



# 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions

## August 26, 2021

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### Operations

Will masks be required during the 2021-2022 school year?

Executive Order 251 enacted by Governor Murphy outlines mandatory face coverings for all students, all staff and all visitors in K-12 schools. The order does [provide similar exceptions](#) as it did in the 2020-2021 school year.

Will visually sick students be sent home? What about new quarantine matters?

Yes.

The topics of quarantine, exclusion and instruction are important concepts to understand as we move into the school year, as there are some changes since June.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have stated that if students are within six feet for more than 15 minutes of a COVID-19 positive students while they are either vaccinated or wearing a mask are not required to quarantine. In this case the COVID-19 positive student would.

Those that are vaccinated or those that have contracted COVID-19 within the last three months do not require quarantine if in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.

In the event that a student has to quarantine in a low or moderate risk zone he or she would quarantine for 7 days (after a negative test on day 5, 6 or 7) or for 10 days without testing.

If students refuse to wear masks will they be permitted to enter the classroom?

Keep in mind that there are exemptions to Executive Order 251. For purposes of consistency exemption requests will take place in the Office of the Superintendent.

How will lunches look?

Millbridge lunches will take place in the cafeteria and gymnasium. DIS lunches will take place in classrooms with half of the students eating while the remaining students are at recess. The groups will rotate halfway through. DMS will have students eating lunch in the cafeteria and tents. DHS will have students following a similar pattern as DIS, with half of the students in the cafeteria and the remainder of the students waiting to eat in the performing arts center. The groups will switch halfway through the lunch period. Lunch is understood to be a higher risk activity and measures are being implemented in order to mitigate as much risk as possible regarding transmission.

What are the daily health screening procedures?

Parents will self screen at home with the understanding of the importance of keeping sick or symptomatic children home.

What are the procedures if a student or close contact tests positive?

Ill individuals with **COVID-19 compatible symptoms** who have not been tested or **individuals who tested positive** for COVID-19 **should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset** and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.

Will students have to show proof of vaccination?

Parents will have the opportunity to share status with the District. Any student that does not share status will be considered unvaccinated pursuant to NJDOH guidance.

Will staff members have to show proof of vaccination?

Staff members will have the opportunity to share status with the District. Any staff member that does not share status will be considered unvaccinated pursuant to NJDOH guidance.

Social distancing in the classroom

All students are returning to the classrooms this year. To that end, students will be spaced approximately 2-3 feet apart, to the extent possible.

What will recess look like?

Students will have access to playground equipment.

What will the busses look like?

Students will wear masks with windows open

Is it mandatory to be vaccinated?

No.

Eating distance

Either six feet or to the greatest extent possible

How is the District handling anxiety for students?

We have increased our counseling staff by two full time staff members. We are the recipients of several grants to provide additional services. Schools will have the ability to tailor specific programs and opportunities that are student supportive as the year progresses in order to address specific needs.

How does being vaccinated change things?

Due to the mask mandate, not much changes with respect to classroom exposures (provided students are correctly wearing masks, they won't have to quarantine). However, pursuant to higher risk activities (meals, athletics) it changes the manner in which close contact is processed. Pursuant to NJDOH guidance, vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if in close contact with a COVID positive person.

Can students hang belongings in the closet?

Yes

Snack in the classroom?

Yes, although it is a higher risk activity at the K-5 level. Efforts have been made to provide 6 feet of spacing during snack breaks (which will not last longer than 10 minutes).

Procedures for partner work or small group work

Students can work as partners or in small groups when it is instructionally advantageous to do so.

Hallway procedures

Students will have masks on during passing time in the hallways. Schools will designate specific interventions to implement regarding hallways. However, given the influx of students, hallways formerly designated as one way are not likely to stay as such during 21-22.

How will we help students adjust to being in the building full time

Demonstration and repetition

Spraying and wiping of desks

Optional - products to disinfect will be made available to those that desire. The CDC has recommended desk cleaning once daily, which will take place in the evening.

How will we educate students and staff members who exhibit difficulty with correct and proper mask usage?

In the event that there are situations that require redirection school administration will address the matters appropriately.

What is the expectation regarding the use of the Chromebook in the classroom?

Students are 1:1 using Chromebooks which provides a great opportunity to infuse technology in lessons. Students are expected to come to school with their Chromebook charged. Teachers will be advised of expectations in terms of using Canvas to post assignments.

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## Academics

Will library books be quarantined?

No

What is expected for instruction during quarantine?

Pursuant to the NJDOE requirement to provide access to instruction during a quarantine mandated by the school nurse, school principal or superintendent the District will provide access to classroom instruction during a quarantine period. No other situations will be granted streaming capability.

The only students who will be eligible for Google Meet Live Stream Instruction will be students who are COVID-19 positive or those who are in quarantine due to exposure.

Will students be able to sit on rugs?

Yes.

Can students be grouped together in the classroom?

Yes.

Can students borrow books and classroom supplies

Yes. When they are returned see that they are sanitized.

Peer socialization

Peer socialization will occur in common times such as lunch, recess or other times outside of classroom instruction. Groups will be conducted by the guidance counselor for identified students. Other support for students that may be struggling with a return to school will be communicated by the building Principal.

What will September look like? Hybrid? Masks? Class sizes?

There will be one cohort - no longer hybrid. Class sizes will be commensurate with pre-pandemic allocations.

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## Community Engagement

Will there be visitors?

Not immediately, no.

What will back to school night look like?

In person with different structural components at each school.

Will there be field trips?

Yes, dependent upon conditions and proposed locations/activities.

Will there be sports?

Yes

Classroom parties

Not immediately, no.

Extracurricular activities

Yes.

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## Foreseeing the Future

Are we preparing to be fully remote again depending on the variant?

Governor Murphy signed A-3904 into law (P.L.2020, c.27, or "Chapter 27"), which in part requires each school district to annually submit a proposed program for emergency virtual or remote instruction to the New Jersey Department of Education. This law provides for the continuity of instruction in the event of a public health-related district closure by permitting the District to utilize virtual or remote instruction to satisfy the 180-day requirement.

Do I anticipate a resurgence of COVID-19 in the Fall and Winter?

The onset of cold weather could prompt a resurgence.

How much transparency will there be with staff when new school or district cases occur

A [dashboard](#) will be maintained by the Superintendent. Daily notifications are no longer required. The Superintendent also maintains a database for the entire Township and will continue to use local data to arrive at decisions.

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