MBB

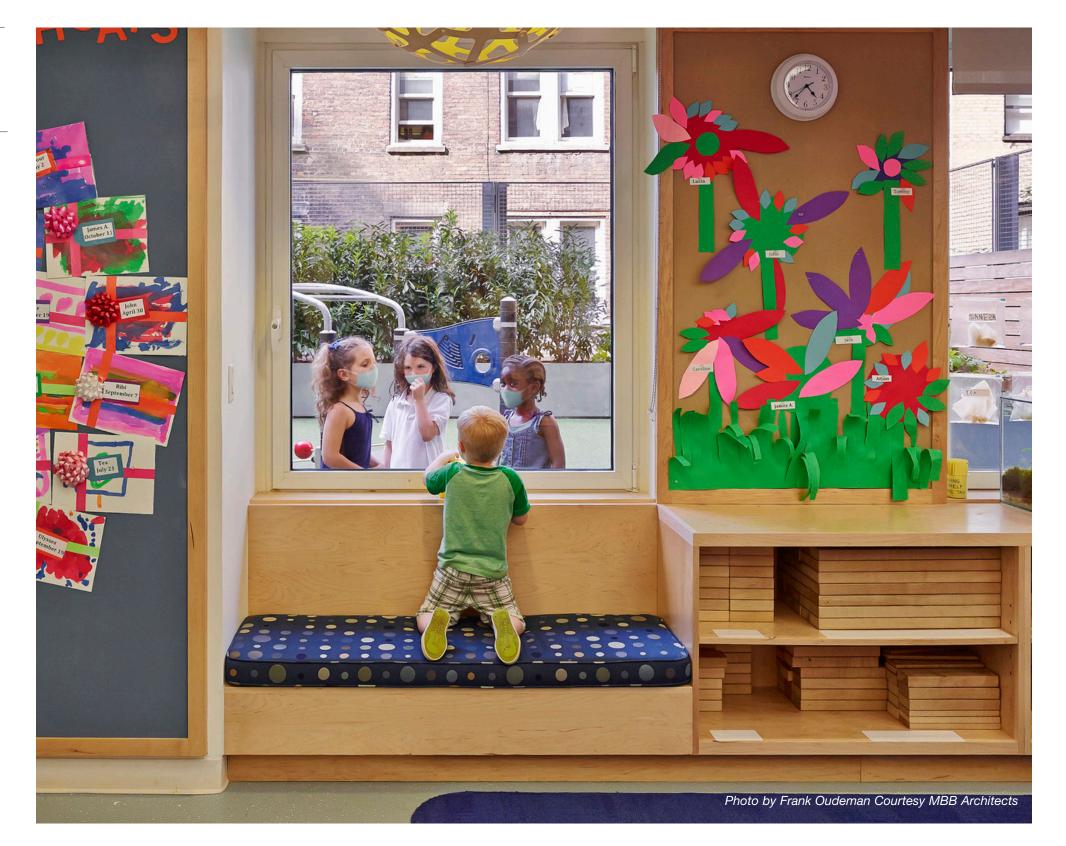
School Reopening Case Study Report

June 2020



Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	3
	Navigating school reopening	
II.	Priority Measures	4
	Getting the most out of prevention measures	
<u>III.</u>	A Day in the Life	5
	The steps in a typical day	
IV.	Arrival	7
	Getting students safely from home to the classroom	
<u>V.</u>	Navigation and Wayfinding	10
	Choreographing movement to minimize risk	
VI.	Inside the Classroom	12
	Classroom adaptations for age groups and curriculum types	
VII.	Building Systems	27
	Infrastructure solutions for risk reduction	
VIII.	Moving Around	29
	Managing risk outside the classroom	
IX.	Teachers & Staff	33
	Creating a safe and supportive workplace	
<u>X.</u>	Conclusions	34
	Key takeaways from the case study	
XI.	References & Credits	35
	The resources used in preparing this study	



A Mission-Centered Approach

Reopening a school during a global pandemic presents a countless number of challenges and choices, each of which can potentially have a profound impact on the experience of the students, families and staff that make up the school's community. Any approach to reducing the risk of exposure for this community requires prioritization and adaptation based on institutional values. In partnership with school leadership, MBB took a mission-centered approach to these challenges, prioritizing those solutions that reflected the values of the community, the identity of the institution and best facilitated the ongoing mission - through this pandemic and into the future.

2

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Introduction

Introduction: Case Study Structure and Purpose

MBB set out to gather resources to aid educational institutions and allied professionals with reopening planning amid the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. We determined that the most effective way to identify key decisions and explore alternative solutions was to create a detailed case study of a specific NYC school. The conclusions that follow emerged from an analysis of one school but will be applicable to many institutions grappling with the same issues.

This study was developed in close collaboration with the Head of School from "School A". We consulted with Derive Engineers on building systems modifications, with Zubatkin Owners Representation on research and resources, and with Dr. Krystina Woods, an epidemiologist and infection prevention specialist at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

This study is structured as a sequence of events, where hypothetical students are followed through a typical day (from getting to the school, getting through their day and getting back home) anticipating every opportunity to reduce exposure to infection. This presents a range of challenges that will in aggregate shape the school's reopening plan.















Grades 1-3 Grades 4-8 Nursery - K Caregivers Early Childhood Lower School Upper Division

Case Study Subject: School and Building Description

The name of the school that served as the subject for this case study has been withheld and is referred to as "School A".

"School A" is a private independent school that occupies a seven story Brutalist style building, constructed in 1967, on a dense urban site in Manhattan. "School A" has a student population of approximately 380 from Early Childhood (2s-3s) through 8th grade. The 80,000 square foot building includes a cafeteria, gymnasium, chapel and rooftop play deck divided into areas for different ages.

MBB has been working with "School A" for twenty years on the incremental implementation of a master plan that was completed in summer of 2018. "School A" is in the process of planning their reopening and has agreed to serve as MBB's reopening case study to be shared with the education community for use by other institutions.

This is a working document that will continue to evolve through school reopening.

Disclaimer:

This study represents the judgement of the individuals and institutions involved and should not be regarded as compliance guidelines, nor a guarantee to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within schools.





Priority Measures

There are a handful of measures that have proven to be most effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19. How schools choose to prioritize each of these solutions will largely shape the reopening plans for each educational facility. These measures are interconnected, complementary and often inversely proportional in their relative effectiveness.

Distance



Maintain 6' separation between all building occupants and a minimum of 3' separation with desk dividers in classrooms where 6' distance can't be achieved

Masks & Dividers



Distance

Enforce the wearing of masks by all students and staff at all times, providing dividers at desks between students spaced more closely than 6' apart

Compartmentalization



Keep all students and staff within a class together and do not permit any mixing of students, staff, materials or even air where possible

These measures were prioritized to address the specific constraints of the building and the needs of the students by age

Screening & Cleaning



Frequently check and actively monitor symptoms and contacts, and enhance cleaning and disinfection protocols according to CDC and EPA guidelines

Systems Improvements



Modify ventilation and heating/cooling systems to improve ventilation and prevent the redistribution of virus particles around

Priorities

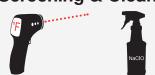
1st







Screening & Cleaning



Systems Improvements



For the youngest students for whom wearing masks may be difficult, the priority interventions are increasing distance between students, strict cleaning protocols, and limiting any contact outside the class.

Nursery - Kindergarten

Masks & Dividers

Compartmentalization









Systems Improvements





For 1st -6th grade students, masks and dividers allow for some reduction in spacing. Classes are kept together to avoid mixing and systems improvements are considered.

Grades 1-6



Screening & Cleaning











Distance

Systems Improvements





Compartmentalization



For 7th - 8th grade students, an elective curriculum with mixing classes makes compartmentalization impractical. Instead masks and rigorous cleaning protocols between classes are prioritized.

Grades 7-8

Masks & Dividers