

# School

## SEND IN SCHOOL NEWS

This newspaper prints school news submitted by area schools. If you don't see your child's school, ask the teachers to send news in! Email: [sentinel@wnypapers.com](mailto:sentinel@wnypapers.com).

## Cuomo outlines metrics for school reopening

Schools in phase four regions can reopen if daily infection rate remains below 5% using 14-day average

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday announced new, data-driven guidance for reopening schools in New York. Schools in a region can reopen if that region is in phase four of reopening, and if its daily infection rate remains below 5% or lower using a 14-day average since "PAUSE" was lifted.

Schools will close if the regional infection rate rises above 9%, using a seven-day average, after Aug. 1.

New York will make the formula determination during the week of Aug. 1-7.

The state, the Reimagine Education Advisory Council and the Department of Health released finalized guidance and guiding principles for reopening schools. The DOH and governor's Reimagine Council are working closely with the Department of Education as it releases education guidance. Plans to reopen schools are due July 31.

Topics addressed by state guidance include:

- ✓ Masks/PPE
- ✓ Social distancing
- ✓ Cohort structures
- ✓ Restructuring space to maximize in-class instruction
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Food service
- ✓ After care and extracurriculars
- ✓ Screening
- ✓ Tracing
- ✓ Cleaning and disinfecting

"Everybody wants to reopen schools, but you only reopen if it's safe to reopen, and that's determined by the data. You don't hold your finger up and feel the wind; you don't have an inspiration; you

don't have a dream; you don't have an emotion - look at the data," Cuomo said. "We test more and we have more data than any state. If you have the virus under control, reopen. If you don't have the virus under control, then you can't reopen. We're not going to use our children as the litmus test and we're not going to go to put our children in a place where their health is endangered. It's that simple. Common sense and intelligence can still determine what we do, even in this crazy environment. We're not going to use our children as guinea pigs. What I say to the experts is very simple. I'm making the determination as to whether or not I would send my daughter to school. If it's safe, I'll send her. If it's not safe, I'm not going to send her. And you can determine that by science."

Speaking Monday on LCTV, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh said, "We finally have a true glimpse at what the fall will look like. From here, of course, it remains to be seen what guidelines schools themselves will come up with to have a safe plan to keep our children safe while they're on the bus and in school. So, still a lot of questions to be answered."

Public Health Director Daniel Stapleton said, "I'm glad it's data-driven. We need to make sure we're making decisions smartly, and that's with a lot of data."

He is in regular contact with school district superintendents and, "I think together we're really talking about what we think makes

sense - make sure that people - not only the students, but also the staff and the teachers - are safe, as well. So, we'll continue to work with them."

Stapleton added, "The fact is, right now, our daily infection rate over the past week has been about between 1% and 2%. So, if the rate is 5%, then right now things look fine. But we need to make sure we take the data; we look at the numbers on a regular basis - even a daily basis - to make sure we're doing things right. But superintendents take this very serious."

Wydysh said, "I think the point to take away here, to our community, is that, as of today - the way the numbers look today - we can say that we most likely will be open-

ing school in the fall. But again, that can change on a daily basis. We see so many states right now that are struggling; their numbers are spiking upward very quickly. We are lucky in New York state to not be in that situation, but again, we're working very hard to be sure that that doesn't happen here."

New York State United Teachers President Andy Pallotta said, "As we've said throughout this process, health and safety of students, families, educators and other school staff, and equitable access to a high-quality education, must be the top priorities in reopening schools. What we've heard from Gov. Cuomo, Chancellor Rosa and the Board of Regents has us moving in the right direction. The fact-based, data-driven approach to reopening outlined today stands in stark contrast to the reckless approach that some other states and the federal government are trying

to ram through. We will review in detail the final state health and educational guidance to ensure it does indeed balance the educational needs of our students with the advice of health care experts.

"But make no mistake, for schools to reopen the right way - with health, safety and equity in mind - we know that federal and state funding will absolutely be necessary. State guidance may be the road map for districts, their school staff and their families to work on reopening plans that are right for their communities, but nobody should be discounting the need for the resources to actually pull safe, equitable reopening off."

NYSUT is a state union with more than 600,000 members in education, human services and health care. It is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO.

### Formula Determines Virus Control

Schools open if region is in Phase IV & daily infection rate remains below 5% or lower using a 14-day avg. since unPAUSE was lifted.

Schools close if regional infection rate is greater than 9% using 7-day avg. after August 1st.

(Image courtesy of the Office of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo)

## 'In the Loop' with the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

### Lew-Port readies for state reopening guidance

BY JODEE RIORDAN

Board of Education President

Lewiston-Porter, like all school districts in New York, is anxiously awaiting guidance on reopening from New York. This week the guidance began to be released.

Interim guidance from New York State Department of Education (NYSED), the Department of Health (DOH), and the governor's office were released early in the week, providing a framework for the full guidance yet to come. These documents are available online to the public, and will be posted to the Lewiston-Porter homepage, [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com). We encourage you to read them for yourself as we await the official opening guidance. As of press time the official reopening guidance (expected Wednesday) has been delayed. This is anticipated for release by the end of the week.

Once the official guidance is released, each school district will then be required to create reopening plans in accordance with the specific guidelines provided and submit these plans by July 31. While Lewiston-Porter does not yet have the specifics that will be provided in the official guidance, the documents we do have provide a framework for the process of developing our plan. Certain key elements appear in each docu-

ment and are anticipated in the final guidance: the required use of masks, social distancing, and daily temperature checks coupled with periodic health surveys.

Again, Lewiston-Porter does not yet have the specifics of these requirements, but it is important to share what we do know in an effort to get us all on the same page as we work together to create our plan. Superintendent Paul Casseri reestablished his weekly community message this week, letting the community know what we have received to date and outlining some possible scenarios and criteria.

New York requires the opening plan to prepare for in-person instruction, remote learning, and a hybrid of the two approaches. The governor will make a decision as to the statewide reopening schools in early August, and then implementation of the instructional plans will be assessed on a regional basis.

As Casseri noted in his message, "Based on everything on the table right now we will be open for in-person learning on Sept. 8. The governor has stated that if a region is in phase four and the infection rate in that region stays below 5% schools will reopen for in-person instruction. The infection rate in Western New York is hovering around 1% so we are on track for reopening."

Just like Lewiston-Porter's existing health and safety plans (i.e., the districtwide school safety plan, the school counseling plan, emergency response plan), the reopening plan will include district protocols and building-level response plans. Once the final guidance is received, Lewiston-Porter will work together with all stakeholders to design its plan. Please watch carefully for more information from Superintendent Casseri and building principals as this process unfolds.

The health and safety of Lewiston-Porter students, faculty and staff have always been our highest priority and we remain unwavering in protecting our school community while we provide the very best education.

Once Lew-Port's plan is complete and approved by the state, it will be distributed to the entire school community. A series of parent forums will then be held during the third and fourth weeks of August. The forums will take place by building, limited to 50 people at a time/one parent per family, to offer opportunity for parents to hear the plan and ask questions. We will run as many forums as needed, by building, to accommodate all parents.

Please stay tuned for details on dates, locations and registration for each forum.

### LEWISTON-PORTER CHURCH DIRECTORY

#### Lutheran Church of the Messiah

915 Oneida Street, Lewiston  
Phone: 754-4944 Fax: 754-0903  
[www.messiahlewiston.org](http://www.messiahlewiston.org)

The Reverend Ashlin Marchese, Pastor  
The Reverend Thomas R. Mason, Pastor Emeritus

•Outdoor Worship at 9:00am on June 28th, July 5th, and July 12th at the church.

•Online worship can be viewed at [MessiahLewiston.org](http://MessiahLewiston.org)

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 9:00am  
2nd Sunday in September to third Sunday in May (Dates can vary)  
Messiah Lutheran PreSchool Rose Aloian, Director

Share Your Message Call us at 773-7676

### "Lori & Friends"



Cooking during Quarantine Part 2  
With Michelle Marcotte

hosted by Lori Caso

LCTV Channel 1301  
July 6th - July 19th  
Mon 3am, 10am, 3pm • Wed 4am, 4pm, 10pm  
Thur 3am, 10pm • Fri 10:30am  
Sat 3:30am, 5:30pm • Sun 11:30am, 10pm

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