Q: If a student begins remote learning only due to health concerns, can they join in-person learning at a later date?
A: Absolutely! A doctor’s note will be needed to return to school.

Q: How will we limit physical contact on the bus?
A: The transportation department has worked with the Department of Health (DOH) to form a model of seating for buses. The first seat directly behind the driver will be empty. Students will occupy alternating seats in a zig-zag fashion to the back of the bus. All students will be wearing masks. Bus drivers will be wearing a mask, a face shield, and as necessary, hand gloves. A thermometer will be on the bus. Students will have a temperature check before boarding the bus. The maximum number of students on a 66 passenger bus is 22 students.

Q: We are planning on transporting our children (1 elementary and 1 junior high student). This means we have to transport 4 times a day due to the staggered instructional times. Is there an option if we wanted our junior high student to remain at school from 8:00–2:30pm? I work remotely from home.
A: No, this is not possible at this time. We are unable to monitor students due to our staff being utilized in other areas. Healthy kids, the childcare program associated with Lyme, may be a viable option.

Q: I have a senior who walks to school. I have a 5th grader who will need transportation. Is this a hardship to the bus routes?
A: This would not be a hardship. Any assistance with transportation will help! You can give permission for your secondary student to walk to school. You may contact the district to transport your younger child.

Q: Will students with remote learning due to medical needs be learning with their peers at least throughout the phase openings?
A: Teachers will likely use a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. It is important to keep in mind that confidentiality cannot be breached while teachers are instructing. We are still looking into the best way to deliver instruction while still maintaining confidentiality.
Q: Is the schedule still every other day or would you consider a set schedule to help parents on the remote days?
A: Once we are in Phase 6 (October 5th), all students in grades K-12 will be in school everyday. Remote learners will also be attending everyday by following their schedule as if they were in-person learning.

Q: How will PE be conducted?
A: Elementary students in grades K-8 will have the PE teacher push into the classroom. Occasionally, they may go out to the fields for yoga or other forms of exercise. Social distancing will be observed at all times. Students must remain 12 feet apart for PE and music activities. Grades 9-12 PE classes will likely remain remote.

Q: I have not had a chance to read the testing procedure for a positive exposure. If someone tests positive and/or there is a potential for exposure, will parents be alerted immediately?
A: Yes. If a child tests positive, the school nurse will be notified by Public Health. They will advise us of contract tracing protocols and the parents will be notified immediately, as directed by DOH.

Q: Since Lyme is such a small school, why can’t students be tested (for COVID-19) before the start of school?
A: At this time, COVID testing is not recommended by NYSED in schools. Testing of asymptomatic individuals is not a guaranteed way of determining positive cases.

Q: In the event that a child tests positive, will the bus and/or class be quarantined? Will the entire family be put under mandatory quarantine?
A: We will follow Public Health’s guidelines. Anyone closer than 6 feet for more than 10 minutes does not qualify for quarantine. Jefferson County Public Health directs the district on how to proceed when we have a positive case. The Department of Health will oversee what that directive will be. Our school nurse, Mrs. Justine Dowe, has successfully completed the course for contact tracing.

Q: How will mental health services be focused on?
A: Families were asked to complete a survey indicating needs for mental health services. Students will be provided with the opportunity to do a mental health check by selecting the picture of the provider they wish to make an appointment with for that day. Staff members and teachers will be trained on noticing signs of students who may be struggling. The appropriate provider will be notified and will check in with that student. Parents may also contact the school with concerns.
Q: My child sometimes brings lunch and sometimes will eat the school lunch. If they bring lunch, can they still eat the school lunch?
A: Yes. The cafeteria staff will provide menus. Breakfast and lunch is still free for all students this school year.

Q: In the event that cases arise at Lyme or even at another district within the student body or staff, will the district move to remote learning?
A: The Department of Health will be in charge of contact tracing and will determine if the school district will need to close. The Department of Health will alert the school district. This will be conducted on a case by case basis. Our Re–Opening plan details all models of instruction in each phase. Our goal is to provide a smooth transition between each mode of learning.