



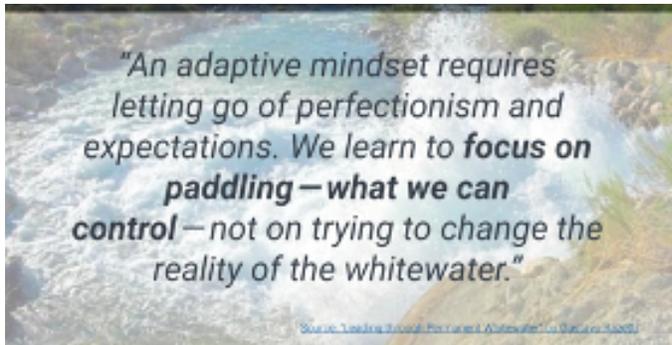
Anser Charter School

June 18, 2020

Re: Anser School Covid Response Update

Dear Anser Families,

As we have wrapped up this very eventful school year and processed all that has happened, we've found the words to adequately describe what leading in this environment has been like.... it has been "leading through permanent whitewater." These past months we have all experienced a great deal of loss, not only in our school but in our world. Even though there is a loss, we do know that so much has been found. Finding something amid the whitewater is incredibly challenging, but it can happen.



As our Anser Crew has "paddled together" we have all had to develop an adaptive mindset, focused on connection with each other. Teachers and parents alike have worked creatively to meet the needs of our students.

Our Covid Response Team is planning responsively for what learning at Anser will look like in the fall.

"In a time of unprecedented change when conditions are ever-evolving and ambiguous, responsiveness doesn't just become more

important; it becomes THE strategy for organizations to endure and thrive. Districts, schools, and education agencies will need to consider three concurrent streams of work (adapted from McKinsey's Path to the Next Normal) as they plan for School Year 2020-2021:

RETURNING: Determine multiple paths for a return in SY 2020-2021, with the expressed intent to address the needs of all students.

REIMAGINING: Rethink the way learning and teaching are designed so that the entire district community can thrive.

REVAMPING: Build agile and responsive practices to support all students and families in a time of crisis."

This is at the heart of the work Anser has pivoted to do in order to implement a Responsive Return Plan and to develop a more enhanced/robust remote learning experience that will be more rigorous, revamped, and reimagined through the lens of the EL Education Core Practices and Design Principles.

Covid Response Team Update:

We are continuing to plan multiple school scenarios that may occur this fall due to Covid19. Anser's Responsive Return Plan will be developed to meet the guidelines for re-entry set by the State Board of Education and the CDHD.

The Covid Response Team is focusing on three components:

- Health & well-being for students, staff, and families
- Excellent & equitable learning experiences
- Safe operations & systems

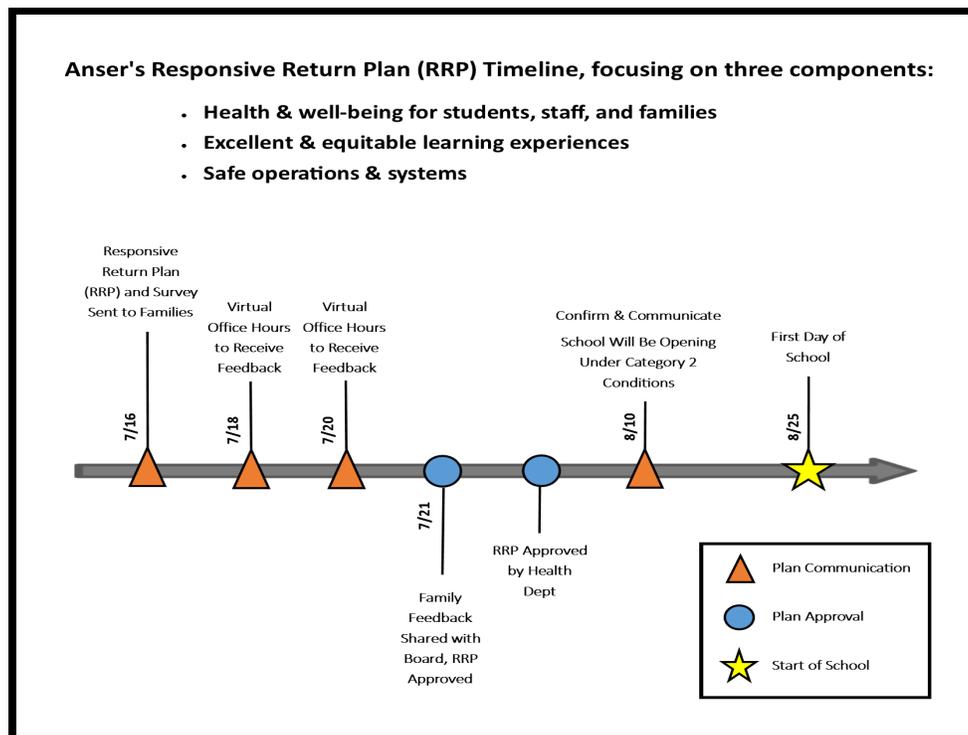


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The basis of our planning is the CDC definition of community transmission of Covid-19 in the community in which a school is located.

CDC- Covid-19 Community Transmission Categories	CDC-Category 1 None to Minimal Community Transmission	CDC-Category 2 Minimal to Moderate Community Transmission	CDC-Category 3 Substantial Transmission
CDC Definitions	Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission	Widespread or sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings with potential for rapid increase in suspected cases.	Large scale community transmission, healthcare staffing significantly impacted, multiple cases with communal settings like healthcare, schools, mass gatherings etc.
Anser Operations	<i>Anser's Responsive Return Plan is based on Category 2 being the likely operating condition for the school year. Category 2 conditions would mean Parallel learning-on-campus learning for most and remote learning for those that need it.</i>		

Here is a key milestone timeline for our planning process. This is when decisions will be made in order to support a responsive reentry plan and when communication will be sent out to families.





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By mid-July, the Covid Response Team will send out a draft plan to Anser staff and families. We will ask for feedback to share with the Anser Board of Directors before they adopt the Responsive Return Plan.

This draft Responsive Return Plan will include:

- Resources that guided this work
- Phases when school would have Parallel Learning, on-campus learning or remote learning.
- Expectations for each different learning scenario.
- Details about how Anser events and practices will be shifted, one to one device expectations, attendance, grading, Special Education, assessment, learning loss support, and more.
- Family expectations for Learning Experiences at Anser at home or at school
- Health and safety guidelines, which would include, but are not limited to, social distancing, virus transmission reduction, cleaning protocols, food service protocols, handling students that become ill, plan for vulnerable staff and students, communication protocols.

Virtual Office Hours

When the Responsive Return Plan is released, we will hold Virtual Office Hours to give families a chance to talk with the Anser Directors, some Anser Board Members, and members of the Covid Response Team. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions, get more information, and connect as we plan for next school year. Be on the lookout for the Zoom details for these virtual office hours.

Calendar Update:

The Anser Board approved the 2020-2021 calendar, including the first day of school scheduled for August 25th. You can find a copy of the calendar on the Anser website and [linked here](#).

Shift in school start/end times:

As Anser begins providing bus transportation many students may have to get up earlier to catch the bus than they would if they were being dropped off by parents. We all know how important sleep is for children. We feel it is in the best interest of our students, especially adolescents to move the start time of our day later to support this need. Shifting our start time later will also provide more planning time for our teachers, who will be asked to be planning direct and remote instruction next year. The new school times will be **8:45am-3:45pm**. Playground supervision will still be available beginning at 7:30 am for families who need that earlier drop off time, and we will also be serving breakfast.

Final Reading/Note:

“The country is on the brink of beginning again. And as we restart our national engines, let’s do so with a steady and cautious hand, not taking for granted the sobering lessons that COVID-19 is teaching us: that in a nation as fundamentally carved out of its differences as ours, equity matters. Thus, it would be a mistake to imagine the school reopening process absent an acknowledgment that something fundamentally has taken place in our world, that the thing that interrupted life for millions of Americans afflicted vulnerable populations in ways disproportionate to more privileged populations.”

-David Kirkland, in [“GUIDANCE ON CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE-SUSTAINING SCHOOL REOPENINGS: Centering Equity to Humanize the Process of Coming Back Together”](#), NYU Metropolitan Center for Equity and Education.

There will be many new challenges to meet as we look forward to the learning that will take place at Anser this fall. We believe Anser is positioned to meet these challenges more effectively and adaptively because of our strong Board and our strong community.

In Crew,

Michelle & Heather

Anser Charter School, Co-Directors