



## BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Office of the Superintendent

65 Niagara Square Room #712 City Hall  
Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone (716) 816-3575 \* Fax (716) 851-3033  
krinercash@buffaloschools.org

August 9, 2021

Dear Buffalo Public Schools Family,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on plans for a full re-opening of our schools on Wednesday, September 8. As of today, we are expecting all students to return to school buildings, full-time, five days per week. The highly contagious and currently dominant COVID Delta variant continues to create unpredictable conditions for all school districts and, therefore, our plans may change or be amended. Please be assured, however, that we are preparing for as safe a 2021-2022 school year as possible under the circumstances.

I wish to thank all of the key constituencies that have successfully brought us to this point. First to our teachers, administrators, and support staff: Due to your teamwork, perseverance, and fidelity to our safety protocols, instruction and services continued to be delivered undisrupted across the District throughout the spring and summer to the benefit of our students, their families, and the community at large.

To staff & stakeholders who participated in our Re-opening meetings: The model Re-Opening Plan we produced last September 2020 remains our comprehensive playbook for September 2021. We will continue to work with our stakeholders in the coming weeks and months as we adapt and refine the Plan for the coming school year.

To our parents and students: You have endured so much. Be assured that we will do our very best work as a school district to educate, support and advance the academic and social-emotional learning of the children of Buffalo. You have the resolute dedication of thousands of staff and an unwavering Board of Education committed to those goals.

To our Board of Education: Your trust of staff and of our Re-Opening Committee of stakeholders stands second to none. As a result of your outstanding governance during this pandemic, the Buffalo Public Schools did not erratically close, re-open, and close again as so many districts did throughout the country and are doing now as schools reopen the 2021-2022 school year across the nation.

Attached to my update here is a concise summary of our high standards for a successful September re-opening, prepared from the foundation already established by our District Re-Opening Committee. I ask that you read this document thoroughly. We will need and expect your strict adherence to effectively implement these protocols. Our Medical Team for the Buffalo Public Schools, the CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) are clear and unequivocal: "The Delta variant is as contagious as chicken pox. It is crucial to protect children against the Delta variant – not just to preserve in-person learning and to protect their own health – but to help prevent even more aggressive variants from emerging."

Finally, let me make my position clear on the public health and the public education crises narratives that have emerged from the COVID pandemic. When all eligible citizens and children get vaccinated and adhere to sensible research-based masking protocols in public arenas, we have our best chance to protect our children and to conquer COVID and its dangerous variants. When all children and parents invest the necessary time and sustained effort toward achieving a high-quality education, they will attain it. We will uphold our end of the Education Bargain with Students and Parents.

I will update you once more before the start of school. I implore you, if you haven't already, to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible; your children 12yrs. and older as well. I also ask this: Be kind. Be nice. Slow down in your cars. Watch out for children. Working together, we will have a safe, successful, and transformational 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kriner Cash  
Superintendent

*"Putting Children & Families First to Ensure High Academic Achievement for All"*