



Delran Township Public Schools

The Road Forward

2021-2022 Academic Year Reopening Plan
Dr. Brian Brotschul, Superintendent

Introduction

The Delran Township Public School's plan has been developed to continue to fulfill our educational mission during the 2021-2022 school year, even in the face of continued uncertainty and challenges, and provide as much flexibility as we can for families to feel safe.

A. The Reopening Plan – Conditions for Learning

Students will be in person for 5 days of instruction, full days of school. There is no remote option available at this time as mandated by law. Athletics, student activities and clubs will proceed as long as we are able to do so safely.

1 General Health and Safety Guidelines

1.1 Vaccinations

All information for vaccination opportunities will continue to be provided to staff, students and families as the district becomes aware of them.

1.2 Communication

Communication will be distributed as much as needed through school messenger and email. We will continue with our case tracker on our website. We are no longer required to send letters with notification of positive cases. Cases will be reported to NJDOH through the Surveillance for Influenza and COVID-19 (SIC) Module in CDRSS as required.

1.3 Masks

On August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 251, which states that all students, educators, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face masks inside of school buildings, regardless of vaccination status, for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. The mandate went into effect on August 9, 2021. Exceptions to the mask requirement 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; 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.

The Executive Order also authorizes penalties for violations of the Order, including being charged with a disorderly persons offense. Those charged with a disorderly persons offense are "subject to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 6 months or ...

a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or to both a fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.” N.J.S.A. App. A: 9-49.

Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.

Medical Mask Exemption

Parents and/or guardians seeking a medical exemption to the mask mandate imposed by Executive Order 251 must complete a District-provided exemption request form, provide written documentation from the student’s local health

care provider indicating that a mask exemption is warranted, and sign a release of information that allows the District's physician to consult with the student's physician.

Once a completed request form and release of information has been received, the appropriate District personnel shall forward the written documentation from the student's local health care provider, parent-signed release of information form, and any additional appropriate information to the school physician, who shall verify the need for a mask exemption. The school physician may then contact the student's physician to secure additional information concerning the student's diagnosis or the need for exemption and shall either verify the need or shall provide reasons for denial to the Board. This process may be delayed if the student's health care provider does not respond to a request for information from the district school physician.

No mask exemption will be granted until approval is received from the school physician. The parents and/or guardians will be notified when approval is received.

Staff members seeking a medical exemption to the mask mandate imposed by Executive Order 251 must complete a District-provided exemption request form, provide written documentation from their local health care provider

indicating that a mask exemption is warranted, and sign a release of information that allows the District's School Physician to consult with their physician.

Once a completed request form and release of information has been received, the appropriate District personnel shall forward the written documentation from the local health care provider, signed release of information form, and any additional appropriate information to the School Physician, who shall verify the need for a mask exemption. The School Physician may then contact the staff member's or student's physician to secure additional information concerning their diagnosis or the need for exemption and shall either verify the need or shall provide reasons for denial to the Board. This process may be delayed if the health care provider does not respond to a request for information from the District School Physician.

No staff mask exemption will be granted until approval is received from the School Physician. The staff member will be notified when approval is received.

1.4 Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to physical distance up to 6 feet whenever possible. Desks will be 2-3 feet apart in order to accommodate a full student body load. Students will be in the same classes and group as students as much as

possible. Assigned seats will keep consistency at meals and class time.

1.5 Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Use of hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) are in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), at entrances and exits of buildings and near lunchrooms and toilets. All will be encouraged and reinforced handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Nurses and teachers in elementary schools will reinforce hand washing and covering of the mouth if coughing or sneezing.

1.6 Meals

Implement layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in cafeterias or other group dining areas. 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 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. All meals, breakfast and lunch will be free for the 2021-2022 school year. We will use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes) for meals as much as possible. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned as much as possible. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. All will be encouraged to hand wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after eating.

1.7 Transportation

As per mandated requirements, masks must be worn on buses. Windows will be down to allow for fresh air. Families will be

placed together in seats. Temperatures will not be taken this school year. Students that do not live in the same home will be spread out as much as possible. Cleaning will be done at the end of each day.

2 Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow

2.1 Limit Use of Shared Supplies and Equipment

We encourage students and staff to keep their personal items (e.g., cellphones, other electronics) clean. Encourage students, and staff to use disinfectant wipes to wipe down shared desks, lab equipment, and other shared objects and surfaces before use. High school students will have the resources to wipe down their learning space before and after use. Elementary students can also clean and wipe down as much as needed.

2.2 Cleaning and Disinfection

Every night, school custodians will disinfect all surfaces thoroughly using all cleaning products according to the label. A schedule is developed for increased routine cleaning and disinfection. Bathrooms are sanitized daily and between use as much as possible, using protocols outlined by the EPA. Routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects that are frequently touched such as door handles, kitchen equipment, bathrooms, classroom desks, handrails, light switches, copiers and telephones. Water fountains will be open but water dispensers used to refill water bottles will be encouraged.

2.3 Improving Airflow

The district maintains operational heating and ventilation systems in all indoor facilities. Bipolar ionization units were

approved in 2020 and were installed district wide. Systems have a fresh air component and windows will be open where practical when air conditioning cannot be provided.

3 Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

3.1 Parental Screening Parents/caregivers

Parents will be responsible for the following self-check each day at their home:

- a. Does the student have a fever?
- b. Has the student taken fever-reducing medication today?
- c. Has the student experienced respiratory symptoms?
- d. Has the student, or anyone in the household, been exposed to someone with COVID-19?

Self-check will not be required to be submitted every day. Parents will acknowledge their responsibility of self-check in beginning of year forms. Parent notes are accepted as an excused absence from school.

3.2 Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

Close Contact definition: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. It also excluded vaccinated students or staff that are symptom free.

The nurse of each building will contact the Burlington County Department of Health immediately and contact tracing will begin. The symptomatic individual will be isolated in a location in each school designated for this purpose away from other students and staff to prevent the spread of the infection. All individuals who come in contact with the symptomatic individual shall wear a proper PPE. The student will remain in isolation until their parent/guardian can arrive for pick-up. The parent/guardian picking-up a student will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distance from all staff and students on the property. Three days without a fever, without use of fever-reducing medication; and symptoms have resolved; and consultation with a physician as a test-based strategy may be employed. Absences for students will be excused absences and access to in class instruction will be provided. Staff absences will be considered ‘sick’, ‘personal’, ‘family illness’ or ‘vacation.’ depending on employment status.

The facility cleaning plan will be implemented for all areas in which the individual who tested positive came in contact.

3.3 Exclusion

3.3.1 Definition of COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms

Parents should not send students to school when sick. 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

At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder. For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

Exception: During periods of low community transmission, ill individuals excluded for COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure may follow NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school.

3.3.2 When Illness Occurs in the School Setting

The nurse of each building will begin contact tracing. The symptomatic individual will be isolated in a location in each school designated for this purpose away from other students and staff to prevent the spread of the infection. All

individuals who come in contact with the symptomatic individual shall wear a proper PPE. The student will remain in isolation until their parent/guardian can arrive for pick-up. The parent/guardian picking-up a student will be required to wear a mask and maintain social distance from all staff and students on the property. Three days without a fever, without use of fever-reducing medication; and symptoms have resolved; and consultation with a physician as a test-based strategy may be employed. Absences for students will be excused absences and access to classroom instruction will be given. Staff absences will be considered 'sick'. The facility cleaning plan will be implemented for all areas in which the individual who tested positive came in contact.

3.3.3 Exclusion COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Persons

If a student or staff is positive, the student must stay home at least 10 days since first symptoms began AND 24 hours fever free without use of fever reducing medications AND improvement in symptoms. If a student or staff has been in school, all other children and staff who they have been in contact with (within 6 feet and longer than 15 min during a 24-hour period.) will be notified and asked to quarantine for 10- 14 days depending on level. See exception above (Section 3.2). The school district shall assist the local health department in conducting contact tracing activities, including ongoing communication with the identified individual and/or their contacts. The school district shall ensure adequate information and training is provided to the staff to enable staff to carry out responsibilities assigned to them. A staff liaison(s) shall be designated by the Superintendent and shall be responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components that could help ensure notifications are carried out in a prompt and responsible manner.

Remote Instruction/180-Day Requirement: The school district may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases among staff and/or students. If the school district is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of possible exposure to COVID-19, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the school district may offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. In circumstances when the school facilities remain open and in-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine, those days in session will also count toward the school district's 180-day

requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. Teachers and staff will access classroom instruction.

Student and staff member travel: Student and staff member travel guidelines will align with any state mandated quarantines and travel bans at the time of travel. Families and staff should follow any recommendations from the CDC for illness with testing and quarantines.

4 Contact Tracing

Close Contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. It also excludes vaccinated students or staff that are symptom free.

5 Testing

5.1 Diagnostic testing

Nurses will assist parents or staff members in locating testing sites that are convenient for them.

5.2 Screening Testing

Not screening students at this time. Will comply with Executive Order No. 253.