

Dear Parents,

I wanted to share with you some COVID-19 information that will affect us all as we begin school next week. We will Open School under the mandates of **the New York State Forward Safety Plan: Covid-19 Reopening Safety Plan**. This plan is being amended continuously.

Our PCDS process includes some items not mandated by NYS

- *Requiring all students to wear masks
- *Disinfecting spaces after each group of children has left
- *Mid-day temperature checks for children staying for extended day
- *Bathroom disinfection after each group's use

We are creating a bubble for each group of children. Children will not come into contact with children from other classes, minimizing the spread of germs. Bathroom visits and hallway schedules have been established.

In the classroom teachers will limit the number of children in each area. Children will have their own box of supplies so they will not have to share.

Teachers will schedule frequent handwashing.

Upon arrival

Between activities

After using the bathroom

Before and after eating snacks and lunch

Before leaving school

Music and science specialists will conduct their classes in the park.

When and why would we have to close school?

1. We are required to report a case or contact case of COVID to the NYC Department of Health. This department will decide the course of action our school must take.
2. Should there be a case of COVID in a classroom, that classroom will be closed for 3 to 14 days.
3. Should there be two cases of COVID, school will be closed for 14 days [10 school days]
4. Should cases of COVID reach 3% in NYC, Mayor Di Blasio will close all NYC schools.
5. If we have to close school for between 3 and 10 days, we will go to zoom.
6. Should a closing be necessary you will be alerted by an email

Close contact with a person infected by COVID-19

Children, teachers, and staff who are informed that they have come into close contact with a person with COVID-19 must report this to PCDS

These same individuals must be tested for COVID-19 and quarantine for 14 days or until it is established that they do not have the virus. They may return to school with a doctor's note.

Children diagnosed with Non-COVID Illnesses

We are entering the cold and flu season. Children must be fever and symptom free for 24 hours, without taking fever reducing medication, before returning to school.

Any child or teacher who becomes ill at school will be isolated until they are able to leave school.

When School Opens next week

We encourage neighborhood children to walk to school, as stroller and scooter space is limited. We will reserve the same space as in the past for both, at the school front door, and hope the scooters can go on the school steps. Strollers will be locked along the gate at the 76th Street entrance. Just be mindful that families will be lining up along the garden fence at arrival time.

Arrivals: All teachers and staff will have their temperature taken and answer the questionnaire when they arrive, and immediately wash their hands.

There are 3 entrances to school and your teacher will assign you to one. Arrival and dismissal will be staggered, beginning at 8:30

Fives	8:30 am -2:30pm Mon – Thursday
Fives	8:30am -12:00pm Friday
Fours	8:45am -12:00pm
Threes	9:00am - 11:45am for Ms. Barber and Ms. Vasconez’s Class
Threes	9:15am -12:00pm Ms. Hammond’s Class
Three Day Toddlers	9:15am – 11:30am
Two Day Toddlers	9:15am -11:30 am

Although it may take a few days to get the arrival process moving smoothly, please line up, wearing masks, 6 feet apart, on the side walk outside your assigned door. As you reach the door, the welcome team will take your child’s temperature and you will need to answer the COVID daily questionnaire. Your child’s teachers will collect all the children at the door, take them to wash their hands and change their shoes before going to the classroom or park. If the class is meeting in the park, your teachers will give you directions where to meet.

The children will be brought to the front doors at **dismissal** and will only be released to an adult wearing an ID tag.

Common areas in school. The Gym. The gym will be sanitized after each class visit, but we will encourage the classes to go to the park during gym time whenever possible. This means that on a rainy day the gym will be sanitized seven

times! **Shared bathrooms** will be cleaned and sanitized each time after children have used the toilets and sinks. **Stairs and Hallways.** As children will be in static pods, they will travel together in a small group when they leave the classroom. Stairs and hallways will be marked if used by more than one class

Large gatherings for events and PA meetings

Sadly, large school gatherings and PA meetings cannot take place at school until the government agencies say it is safe. PA meetings can take place on zoom. As it becomes time for our traditional large events, we can decide if it is safe to hold them in person or on zoom.

On- going cleaning and disinfecting

Air Scrubbers are located in all classrooms and the gym.

Frequently touched surfaces, like the stair handrail, will be disinfected at regular interval throughout the day.

An electrostatic sprayer has been purchased for daily sanitizing of classrooms and common spaces.

Our regular daily cleaning of the whole building will proceed as usual.