



EPHRATA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID-19

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

NOVEMBER 16, 2020





REOPENING PLAN
HIGHLIGHTS

CLEANING, SANITIZING, DISINFECTION, & VENTILATION

- Increased and ongoing efforts to mitigate spread

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER SAFETY PROTOCOLS

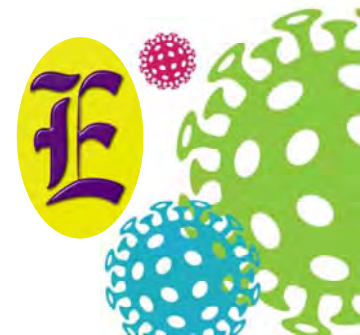
- Reduced classroom numbers & shared materials
- Adjusted transportation
- Sports & extracurricular modifications
- Signage throughout the District

MONITORING STUDENT & STAFF HEALTH

- Contact tracing, isolating, & quarantining
- Ongoing communication

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Protecting those at higher risk



MODIFIED TRADITIONAL (In-Person)

- Grades K-6 – 5 days a week
- Grades 7-12 – 4 days a week, independent work on Wednesdays*

ONLINE LEARNING

- Same curriculum being taught in *Modified Traditional* option
- Grades K-6 – Primarily asynchronous
- Grades 7-12 – Independent work on Wednesdays

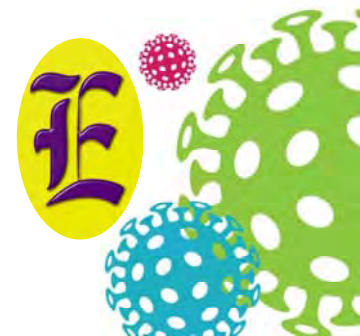
BLENDED Option

- Grades 7-12 only
- 2 days a week of Modified Traditional, Online Learning the remaining days

Ephrata Virtual Academy (EVA)

- Same offerings as a cyber-charter
- Students eligible for EASD sports and extracurricular activities

**Except students with specialized instructional plans*



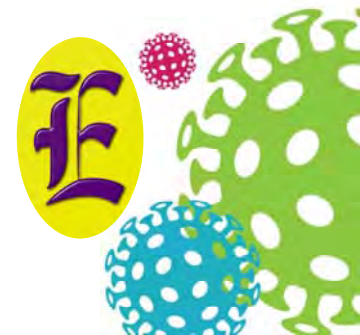
AUGUST 21, 2020

Modified Traditional	71%
Online	17%
Blended	6%
EVA	6%

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

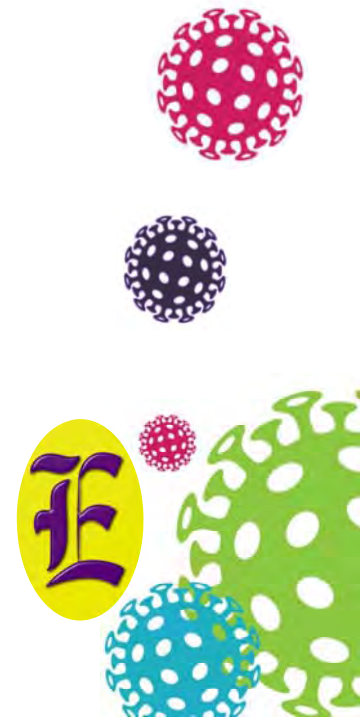
Modified Traditional	79%
Online	13%
Blended	3%
EVA	4%

INSTRUCTIONAL
MODE
NUMBERS
THEN
& NOW



UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION – BY THE NUMBERS – FOR EASD STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

- 4,900** The approximate number of students, staff, and support employees who are involved physically or virtually on a daily basis for school operations
- 51** The number of school days so far this year
- 36** The number of COVID+ cases within a building or district activity since the first day of school in late August
- 3** The number of cases indicating that close contact at school activities MAY have contributed to the spread of COVID-19
- 9** The number of active cases, as of the end of the day today



THE “ONLINE LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS” STRATEGY

AS A DIRECTIVE:

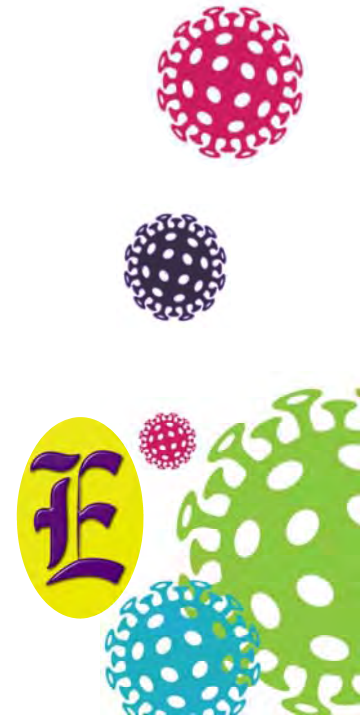
- Due to overall data at the county or state level coming from the PA Department of Health or the Governor

AS A RESPONSE:

- To a sudden increase in the number of active cases within a building
- To a series of connected cases within a building or program
- To an inability to properly staff buildings or the District

AS PREVENTION:

- Against a potential outbreak due to probable increased COVID+ cases entering our schools



Penn Medicine/LGH

Implications and Threats to Schools

- ▶ Schools have done a tremendous job at limiting in-school spread, the community is more a threat to them than they are to the community.
- ▶ As cases rise in the community and as more children engage in in-school learning this could change quickly.
- ▶ Additional concerns: College Students returning, Holiday family gatherings, Flu season, indoor sports all add new dynamics and possibility for more spread.
- ▶ Schools will continue to need to weigh risk vs. benefits of continuing in-school education.
- ▶ To reduce risk, we all need to double down on mask wearing, social distancing, limiting family gatherings, going to bars and restaurants, gyms, religious services and other areas of known community spread including extra-curriculars.



Montgomery County Office of Public Health

*“The Montgomery County Office of Public Health, which has voted to require **all schools to move to virtual/remote learning only between November 23 and December 6**. This order applies to all students, and also requires that schools suspend extra-curricular activities and sports from Nov. 23 to Dec. 6.*

The Office of Public Health (OPH) has told schools that it wants to take a proactive approach to in anticipation that families will be gathering and traveling over the Thanksgiving holiday. It believes this two-week school move to fully virtual instruction will ultimately give schools a stronger chance at remaining in-person after the holiday.

The OPH and CHOP have told public schools that the two-week move to virtual instruction is prudent given a surge in rising case counts and an increase in hospitalizations.





QUESTIONS

FEEDBACK