

Groden Reopening Q & A
August 19, 2020

Below are answers to questions being asked regarding our reopening plan. Please note that the answers to these questions may change as the guidance we receive changes. Also, please refer to the Reopening Plan file for more information and updated information.

1. Lack of outside space at Groden South, no playground
 - We are in the process of creating a fenced area at the far end of the Coventry location where students and staff can be outdoors. They can also continue to use the area in front of the school.

2. Distance learning moving forward
 - This would not be our first choice, but we must follow direction of the Governor's office and DOH and RIDE. We have voiced our concerns repeatedly to the Commissioner's office and RIDE, so they understand the unique situation we are in. We are obtaining program licenses should we need to return to distance learning, and ensuring that everyone has the necessary IT equipment to do this well.

3. Very concerned about how IEP goals are being met, they still have all their packets that were sent home so how are teacher's measuring progress to goals
 - This area is being monitored by our Special Education teachers and the Special Education Administrator. Each teacher is in charge of monitoring and documenting progress, and provided activity logs with parent and student contact each week to the Special Education Administrator. Clinicians/BCBAs monitor behavioral goals, and Speech/Lang, OT and Voc monitor those goals.

4. Very concerned about evaluations, how they will be done.
 - When we return to some version of in-person teaching, the clinical and educational teams will be using the first few weeks to re-assess how students have progressed and where they are on goals. Evaluations scheduled at the IEP will need to be done with a single staff person, and will follow the same guidelines for safety outlined in the plan. Any evaluation that can be done via that student's assigned staff will be.

5. Very concerned about speech, OT, vocational services how will these services be made up and future goals be met.
 - These resource staff will be re-assessing skills as noted in #4. Each therapist will continue to provide support services to staff, students and classrooms so that progress towards goals is happening.

6. How will vocational goals be met with the restrictions on going into the community.
 - For students who have specific goals that are identified to be delivered in the community, we will try to replicate the activity being sampled as best we can on site. Teaching and practicing specific embedded tasks can be done but not in the community-based context that may be specified in their goal. For remote learning, the teacher should inform the parent of the task/s that are done through their vocational activities and work with the parent to see how they could replicate the task for practice at home. Determinations about community-based job sites will first be determined by the school

administration but we will also need to appreciate and consider the potential concerns we may encounter on the part of our job site partners. This may be a barrier for some time to come.

7. One parent suggested that there be a parent on the committee that is planning back to school protocol.
 - That would have been great! The plan is written now but we do make changes, so if there is a volunteer, we can contact them when there is another meeting of the reopening committee.
8. How to increase communication, even if there are not final answers just updates would be appreciated.
 - Letters were sent out to parents with updates a few weeks ago, with who to contact if more information was needed. The reopening plan was posted on the 17th, and parent meetings are being held. What additional information is being requested? Please let Lisa Rego know and we will do our best to answer.
9. How is daily sanitizing handled? Do we have a professional cleaning company doing deep, through cleaning? How often will this be done?
 - The sanitizing is continually being done by staff as outlined in the plan, and the building will be cleaned each evening in an expanded format by a cleaning team. Also, on Wednesdays there is only distance learning in the partial plan, so there is a period of no students present. Our maintenance department has a company that does deep cleaning (surface and 'fogging'), and a deep cleaning already took place and will happen as needed. Evening cleaning staff are expanding disinfection of hard surfaces in halls and common areas.
10. Emailing the Guide for Resuming Services to parents as they all don't have Facebook
 - Done.
11. Very concerned about the air systems in the buildings. Are we installing new systems? Upgrading at all to help?
 - There are no central air exchange systems that go from classroom to classroom in either building. We are using grants to request air filters and purifiers.
12. Guidelines if someone gets sick, if someone is tested positive for COVID? Will whole school be closed?
 - This is addressed in the reopening plan.
13. Group home restrictions, visitations, clients being in the house for so long without being able to go for even a ride.
 - This is arranged and guided by our nursing department, and visitation guidelines are changed based on rates of infection, guidance from the DOH, and other factors such as new admissions. Decisions are made with safety and health as a primary concern.