority, if necessitated by a COVID-19 outbreak in our school, or if NYC does not offer transportation services.*

Our remote learning plan includes utilizing individual learning opportunities, direct phone interactions with families and students, video lessons and email lessons/resources that foster opportunities for continued learning and growth. We try to have “active” screen time, rather than students just passively watching screens. Teachers will provide learning activities in small and large groups, and face-to-face video lessons with an emphasis on engaging activities that promote reciprocal responses. This might be a video chat where the teacher reads a story and children ask questions. Continued learning opportunities through “at home” activities that connect to the units of study and/or the students’ IEP goals will be provided to families. This might include parents reading a story to their child at home.

As described above, there will be both “synchronous” (live instruction provided simultaneous with student participation) and “asynchronous” (instruction provided via pre-recorded lessons and hands-on experiences that students explore with their families.) All students will have the opportunity for regular and substantive contact with teachers and clinicians, via phone calls, video/face to face interactions, texting and/or emailing (with family participation).

At the beginning of the school year, we will survey families to determine the level of access to electronic devices and high-speed internet which students have in their homes. The survey will also question whether the student has access to the device at the time or length of time necessary to be successful in remote learning/teletherapy (e.g., due to multiple people sharing a single device.). We then will seek out guidance from NYC DOE on how to proceed with any family lacking technological access. Teachers and clinicians are well aware of the technology capabilities of our returning families, already on remote learning, but we want all families to be prepared. Staff members will also be polled on

their access to devices and high-speed broadband in their homes. A “silver lining” of this COVID-19 pandemic is the enormous growth of technology skills by our families and staff.

It is expected that it will remain NYC DOE’s responsibility to provide devices (e.g., iPads) and internet access (e.g., hot spots) to students who do not currently have access. We will assist families with contacting and following up with NYC DOE. Our agency is prepared to provide staff with needed technology and connectivity as needed, if not available through the DOE.

Staff and families are given the option to use a multiple array of digital tools and platforms. Each family, student, staff have various preferences, depending on the computer skills, available technology and familiarity with a particular platform.

For families who may not yet have sufficient access to devices or high-speed internet, there will be multiple ways for students to still participate in learning and demonstrate mastery of NYS Prekindergarten Learning Standards in remote or hybrid models. Phone calls, texting, emailing and written materials via the mail will be employed so that students can still participate.

#### **TESTING and CONTACT TRACING:**

Our school will not be doing any COVID-19 testing or Contract Tracing, as we are a school and not a medical or health facility. Contact Tracing is a public health function performed by local public health departments to trace all persons who had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. This allows public health officials to put in place isolation or other measures to limit the spread of the virus.

If a student or staff becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 at school, he or she will be excluded from school and sent home. The School Nurse or Pediatrician will make this determination and refer any student or staff suspected of having COVID-19 to their primary health provider. We will provide information on testing sites if needed. NYC DOHMH will immediately be notified about any positive COVID-19 test result of our students, staff or visitors, as well as the NYC DOE at [4410Oversight@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:4410Oversight@schools.nyc.gov) and the NYC Test and Trace Corps at [CovidEmployerReport@nychc.org](mailto:CovidEmployerReport@nychc.org) . As per NYS SED July 22, 2020 Guidance, we will provide the full name of the individual with a positive test result; program name, address, phone number; date we were informed of positive test result; and date individual with positive test result was last in our school. We will identify all close contacts. This includes all adults and children in the same static classroom as the person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and any other person who has been within six feet of the person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for at least ten minutes. We will assist with Contract Tracing by: keeping accurate attendance records and up-to-date schedules of staff and students, and a log of any visitors to our school and where they visited. Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations. It will be determined who is to be excluded from school based on guidance and direction from NYC DOHMH.

NOTE: *These guidelines have continued to change frequently and we will abide by the latest health information regarding needed tests, symptom resolution, and release from quarantine.*

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

Between August 7 and August 21, 2020, there will be at least three opportunities for parents, community members and stakeholders to address and discuss potential concerns and/or outstanding questions regarding our school re-opening plan.

1. Week of August 10 – individual contacts by teachers or members of SW Department to all families.
2. Tuesday August 18, 1:30 pm – zoom meeting; invitations shared by teachers or members of SW Department to all families during week of August 10.
3. Thursday August 20, 4:00 pm, English with Spanish translator - zoom meeting; invitations shared by teachers or members of SW Department to all families during week of August 10.

In addition, Wednesday August 19, 9:00 am - zoom meeting whose attendees is limited to staff to address and discuss potential concerns and/or outstanding questions regarding our school re-opening plans.

Parents and staff have multiple options to ask questions and on-going opportunities for the submission of questions in addition to these meetings. Questions can be sent to Nancy Glass, Director of Children's Services and Cindy Heller, Assistant Director of Children's Services at [NGlass@Queenscp.org](mailto:NGlass@Queenscp.org) and [CHeller@Queenscp.org](mailto:CHeller@Queenscp.org). They can also be reached by telephone at 718-374-0002.