

# The Road Forward: Reopening the 2021-2022 School Year

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Board of Education Meeting: August 24, 2021



- » School schedule
- » Safety measures
- » Close contact, tracing, quarantine, exclusion
- » Mask requirements
- » Instructional delivery

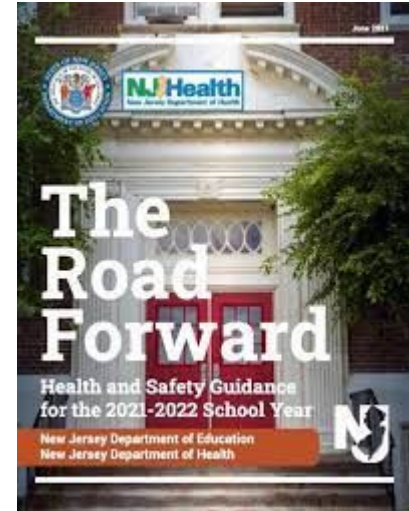
...much of tonight's presentation was covered in the *Safe Return* plan.

This is the health and safety guideline for the 2021-2022 school year.

Provides guidance for reopening schools.

Collaborative document with the DOE and DOH making contributions.

Follows the guidelines from the CDC and the AAP.



Our goal is to prioritize **in-person, full-time** instruction to the extent possible. We are hoping for **minimal interruption** to students' instructional schedules. We will do this while balancing the requirements of the public health situation.

# 1.

## School Schedule

What is our schedule for this year?

- » All schools will be open for full-time, in-person instruction. Breakfast & lunch will be served.
- » Specific school hours are as follows:
  - » RMS school starts at 7:35 and ends at 2:25
  - » HBS school starts at 7:40 and ends at 2:30
  - » TBS/WHS schools start at 8:30 and end at 3:20
- » Per the DOE, a virtual option will not be provided.



Early dismissal days are scheduled per the school calendar. Please review those specific days.

First day of school for staff is September 1. First day of school for students is September 8.

We are planning on the following throughout the year as we evaluate the COVID situation:

- » Sports
- » Clubs
- » Field trips



# 2.

## **Safety Measures**

Are there additional precautions we will take this year in terms of cohorting, grouping, cleaning, transportation, and COVID screening?

Cohorting: The school district does not plan to use the A/B day cohorts unless directed to do so by the DOH or the CALI matrix indicates this would be an appropriate mitigation strategy.

Distancing: We will aim for 3 feet of distance between student desks and cafeteria seats. Group seating will be avoided to the extent possible but may be required at points during the academic day (i.e. science exp./reading).

Barriers will be placed in certain high-traffic common areas such as the nurse's office and the main office.

Barriers will be provided to staff and students who request to have them on their desks. If you wish to have a barrier, please make the request with your teacher or building principal.

Covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean help prevent the spread of respiratory illness. Students will be reminded to:

- » Cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- » Throw used tissues in the trash;
- » If a tissue is not available, cough/sneeze into elbow.

Handwashing shall be encouraged and may occur at various times during the school day/built into the schedule.

Enhanced cleaning/air quality protocols will continue this year. These include:

- » Increased outside air flow;
- » Electrostatic cleaners;
- » Daily rounds of cleaning throughout buildings;
- » Supplying hand sanitizer, soap (where possible), wipes, cleanser in each classroom.

We may limit the use of shared supplies. Hand sanitizer/hand washing will be used if sharing supplies.

Transportation will continue safety protocols:

- » We will continue with assigned seats on school buses.
- » Windows will be open/cracked to the extent possible.
- » Masks will be required on school buses for staff members and students.
- » Sanitation between routes to the degree possible.
- » Hand sanitizer will be on each vehicle upon entry.



Parents/caregivers are the best individuals to monitor their child(ren)'s illness. Students who are sick should not attend school.

One (1) COVID Assurance Checklist will be sent via *Genesis* prior to the start of school. This will replace the daily COVID Assurance Form.

- » Breakfast and lunch will be served and free to all students all year.
- » Breakfast will be a “grab-n-go” style snack.
- » Lunch will be served in the cafeteria.
- » Seating will be 3 feet distance, staggered lunches or additional seating will be provided.
- » Outdoor seating will be available.
- » Limited lunch choices will be offered at first, gradually moving toward a variety of options.

# 3.

## **Close Contact, Quarantine, etc.**

What are the protocols for determining close contact, quarantine and exclusion from school?

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- » At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- » At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

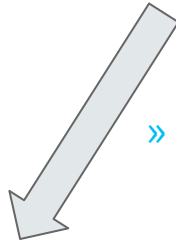
### In the case of illness:

- » If you have tested positive for COVID-19
- » If you have COVID-19 compatible symptoms and have not been tested

Note: According to *The Road Forward* fully vaccinated individuals who have no COVID-like symptoms but come in close contact with a COVID-19 case, do not need to be quarantined for any period of time.

### In the case of close contact:

- » If you were in close contact with a known case of COVID-19.
- » In-home close contact, also known as household contact, may result in a longer period of exclusion from school based on the DOH investigation.



- » If you have tested positive for COVID-19, exclusion is 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the positive test and individuals must be 24 hours fever-free before returning to school.
- » If you have COVID-19 compatible symptoms but have not been tested, exclusion is 10 days from the onset of symptoms and individuals must be 24 hours fever-free before returning to school.



- » If you are a close contact of an individual who has been identified as COVID-19 positive, you are excluded from school for a period of 8-14 days, depending on the regional matrix. Specifically, *The Road Forward* identifies when a moderate or low (yellow or green) regional matrix exists, exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with a negative test collected at 5-7 days). A high (orange) matrix indicates exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.
- » The timelines listed here may be extended for household contacts where the DOH has determined isolation may not be possible. Household contacts may be excluded from school for a period of up to 20-24 days.
- » Remember, asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine.

# 4.

## **Masks in Schools**

Are masks required in schools?

Masks were required in schools during the 2020-2021 school year. Mask breaks were always provided during the school day.

During ESY and Summer Enrichment (2021) masks were optional for fully vaccinated individuals and strongly encouraged for those not fully vaccinated.

Executive Order 251 states that masks will be broadly required in school buildings for the coming school year, exceptions will remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year, and include:

- » When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- » When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- » When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;

## MASKS IN SCHOOLS: Current Guidance (con't)

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Executive Order 251 states that masks will be broadly required in school buildings for the coming school year, exceptions will remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year, and include (list continued below):

- » When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- » When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering;
- » When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- » When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- » When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

There are opportunities where staff and students can take a mask break:

- » While eating or drinking;
- » Outdoors;
- » When alone in a room/office;
- » During mask breaks that are scheduled by the teacher.



# 5.

## **Instructional Delivery**

What will instruction look like this year?

*The Road Forward* and the Department of Education is calling for full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

No virtual option will be provided. All enrolled students will attend in-person.

If a chronic medical condition exists, Home Instruction will be arranged.

*The Road Forward* allows for virtual instruction if we are “required to exclude a student, group of students, class or multiple classes as a result of [certain scenarios], while the school is open for in-person instruction, we should be prepared to offer remote instruction commensurate with in-person instruction.”

Set up a remote instruction link via Google Meet or Zoom.

Teach students how to login via Google Meet or Zoom.

Set a schedule (ordinary daily schedule) where students will need to log on remotely.

...this will be used if we have to go virtual and will also be used in the case of our one virtual snow day.

## IF A STUDENT IS QUARANTINED

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- » School staff must be notified if a student(s) are quarantined;
- » School staff (principal or counselor) discuss with the family and teachers in order to set-up virtual tutoring or discuss the need for synchronous instruction.
- » Tutoring sessions will be small group or individual sessions for the quarantined student(s).
- » If needed, the classroom teacher may put on the video camera and do synchronous instruction.

## A STUDENT IS QUARANTINED

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First...the school must be notified. Notification goes to the nurse or principal.

Second...the nurse or principal will notify teachers.

Last...school staff will set up remote tutoring or teacher will set up virtual synchronous instruction.



### **Home Instruction**

Due to a chronic medical condition and the inability to attend school

Example: Broken leg

Guided by N.J.A.C

### **Quarantine**

School staff will set up virtual 1:1 or small group tutoring hours according to parent/student schedule. Student will have access to Google Classroom. Similar to home instruction.

### **Large Scale Quarantine**

Students will have access to virtual tutoring and the teacher will begin synchronous virtual instruction.

THANKS!

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**Any questions?**

