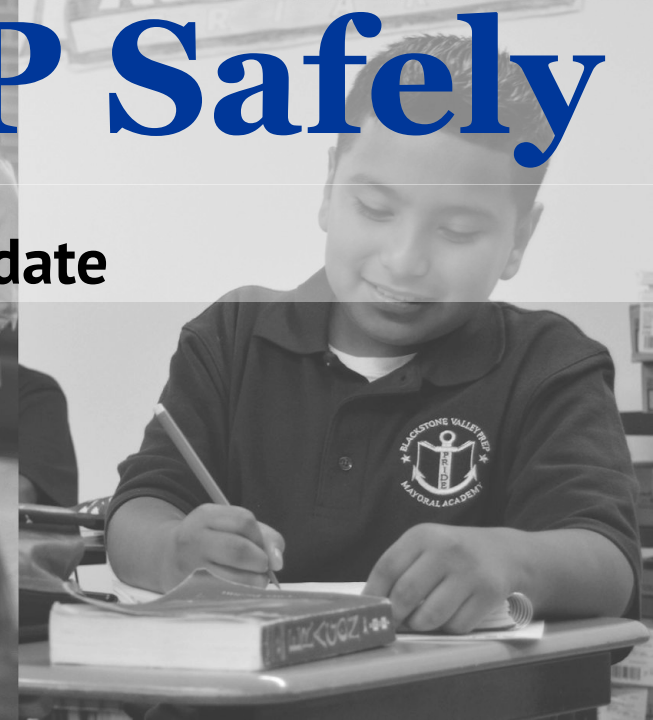




# Reopening BVP Safely

October 5, 2020 Board Update



# Introduction

**Jeremy Chiappetta**

**Superintendent and CEO**

**Blackstone Valley Prep**

*Parent of Three BVP Scholars*

**[jchiappetta@blackstonevalleyprep.org](mailto:jchiappetta@blackstonevalleyprep.org)**

**@chiachess on twitter**

# Our Mission

*The mission of Blackstone Valley Prep is to prepare every scholar for success in college and the world beyond.*

# Our Values

## BVP Values

**Perseverance**

**Respect**

**Integrity**

**Discipline**

**Enthusiasm**

**+ 1 Love**

## RI Reopening Guiding Principles

**1) Safety First,**

**2) Transparency,**

**3) Equity,**

**4) Listening, and**

**5) Decisiveness.**

# **We are slowly and safely reopening, focused first on scholars with the highest need for in-person instruction**

## **Completed:**

- ✓ Monday, 9/14: Launch of Distance Learning K-12
- ✓ Tuesday, 9/22: 5th-12th Grade MVPs began
- ✓ Tuesday, 9/29: Kindergarten and K-4 MVPs began

## **Upcoming:**

- Tuesday, 10/13: Planned transition to Partial Reopening (K-4 in-person for 45% of families requesting that option)
- ? TBD 5-12 In-person



# To support reopening, both in person and distance learning, we have:

- **Prepped facilities:**
  - National Guard/RIDOH Walkthrough
  - PPE acquired;
  - Deep cleanings and custodial training;
  - HEPA filters for ES3
- **Supported family needs:**
  - Weekly meal distributions supporting approximately 400 families (>5,000 meals) per week
- Acquired and in process of distributing **more than 1,000 Chromebooks** to support Distance Learning.
  - By next week we believe we will be able to meet 100% of the family demand for devices.



# Reopening Data

A look at COVID-19 data and how that data may inform decisions



# R-naught is the “spread” of the disease

## The aim is to be below 1.0; RI is at 1.14 (8th highest in the US)

### R<sub>t</sub> COVID-19

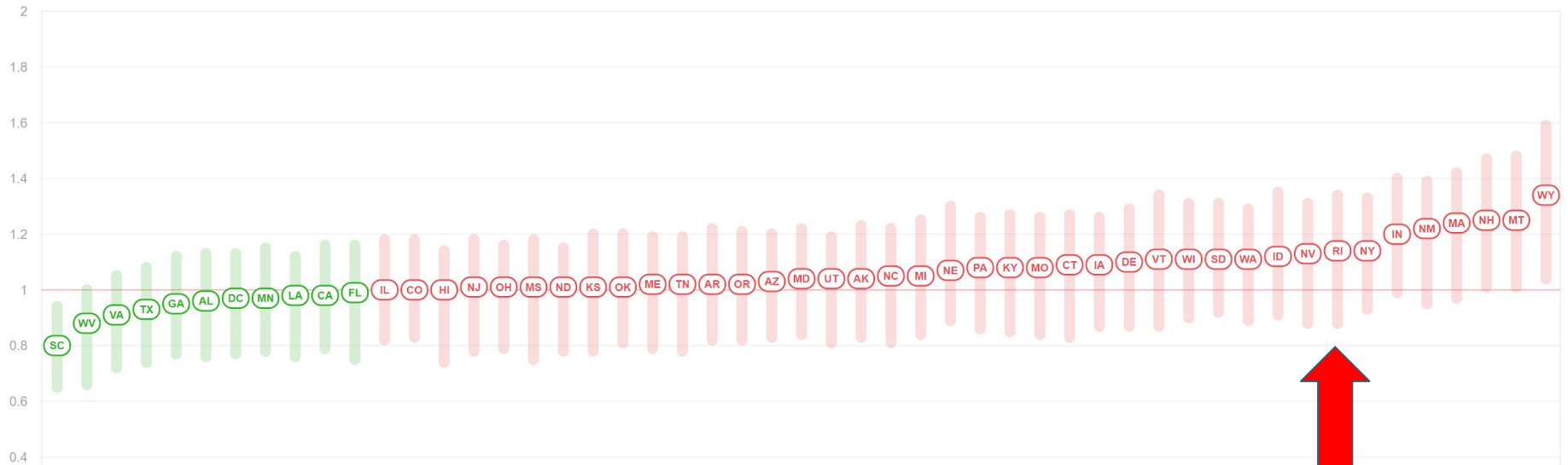
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These are up-to-date values for R<sub>t</sub>, a key measure of how fast the virus is growing. It's the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person. If R<sub>t</sub> is above 1.0, the virus will spread quickly. When R<sub>t</sub> is below 1.0, the virus will stop spreading. [Learn More](#).

[See details about the spread in Rhode Island](#)

Data Last Updated: 10/4 at 12:17PM

Latest 2 Weeks Ago 1 Month Ago 2 Months Ago 3 Months Ago Filter





# Reopening Data Considerations:

## Municipal Data

**Cases/100,000**

**How many cases,  
per 100,000  
residents, are there?**

**Percent Positive**

**What is the  
percentage of all of  
those who are tested  
that are positive?**

# BVP has committed to opening when it is safe for all scholars

Building on the value of **equity**, we have committed to reopen when we can for all scholars.

*Despite some requests to open for in-person instruction for just some families (e.g. just suburban families), BVP will only open when we can open for all of our scholars and families.*

# Rhode Island Guidance

- Original guidance to reopen in FULL was **four weeks in a row of <100 cases per 100,000**
  - This guidance has not been updated;
  - I have heard that Dr. Alexander-Scott will take a holistic view going forward
- Governor Raimondo has made clear that she wants as many students back in class as is possible. She regularly points to real negative impacts of school closure:
  - learning loss
  - food insecurity/safety/reporting,
  - economic impact on families
- Governor has also repeatedly said that Central Falls and Providence would be treated differently



# Reopening Data Considerations:

Municipal Data (as of 9/30/2020)

## Cases/100,000

Central Falls: 181

Cumberland: 38

Lincoln: 65

Pawtucket: 113

## Percent Positive

Central Falls: 6.8%

Pawtucket: 4.0%

Lincoln: 2.1%

Cumberland: 1.2%

# Reopening Data Considerations:

Municipal Data in context - Massachusetts Comparison

**RED = 8 /100,000 (daily)**

**Percent Positive (4%)**

If using the  
Massachusetts threshold:

**CF, Lincoln, and Pawtucket  
would be RED: Distance Only  
(>8/day or 56/week)**

**Cumberland would be Yellow:  
Hybrid (>4/day or 28/week)**

If we were in  
Massachusetts:

CF would be 352 of 353 with 2nd  
highest positive rate in the state

Pawtucket would be 349 of 353  
with 4th highest rate

Lincoln would be 324th

Cumberland would be 255th

***Boston set a 4% percent positive  
rate as a maximum to reopen (CF  
and Pawtucket would be unable to  
reopen by that metric)***

# Reopening Data Considerations:

Applying the Massachusetts RED/YELLOW/GREEN to RI

## RED Communities

**CENTRAL FALLS**  
**NARRAGANSETT**  
**PROVIDENCE**  
**PAWTUCKET**  
**JOHNSTON**  
**NORTH PROVIDENCE**  
**LINCOLN**  
**NORTH SMITHFIELD**

## Yellow Communities

**SMITHFIELD**  
**CRANSTON**  
**WESTERLY**  
**BURRILLVILLE**  
**CUMBERLAND**  
**WARWICK**  
**WEST WARWICK**



# Reopening Data Considerations:

Municipal Data in context - NYC Comparison

## Cases/100,000

### NYC

This metric does not appear to be widely reported or used for reopening in NYC

## Percent Positive

NYC will only reopen if the % positive is below 3% on a seven day average

**CF and Pawtucket would not be allowed to reopen based on a NYC standard**

# Reopening Data Considerations:

Municipal Data in context - International Notes of Spring Reopenings

## Cases/100,000/Week

Taiwan: <1

Japan: ~2

Switzerland: 0.49

Vietnam: <1

Greece: <1

South Korea: <1

Belgium: 18

Denmark: 25

France: 12

## Percent Positive

Taiwan: 0.2%

Japan: 8.7%

Switzerland: 1.3%

Vietnam: 0.01%

Greece: 0.1%

South Korea: 0.3%

Belgium: 2.1%

Denmark: 6.2%

France: 1.1%

# International View

*“Evidence suggests school reopenings haven’t been the primary cause of flare-ups in local Covid-19 cases. The coming months will nevertheless bring some challenges.”*

*- Bloomberg News, September 12, 2020*

# BVP Perspectives:

Staff  
Scholars  
Families/Parents



# Some of the biggest risks of accelerating reopening are rooted in staff concerns

- **Staff Survey concerns:**

- 80% of staff feel good or okay about the safety plans in place; *yet*
- *75% of staff do not believe grades 5-12 should return this calendar year;*

- **Labor market concerns:**

- BVP has a very limited substitute pool and several teacher vacancies
- Other local districts are dealing with same challenges per the *Valley Breeze*
  - Woonsocket HS closed through 2020 due to staffing shortages
  - Cumberland prepping for rolling closures of schools

# Staff views and experiences are mixed, but tilt strongly toward caution and delay

*I've been back in person and I think my scholars are learning so much more than they were online. They are adjusting well to using masks and are still loving school!*  
- Kindergarten teacher

***I can't wait to get back to in person learning!!***

*DL is tough because many scholars have internet connection problems - teachers cannot hear what scholars are saying, scholars cannot hear what teachers are saying. Many scholars computers are glitchy so they end up missing parts of lessons. This makes learning VERY difficult*

*It is very scary that the numbers are going up and we are looking to open even more. CF 181/100, Pawtucket going up too !!*

***From my perspective I feel very cautious about going back to in-person learning because it doesn't feel worth it to me for the amount of stress and constant worrying it causes.***

*Scholars, even through distance learning, are testing positive for COVID. As much as we would all love to be back in the classroom, it is still not safe. As a parent of a newborn, I would not go back into the classroom anytime soon. As long as there is an option for teachers to continue DL, I am fine with other scholars/staff going back to the classroom, but I will not be returning to in-person teaching anytime soon.*





# Risks to learning loss from not reopening in-person may be very real



STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY



- **National Learning Loss**

- National reports (CREDO at Stanford) is modeled that across the 19 states, the average estimates of how much students lost in the Spring of 2020 ranged from 57 to 183 days of learning in Reading and from 136 to 232 days of learning in Math.
- *Note: BVP is not included in this data set*

# Risks to learning of not (accelerating) reopening in-person may be very real

- **BVP Learning Loss**

- STAR Math data for 7th/8th grade, the only data set we have based on a nationally normed assessment *shows no real negative impact of the spring shutdown*
- Of 273 scholars tested in September of 2019 and 2020, 136 were within 10 percentile points of their previous score, 56 went up by 10+ points, 81 went down by 10+ points (which is typical of year-to-year changes and summer learning loss)
- Average Percentile only dropped from 57.8 in 2019 to 56.3 in 2020

# Scholar learning:

Teacher Perspective (150+ surveys)

- **Teacher Self Reporting of learning:**
  - Teachers estimate that scholars are learning about the same or more than if in-person, *though almost all believe that in-person is better for most*

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Neutral + Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
HS	<b>59%</b>	41%
JHS	<b>51%</b>	49%
UES	<b>59%</b>	41%
ESs	41%	<b>59%</b>

# Scholar Learning:

## Scholar Voice (Grades 5-12) (700+ surveys)

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Neutral + Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
HS	45%	<b>55%</b>
JHS	<b>57%</b>	43%
UES	<b>64%</b>	36%

*“I learn better in person, but I don’t want COVID.” 9th Grader*

“I would love to go back to in person school but I just don't trust everyone is going to follow the precautions and procedures to have safety. I don't want to risk my life or others that I care about for one person who would make a joke of it and not follow the rules” - 11th Grader

*“Distance learning works better for me because I feel safer in my house than in my school.” - 6th Grader*

“I would not want to do distance learning forever because I want to see my friends in person. Also I would not want to go into school because I don’t want to take the risk of getting sick and having cases spike up again. - 5th Grader

# Scholar Learning:

Family/ Parent Voice (Grades 5-12) (400+ surveys)

<b>Grade</b> (# Surveys)	<b>Neutral + Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
HS (116)	46%	<b>54%</b>
JHS (127)	<b>53%</b>	47%
UES (176)	49%	<b>51%</b>

*I am hesitant to send my scholar back to in-person classes at this time. I think with winter coming it will be more difficult to manage this safely. I understand the importance, but my priority is to see scholars and teachers stay safe.*

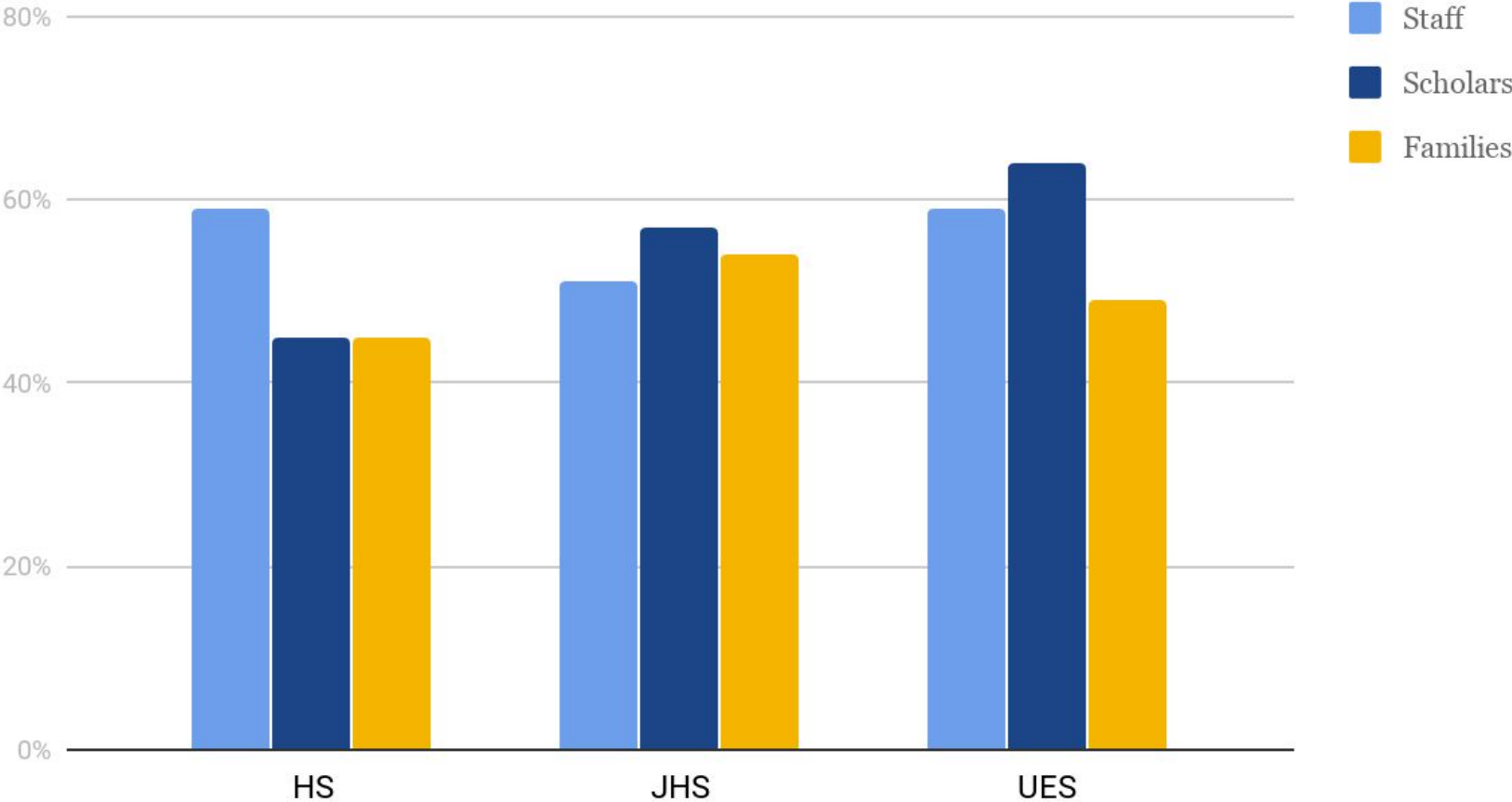
*This is a hard choice to make.*

*My child is having a terrible time learning at home.*

*As much as I would prefer full time return, safety is my biggest concern. My other child at a different local high school has already been exposed twice since school returned part time and it just does not seem that even part time is a safe option.*

# Scholar Learning: Summary

## Neutral + Positive





# Modality Preference Summary:

Family/ Parent Voice (Grades 5-12) (400+ surveys)

<b>Grade</b> (# Surveys)	<b>Full</b> <b>In-Person</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>Full</b> <b>Distance</b>
HS (116)	N/A	59%	41%
JHS (127)	32%	24%	44%
UES (176)	32%	22%	46%

# Challenges of Hybrid and A/B Days

- Need for readiness to shut down/quarantine creates uncertainty
  - We have multiple positive cases of scholars (all on DL so far)
  - In just two weeks, with fewer than 10% of our scholars on-site, we have had numerous staff members (and scholars) sent home to isolate and/or quarantine
    - “Stay home with the sniffles” when you have limited substitutes, means cancelling classes at the last minute
    - How do we staff classrooms when multiple staff arrive and are directed home by the nurse based on the RI Playbook?
- Hybrid classrooms are very difficult to execute well
  - Technology limitations
  - Ability to serve two modalities concurrently
  - Current model of secondary MVPs (in-person, but almost all “zoom”) shows limits to the value of in-person

# In-person may not be what is expected

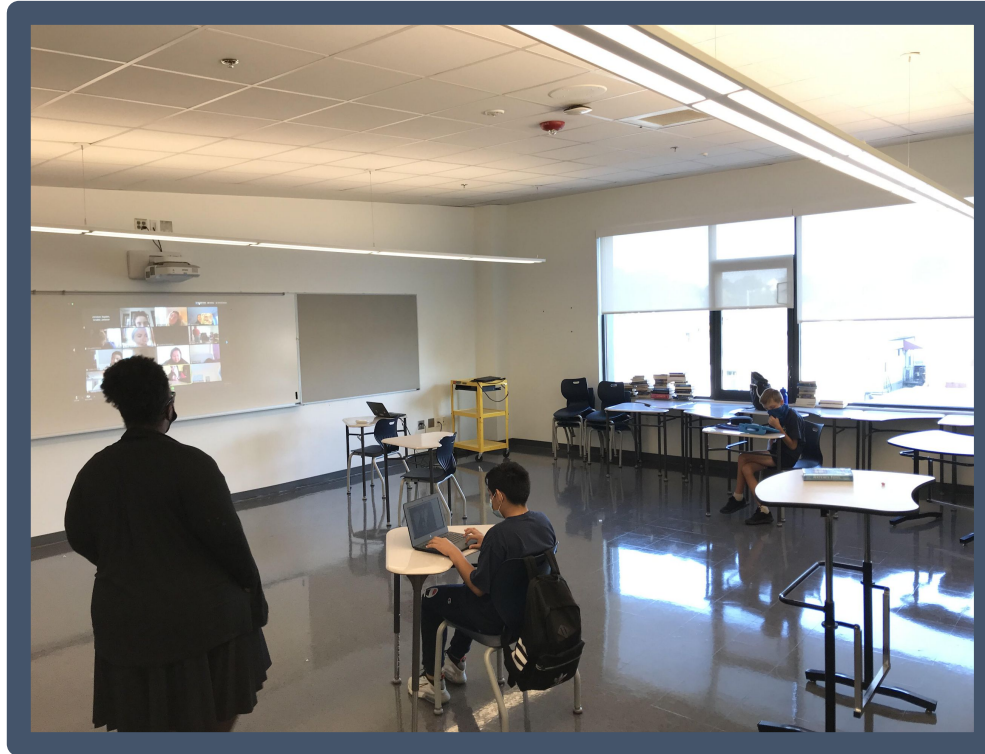


Kindergarten, distanced, masked. No carpets. No hugs.



Some staff wear significant PPE, including gowns, shields and masks

# In-person may not be what is desired



5-12 Likely to be Zoom-based,  
proctored by teachers or TAs

# Ultimately, there are many contradictions and much uncertainty

- Value of *Decisiveness* feels in conflict with *Safety First*
- Value of *Equity* feels in conflict with *Safety First*
- Value of *Listening* is in conflict when **60% of families** want some level of in-person as soon as possible and **80% of staff** want to wait

# Path Forward

- BVP will continue to move toward our **Partial Plan** on 10/13, provided the community spread numbers remain below 200/100,000 and we continue to have success with our **Limited Reopening**
- Provided we have success for at least two weeks in our **Partial Plan**, and community spread numbers fall below 100/100,000, we will bring in more scholars in grades 5-12, in some capacity, likely a hybrid model

# Q&A

# Appendices





# Airflow and BVP

Address	Normal Use	“Partial” Use	Air System Notes
291 Broad Street	ES1	ES1 K-2	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
52 Broad Street	ES2	ES2 K-2	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
3357 Mendon Road	ES3	ES3 K-2	Windows Open, HEPA filters for each room, Window fans for each classroom
3 Fairlawn Way	UES	ES 3-4	MERV 8 (will be 13), >6 turns/hour, windows open
909 Lonsdale Ave	JHS	Staff only	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
65 Macondray	HS	MVPs 5-12	MERV 11, >6 turns/hour, windows open
Isolation Rooms	All		HEPA filters in addition to above noted airflow
7 Fatima Drive	Network Support	Network Support	HEPA filters (not MERV rated); >6 turns/hour; windows open



RIDOH/National Guard: the verbal discussion we had at the conclusion of our walkthroughs was that BVP has the “green light” for our Partial Plan, and we anticipate a written confirmation this week.