

Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent

June 25, 2020

Dear Mansfield Families,

Today Governor Lamont announced that Connecticut public schools will reopen in the fall for all students five days a week. This decision was made after careful review of current public health data and the prediction that continued adherence to reopening rules will result in continued downward virus trends. Many considerations led to this decision including the need for consistent education and the opportunity for parents to return to work.

This morning, Superintendents met with the Commissioner of Education to learn more about the details of this school reopening plan. There will be many expectations on the part of schools, families, and staff. Frequent handwashing, facial coverings that cover the nose and mouth, sanitizing and cleaning practices, social distancing to the extent possible, and keeping cohorts of students together when possible are all required. It is believed that the combination of these mitigation practices will keep us safe and reduce an outbreak of the virus. In addition, clear guidance and the support of local public health agencies will determine when/if schools would be required to shut down.

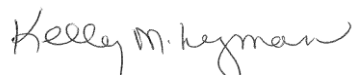
We are expecting a lengthy collection of guidance early next week that will provide us with some direction and begin to answer the many questions raised by this announcement. In the coming weeks, we were told to expect even more guidance and support from a variety of State agencies.

The Mansfield Public Schools has already begun planning for reopening and actions taken to date support the reopening of school for all students. A committee of parents, administrators, teachers, and Board of Education members continues to meet to address issues such as supporting students emotionally, identifying operational modifications that must be made, and planning for effective teaching and learning whether we are in school or at home again. Additionally, we have begun to modify our facilities to meet safety standards.

School may not look exactly as it did in early March, but we will do all we can to return students to social engagement, learning, and routines that meet individual needs. In order to respond to your questions and share information, I will continue to send information regularly. To gather input we expect to issue a variety of brief surveys, and to promote two-way discourse, we will hold virtual parent meetings at each school throughout the summer. Please continue to check email and our website often.

At this time, I ask that we all do our part to follow the social distancing, face covering, and travel regulations in place in Connecticut. By doing so, we will all be supporting efforts for a safe return to school in the fall.

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Lyman