

Manlius Pebble Hill School

COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, Remote Learning

(Updated 8/14/20)

On August 7, Governor Cuomo announced that, based on each region's infection rate, [schools across New York will be permitted to open this fall](#). Governor Cuomo stipulated that schools must clarify three key points on their websites:

- Remote Learning Plan
- Coronavirus Testing Plan
- Plan for Tracing Positive Cases

He further stipulated that schools must have three to five public meetings prior to August 21 with parents as well as one meeting with teachers to go through their reopening plan. The following information addresses the governor's stipulations.

PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH PARENTS AND SCHOOL STAFF

Community Conversations with Parents

Head of School Dave McCusker facilitated three Community Conversations with MPH parents and guardians. Click the dates below to view video recordings of these sessions:

[July 28](#)

[July 29](#)

[July 30](#)

Upcoming meetings for parents and guardians will be held via Zoom video conference (click the links to access Zoom meeting):

- Lower School families: [Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. for Lower School families](#)
- Middle and Upper School families: [Thursday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m. for Middle and Upper School families](#)

Community Conversations with Faculty and Staff

- Head of School Dave McCusker has facilitated Tuesday lunchtime Conversations with Colleagues (teaching and non-teaching employees) since July 14.
- Head of Lower School Amy Abdo facilitated a conversation with Lower School faculty and staff on July 24 at 10:00 a.m.
- Head of Middle School Matt Spear facilitated a conversation with Middle School faculty and staff on July 23 at 4:00 p.m.

- Head of Upper School Fred Montas facilitated two conversations with Upper School faculty and staff on July 23 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MPH'S PLAN FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

The health and well-being of every member of the MPH community is our highest priority. Anticipating the evolving nature of COVID-19, we will provide continuity of structure and learning regardless of location. Our teachers and students will stay connected and engaged, whether they are on campus or at home. Locations may change, but MPH's commitment to excellence in education will not.

- MPH is surveying families to ensure that every student has adequate internet connection and equipment to participate fully in distance learning when necessary. We will assess family needs by division and follow up to ensure that our educational programming is accessible to all MPH students.
- MPH has invested in technology and training to enable teachers to be most effective with time and resources, and to ensure that learning continues as seamlessly as possible, no matter the physical setting.
- MPH is providing teachers with ongoing professional development opportunities targeting student engagement in online and distance environments.
- We are currently working on enhancements to our hardware and software infrastructure that will facilitate education both on campus and at home. With the installation of cameras and microphones in every learning space, students who are unable to be on campus will have the ability to view simulcasts of their classes, and our educators will be equipped with resources including high-end laptops, cameras, and microphones.

On-Campus Learning

- MPH will provide on-campus teaching and learning as long as it is safe to do so. When the campus is open, students may access their education either in person or via simulcast access.
 - **In-Person Access:** Students access the educational programming while physically present on campus. To maintain physical distancing protocols when students are on campus, teachers will use technology to engage students with the academic content as well as to foster relationships in the classroom.
 - **Simulcast Access:** With simulcast access, students who are at home will access the educational program along with their peers by viewing their classes in real-time. As the simulcast system evolves, we will implement additional practices to better facilitate interaction between the physical and digital classrooms.

Distance Learning for All

- If the MPH campus is closed, we will pivot to a distance-learning format in which teachers and students interact using communication technology from home.

Large-Group Gatherings (e.g. assemblies or class meetings)

- No matter where our community members are physically located (on campus or at home), all large-group gatherings will take place remotely using technology to connect members of our community while maintaining safe physical distance.

MPH'S PLAN FOR COVID-19 TESTING

MPH continues to monitor recommendations from [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [Onondaga County](#) regarding health and safety protocols including testing of students and school employees. Based on current recommendations, MPH's plan for COVID-19 testing includes:

If a student or employee has any [symptom\(s\) of COVID-19](#), AND a fever over 100° they must:

- stay home (if already home) or leave campus as soon as possible
- consult with a doctor immediately
- notify Nurse Christine Civello* and keep her apprised of their condition

If a student or employee exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 and has been tested, they must:

- notify Nurse Christine Civello* immediately of the date of the test
- self-quarantine until they receive test result
- notify Nurse Christine Civello* of the result of the test as soon as it is available

If a student or employee has been tested because of signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and the test is negative, they may return to campus if:

- their symptoms have improved
- they have been fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours
- they provide Nurse Christine Civello* proof of a current negative COVID-19 test

In the event that large-scale testing is needed, MPH will refer community members to the appropriate testing site, physicians' offices, hospital systems, etc., to obtain tests and provide follow-up instructions. For additional details, see [Onondaga County Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#).

MPH'S PLAN FOR TRACING POSITIVE CASES

If a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19:

- The Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD) receives notification and will notify the patient immediately.
- Positive individuals are [placed under isolation and monitoring](#), and [OCHD begins contact tracing and notification of close contacts](#).
- The positive individual must notify Nurse Christine Civello, R.N.* immediately.
- MPH will follow all county protocols for thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting any areas the positive individual was in.

- MPH will support the local health department in contact tracing efforts using protocols, training, and tools provided through the [New York State Contact Tracing Program](#) to notify students or employees who have been in close contact with the positive individual on campus.

In order to return to campus, individuals who have tested positive must have:

- been released from isolation [as stated in the Commissioner's Standing Order for Isolation](#).
- provided Nurse Christine Civello, R.N.* with a note from a healthcare provider clearing the individual for a return to school AND proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

If a student or employee has had close contact off campus with an individual who has tested positive, they must:

- Notify Nurse Christine Civello, R.N.* immediately.

*Christine Civello, R.N., the school nurse, may be contacted by [email](#) or the Health Office cell phone 315.383.4792, or 315.446.2452, extension 127. If Nurse Christine Civello, R.N. is not on campus during school hours there will be a substitute school nurse in the Health Office. The substitute will have the Health Office cell phone and have access to email.