

York Academy Regional Charter School

2020-2021 Safe Return Plan: Responding to COVID-19

Safety first...

York Academy is committed to balancing the need to open our school for students and families with the practical steps necessary to mitigate risks to our community. This plan was developed with input from stakeholders and adheres to the following guiding principles:

- Safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of students, teachers and education support personnel is our number one priority.
- All students have the right to a relevant, challenging and innovative education that expands opportunities.
- Technology can be an important tool to facilitate distance learning in the short term, however, it can never replace face-to-face interaction between the teacher and student and among students.
- All staff members will need training, time and support to meet the changing expectations related to reopening during the pandemic.



Thresholds for phases...

The Green Phase will be utilized when the level of community transmission in York County is low. PDE defines low transmission as less than 10 cases per 100,000 residents and a Percent Positivity of less than 5% for the most recent seven day period.

The Yellow Phase will be used when the level of community transmission is moderate. PDE defines moderate transmission as between 10 and 100 cases per 100,000 residents or a Percent Positivity of between 5 and 10% for the most recent seven day period.

The Red Phase will be in place during substantial transmission rates or outbreaks within our building.

In-person safeguards are essential...

Families who select in-person learning, can expect the following safeguards to be enforced:

- Parents will be required to complete a daily health screening of their child prior to sending them to school
- Individual student desks will be forward facing and separated by at least six feet
- Meals will be prepackaged and delivered to classrooms by cafeteria and support staff
- Students will participate in adult-supervised hand-washing throughout the day
- Everyone will use hand sanitizer when entering the building, transitioning between activities or moving from one classroom to another
- Students will need to have a personal water bottle as all water fountains will be turned off
- If a student becomes ill at school, he/she will be isolated and the parent/guardian must arrange for the student to be picked up by a designated adult within 30 minutes of notification by school personnel
- High touch surfaces will be wiped down regularly throughout the day and additional staff will be brought in to assist with cleaning and disinfecting
- Our buildings will be closed to visitors and parents who attend meetings will be required to complete a health screening
- Students who are exposed to or test positive for COVID-19, will transition to online learning until they are cleared by a medical professional in order to return to campus



When we are in the green phase...

For families who select in-person learning, **students will attend school daily, following our regular schedule and calendar.** In addition to the safeguards listed above, the green phase will include:

- Students in grades K-8 will remain with their cohort throughout the day with teachers moving between classrooms
- Everyone will wear a face covering in hallways, restrooms, buses and other places where six feet of distance cannot be maintained
- Teachers who elect to wear face coverings in the classroom will be provided with face shields
- PE and recess will be closely supervised to limit contact
- Sharing of materials will be minimized and items will be cleaned regularly



The yellow phase requires additional safety measures...

All teaching and learning will be online, however we will provide supervision for students who attend the Lower School in small cohorts, supported by our instructional assistant. This will ensure that our youngest learners have a safe place to participate in the eLearning courses daily while also prioritizing the safety of our staff and students. In the yellow phase:

- All students will participate in eLearning everyday
- Adult supervision in the Lower School will be provided for students in grades K-6 who selected in-person learning
- All adults and students will wear a face covering at all times while in the buildings



The flexibility of online learning...

During the red phase, everyone will move online and our buildings will be closed. While our phase color will generally follow that of York County, there may be situations that require York Academy moves into the red phase even though the county is in the green or yellow phase. For example, an outbreak among a few families or several teachers absent due to illness could require us to close the buildings for a prescribed length of time.

For those concerned about returning to in-person classes and to ensure learning continues even when the buildings are closed, we are making major improvements to the quality of our teaching and learning online. This summer, York Academy teachers and administrators are engaging in professional development for our new learning management platform, Canvas. Widely used by IB Schools and universities around the world, Canvas will provide familiar, consistent learning tools, allowing our teachers to create a virtual classroom that will grow and adapt with each student. All York Academy students will use Canvas regularly during in-person classes so that the transition to online learning is seamless, should it be necessary. Canvas will allow parents to set up their own accounts so they can see assignment due dates, announcements, and other course content. With an "Observer" account, parents will be able to view all of the course content without participating in the course. Finally, we will provide training for parents to help set up their accounts and navigate the platform in the fall.

