



**WEEKLY COMMUNICATION – SCHOOL REOPENING – PARENTS
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2020**

***THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY.
You will receive an update each Thursday.***

UPDATES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19 - JULY 24, 2020

This week's communication is lengthy as we know there are many questions and concerns about how Pius XI will start school this fall.

• **CHANGES IN ORDERS FROM THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

As you may be aware, the City of Milwaukee will be issuing a new order, Order 4.1, that provides more specific details about opening schools in fall. This order will require schools to submit a comprehensive plan to the Health Department for review. After concluding their review, the Health Department may require each school to submit additional details that must be addressed before opening or the Department may approve it on the first round. Here are some important matters to understand about how schools open.

1. Each school has to be considered individually. The square footage and layout of each school, amount of staffing and the structure of each school makes it a unique decision. Therefore, the Health Department's decision to approve or not approve the plan for Pius XI will not be based on the Department's decisions for other schools around us. Nor should their decisions be based on ours.
2. The Health Department has reminded schools they will look at phases under which schools can open. They are not suggesting schools will be able to open 100% face to face at this time. Hybrid plans that support allowing only a portion of the student population in the building at one time will be considered.
3. School buildings need to provide 6 feet distance between students in all classrooms during instruction. At Pius XI we have measured all of our classrooms and are able to provide the 6 feet distance between students (and teacher) in classrooms if 50% of our students attend at a time. Any rooms that cannot provide this needed space will not be used and classes will be moved to a usable area.
4. Our students will be wearing face masks unless they are eating lunch.
5. Lockers will be spread out so that students are 6 feet apart when using lockers.

• **PIUS XI REOPENING PLAN**

1. Pius XI is working directly with the City of Milwaukee Health Department to make sure we provide a healthy, safe environment for our students. They have been extremely helpful.
2. Pius XI has prepared a preliminary plan that will be submitted to the City of Milwaukee Health Department for review in the next day or two. We do not know how long the review process will take. This means that, as of today, Pius XI does not yet have permission to provide any student attendance on campus in fall. This is true for all private and charter schools in the City of Milwaukee

right now. **We are confident we will receive approval** to return under a hybrid model which plans for a combination of days on campus and days learning virtually.

3. The re-opening plan outlines detailed information about mask and screening requirements, availability of hand sanitizer and hand washing areas, square footage and configuration of the buildings, ventilation, food service procedures, movement in and out of the building to keep students socially distanced, and other important considerations.
4. The Pius XI plan outlines the intention of reopening in the hybrid model with the ability to move to a fully virtual plan immediately as needed. Full 100% 5 day student attendance is unlikely at this time. However, our plan shows our preparedness to do so when health conditions allow.
5. Thanks to the generosity of our parents, we are well on our way to having our new health room staffed by volunteer nurses from our parent community. If you would still like to volunteer for this initiative, please email us at piuscomeshome@piusxi.org.
6. Our Pius Comes Home Team has been working since May to ensure that our students come back in the safest way possible. We are taking tender care of our students' mental and spiritual health in our plans. Every model in our plan whether it be 100% virtual, hybrid, or 100% face to face is being planned by our Academic Committee to ensure the highest quality learning experiences possible.

- **FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS**

Just as each school is to be considered individually by the Health Department, we understand each of our families need to be considered individually also. If your family has concerns about your child(ren) returning face-to-face at this time, you do have the option to request virtual learning for your child. We want to support our Pius XI Community in doing what is best for the health of each one of our students and their families. What does this mean?

1. Parents will complete an online request form for special accommodations.
2. Webcams will be installed in classrooms so that students can attend the livestream of their class on the days it is held in person.
3. You may also request to have your child attend class virtually if s/he is home sick or quarantined.
4. Students may not move back and forth between virtual and in-person instruction without communication and a process to do so. During this pandemic we need to be very particular about knowing who is in the building at any given time.
5. Pius XI will be outlining the process to request 100% virtual instruction for your child sometime-next week.

- **SCHOOL CALENDAR:** These starting dates still stand.

Thursday, August 13 – 9-11am	Procedural Training – Freshmen
Friday, August 14 – 9am	Freshmen Orientation and Book Pick up
Monday, August 17	Faculty-Staff Procedural Training
Tuesday, August 18	Faculty-Staff Planning
Wednesday, August 19 – 9-11am	Procedural Training – Sophomores
Thursday, August 20 – 9-11am	Procedural Training – Juniors
Friday, August 21 – 9-11am	Procedural Training – Seniors
August 24-September 4	Flex weeks that will provide an opportunity for us to reconnect as a community through initial instruction, continued teacher training, induction of new students, and community building
Tuesday, September 8 – 8am-2:40pm	First day of school

We are anticipating additional built-in breaks to support the mental health of our students and faculty as they navigate through the challenges of an unusual school year. Please remember – we are in the midst of a health emergency and things will need to look different for a while.

- **SURVEY RESPONSES**

THANK YOU for responding to our arrival and dismissal survey last week. The purpose of this survey was to gain the data needed to plan for student supervision at the times it is needed, planning the procedure for a physically distanced entrance and exit to and from the school building, and ensuring accommodations for any students who may take public transportation – given the 10 person limit on city buses at this time, etc. We will share the results of the survey next week.

- **IMPORTANT FACTS**

1. **COVID 19** will be with us for a while. As a representative from the Health Department told us today, “You can be 100% sure that someone at Pius XI will test positive for the virus.” We need to plan to live and attend school safely within this current reality.
2. Once the CDC and City of Milwaukee Health Department update their guidelines and order, we will publish exactly how Pius XI will address any positive cases, suspected cases, what to do if family members test positive, etc. We expect this within the next week to week and a half.
3. One important thing you will hear over and over when thinking about who may be exposed to the virus at any given time: Investigation of possible exposure will be based on identification of close personal contact. This is anyone who has been less than 6 feet distance from a person who is positive for more than 10 minutes (**City of Milwaukee determined this amount of time**).

- **ATHLETICS:** Our Athletic Director, Kevin Kehoss, will send information about Athletics in a separate communication.
- Please follow the City of Milwaukee Health Department updates for information about how and when schools can open. Those orders drive decisions about our Pius XI reopening.
- This is a lot to absorb and there are still many unknowns. Please remember that things change daily. We will keep you posted as quickly as possible. Let’s keep our Pius XI Community in prayer.

God of all healing, we pray for one another as a Pius XI Community.

Fill us with protection and hope as we navigate this pandemic.

Bless our families and keep them safe.

Remove any anxiety from our hearts during this uncertain time.

**We pray that we may be together as a community soon
so that we may experience the joy and support of being FAMILY at Pius XI.**

St. Francis of Assisi and St. Vincent Pallotti, pray for us.

**PLEASE SEND ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS/CONCERNS TO
piuscomeshome@piusxi.org.**