

Dear Charter Schools,

We hope this message finds you well and that your Thanksgiving break was restful.

See below and attached for the message that was sent to district schools, including letters to families.

The DOE will return to in person instruction for 3K - 5th grades on Monday, December 7th. All grades in District 75 will return to in person learning on December 10th. **Charter schools located in DOE buildings that reopen may also reopen within this timeline, provided they meet all state requirements for health and safety precautions. Please note that schools in Red and Orange Zones are excluded at this time.**

District middle school and high school grades will continue learning remotely at this time. We will keep you informed as decisions are finalized to support with your planning.

Please email us at charterschools@schools.nyc.gov if you have any questions.

Best,

Charter Schools Office

From: Chancellor Richard Carranza <NYCChancellor@schools.nyc.gov>

Subject: Our Plan to Re-Open School Buildings

Dear Principals,

I hope you had a restful Thanksgiving holiday this year.

This has been an eventful and challenging year on so many levels. With your efforts and contributions, our school buildings have been safe places for teaching and learning for hundreds of thousands of students. We are grateful for the tireless work you have done to ensure this is possible.

Working in partnership with the City and the State, we are releasing plans today to re-open school buildings with enhanced weekly testing for COVID-19 in place for students and staff. To re-open our schools successfully and with sufficient testing support, students in blended learning—including those who just opted into blended learning—will resume in-person instruction on the following schedule:

- Students in 3-K, Pre-K and grades K through 5 will return to in-person learning beginning on **Monday, December 7**.

- This includes all students in 3-K and pre-K programs and elementary grades K through 5, across school types (e.g., in K-2 schools, K-3 schools, K-5 schools, as well as District Pre-K Centers, K-8 schools, and K-12 schools).
 - This excludes schools currently located in State-designated Red and Orange Zones. You can see if your school is in a Red or Orange Zone at <http://nyc.gov/covidzone>.
- Students in all grade levels in District 75 schools will return to in-person learning beginning on **Thursday, December 10**.
 - This excludes schools currently located in State-designated Red or Orange Zones.
 - Students in grades 6 through 12 (outside of District 75 schools) will continue to learn remotely until further notice.
 - These return dates apply to all students in blended learning, including those who selected blended learning during the recent opt-in period. Students who selected remote-only instruction will remain in remote only.
 - Students and staff who have recently traveled outside of New York to a place on the State’s travel advisory list must quarantine for 14 days or test out of the 14-day quarantine based on the State’s guidance, which can be found [here](#). Staff and students should continue to complete the health questionnaire daily.

As always, our first commitment is to health and safety for all of our DOE community, above and beyond everything else. Your tireless efforts have made it possible for our schools to re-open for in-person learning.

Here is how we collectively can help keep them open:

- **Mandatory Weekly Testing:** To ensure schools remain a safe and health place to learn, all schools will have 20% of students and staff tested on a weekly basis. Scheduling and logistics for testing will be shared with you prior to your test administration day each week.
- **Student Consent:** *All students are required to provide consent for testing by December 7 or by their first scheduled in-person learning day.* If a student arrives on their first day of in-person without a consent form in hand or submitted online, ***you must call their parent or guardian that day to collect consent immediately.*** Guidance to enter consent in ATS will be provided in Tuesday’s *Principals Digest*.
 - Families can submit consent using NYCSA or this [updated consent form](#) (also attached to this email). Please note that even if parents previously provided consent, we are asking them to submit again to ensure they have the [updated consent form](#) for their child that reflects the requirement for weekly testing in

your school. Note that the consent form was updated on Wednesday, October 14 to reflect this change.

- Students who need a medical exemption (available for all students) or disability-based exemption (available for students with IEPs) will be able to submit separate forms for approval. Principals will receive more information this week for distribution to families by Monday.
- Students without consent and who do not have medical exemption or disability-based exemption will be moved to fully remote instruction.
- **Staff Consent:** All staff are required to provide consent by the first day they report to their school building.
 - Staff can submit consent using the Health Questionnaire or using this [paper form](#).
- **Situation Room:** The Situation Room remains your main point of contact for any possible cases of COVID-19 in your school building, and will continue to guide you through your next steps as you lead your school communities during this time. You can call the Situation Room at 212-393-2780. For a complete list of Situation Room special holiday hours and closure dates, please see [here](#).
- **Holiday Travel & Gatherings:** For the holidays, the City recommends that employees refrain from **all nonessential travel** and limit gatherings to those within your household. Please refer to the [Coronavirus Staff Update page](#) for more information about the DOE's COVID-related policies for employees.

Additionally, to support you in your school building re-opening, we will ensure that School Safety Agents, the Office of Pupil Transportation, Office of School Food, Office of School Health and School Facilities are ready for students and staff to return to school buildings.

Additional clarifying guidance for you and your school community, including guidance on notifying your families of their students' schedules (*i.e.*, which cohort should attend on your first day back) will be forthcoming in *Principals Digest* and/or from the Office of the First Deputy Chancellor this week.

In the meantime, **please share the attached letter and consent form with your families**, which discusses the school building re-opening schedule and required consent for mandatory in-school testing. Translations of the family letter will be available as soon as possible at schools.nyc.gov/messagesforfamilies.

Thank you for continuing to provide our students with the most enriching and engaging educational experience possible in the midst of all the challenges caused by the pandemic. I am

excited to welcome back many of our students to in-person learning, and I am so grateful for your work to make that happen. I know our students and families are too.

In unity,

Richard