



2021-2022 GUIDEBOOK

Guidelines, Resources, and Best Practices for the Elizabeth Public Schools Return to School Plan



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

On behalf of all Elizabeth Public Schools team members, welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I have never been so excited for the start of a school year as we welcoming back of our entire learning community to in-person learning.

The pandemic has presented us with many unprecedented challenges and hardships, but through our collective resiliency as a community, we have reached this wonderful moment in time that has brought the Elizabeth Public Schools back together. We enter this school year strengthened by the tough lessons we have endured and complex situations that we have navigated over the past year and a half. Our path forward is a journey to reconnect with the familiar, to reclaim those unique feelings that come with participating in learning activities and events within our schools. With a greater sense of hope and optimism, we look to reclaim excellence for our students, our schools, and our community as we come back together and are reminded of what makes the Elizabeth Public Schools such a special place.

Our ability to become one of the highest performing urban school districts in the nation rests on the support and commitment of our entire learning community. Throughout the summer, our team members have been participating in professional development to further enhance their skills and knowledge as well as preparing our schools for a highly anticipated and successful return.

I strongly encourage our families to continue to participate in your child's education in any way that you can and please feel free to share any questions or concerns with your child's teachers, principals, district leaders, and me.

We look forward to seeing you when we open our doors on September 9th and working with you as we prepare your children for college, career, and life success. Best wishes for a healthy and wonderful 2021-2022 school year!



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Coronavirus

All N.J. school employees must be vaccinated for COVID or undergo regular testing, Murphy announces

Updated: Aug. 23, 2021, 5:32 p.m. | Published: Aug. 23, 2021, 1:11 p.m.



510
shares

By [Matt Arco](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

Every employee that works at any school in New Jersey — public and private — will need to be fully vaccinated for [the coronavirus](#) or undergo regular testing, Gov. [Phil Murphy](#) announced on Monday.

People who opt out of getting vaccinated will be tested once to twice weekly “at minimum,” the governor said. The vaccine mandate — for preschool through grade 12 schools — is required by Oct. 18.

“This order applies to all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools,” Murphy said Monday during his regular COVID-19 briefing.



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Mayor J. Christian Bollwage

COVID-19 Update August 25, 2021

78% of the Elizabeth residents have received at least one vaccine.



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



VACCINE CLINIC

DO YOUR PART FOR A STRONG START



August 26 • 4 PM–7 PM

Elizabeth High School, DUNN Center
600 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

- Pfizer Vaccine (available to all ages 12+)
2 shots, 21 days apart
- Saliva Testing Available (results in 24-48 hours)
- Provided 100% free of charge

SCAN TO REGISTER



Registration is not required but recommended. Use the QR code or call (908) 613-7829.

For more information, visit us at UCNJ.ORG/COVID19

A Service of the Union County
Board of County Commissioners



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

www.ucnj.org





RETURN TO SCHOOL

NJDOE & NJDOH GUIDANCE

Updated August 20, 2021



The Road Forward

Health and Safety Guidance
for the 2021-2022 School Year

New Jersey Department of Education
New Jersey Department of Health





THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

AN OVERVIEW

We recognize the importance of returning students to our schools for in-person instruction, as well as the overarching need to protect the health and safety of our students and team members. We expect that COVID-19 will be present, to some degree, in our community throughout the school year. Our district is prepared to respond in the event that we experience a COVID-19 exposure.

Education, just like healthcare and food provision, is essential to our community, and as such, the return to of our schools for in-person instruction with strict safety protocols will be prioritized.

The safety of our team members is also a critical priority in the return to school guidance and decisions. We have highlighted key staff safety measures in a standalone section that summarizes safety measures set forth throughout this document to protect staff and students.

OUR PLEDGE

Returning to
Schools Responsibly





GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS

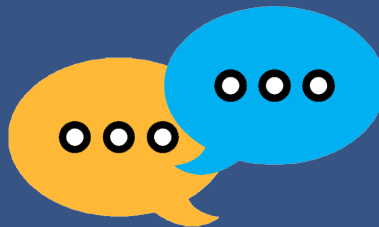
THESE CORE VALUES HAVE GUIDED THE WORK OF THE ELIZABETH BOARD OF EDUCATION, EPS SUPERINTENDENT, ADMINISTRATORS, AND TEACHERS TO ENSURE A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL IN THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR FOR EACH AND EVERY STUDENT:



EXCEED MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS TO PLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST FOR OUR STUDENTS AND TEAM MEMBERS



PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION TO ALL STUDENTS



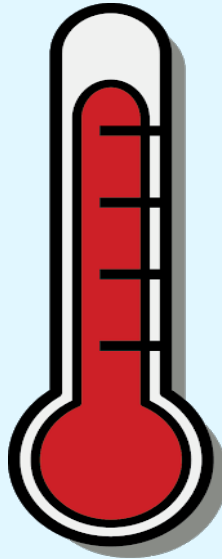
DELIVER ACCURATE AND TIMELY COMMUNICATION TO TEAM MEMBERS AND FAMILIES AS NEEDED AND KEEP ALL STAKEHOLDERS INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

AS WE RETURN TO OUR SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER...

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost importance. Due to health and safety measures set forth by federal, state, and local officials, the 2021-2022 school year will look different than in previous years. The district plans to focus on academic instruction as well as the programs that are crucial for the mental, social emotional, and physical well-being of students.

SCREENING AT HOME:

- Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Students who are sick should not attend school.
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4°F or more should not go to a school site. Students with a fever will be excluded for 72 hours.



ARRIVING AT SCHOOL:

- Arrival/departure times and school entry points will be managed to allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Physical barriers have been installed in areas where face-to-face interaction with the public occurs.
- School sites have signage throughout campus to encourage physical distancing and proper sanitation.

TRAVEL:

May 17, 2021: New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced the lifting of New Jersey's travel advisory, which outlined quarantine and testing recommendations for residents and visitors to the state following interstate travel. Effective immediately, the travel advisory is no longer in place for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Residents and travelers are encouraged to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) protocols regarding quarantine and testing following international travel. *If your family is considering travel at this time or planning a trip, please review [this important information from the CDC.](#)*

ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS IF A TEMPERATURE OF 100.4°F+ IS DETECTED:

- Students with a temperature of 100°F or higher will not be admitted and shall be sent home
- Individual should then contact a health care provider for further instructions.
- Please notify the school administration of any positive COVID-19 test results.
- School will notify health officials, staff and families of any positive cases.
- If a student develops a fever while at school, they will be isolated from other students, provided a face covering if they do not have one, and their parent/guardian will be contacted to pick them up.
- Sick team members and students will be advised to isolate according to [CDC guidelines](#). The individual may return after 10 days since symptoms first appeared and no fever for the last 24 hours, or 3 days after all symptoms are fully resolved with proof of negative COVID test.



MESSAGE

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Indoor Masks Required at All NJ K-12 Schools, Murphy Says

BY ANTHONY BIRITTERI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ON AUG 6, 2021

K-12 students, as well as school staff and visitors, will be required to wear masks at the start of the 2021-2022 school year to protect themselves from the COVID-19 delta variant, as the number of COVID-19 cases rises throughout the state, Gov. Phil Murphy announced today.

At a press conference at Memorial Elementary school in East Brunswick, Murphy said, "Due to the recent and rampant spread of the delta variant, the fact that no child under the age of 12 is able to be vaccinated, and the reality that too many older students and their parents remain unvaccinated, all students, educators, staff and visitors will be required to wear masks inside school buildings regardless of vaccination status at the start of the new school year.

"This is not an announcement that gives any of us, or me, any pleasure," the governor continued, "but as the school year approaches and with [COVID-19] numbers rapidly increasing, it is the one we need to make right now."

The governor issued the mandate through Executive Order (EO) 251, which requires masking indoors at all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings, with limited exceptions. The EO is effective on Monday, Aug. 9.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

REQUIREMENTS

Indoors: All staff, students, and visitors wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the indoor premises of school buildings.

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.

Students

- All students are required to wear face coverings:
 - while arriving and departing from school;
 - in any area inside of the classroom
 - while waiting for or riding on a school bus.
- We have posted signage in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of (1) when and where face coverings are required and (2) appropriate use of face coverings.
- We will provide face coverings for students and staff who lose their face coverings or forget to bring them to school.
- Teachers may consider using face coverings with clear windows during phonological instruction, or a face shield with an appropriate seal (cloth covering extending from the bottom edge of the shield and tucked into the shirt collar), to enable students to see the teacher's mouth and in settings where a face covering poses a barrier to communicating with a student who is hearing impaired or a student with a disability.





PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some individuals, however mask use is **required** for **all** individuals in **indoor school settings** with the following exceptions:

- 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 the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a 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.

FACE COVERINGS





PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF

REQUIREMENTS

- We are limiting visitors to all schools

School Events

- For all schools:
 - Field trips, assemblies, and other gatherings are not permitted at this time.
 - We are maximizing the number of school events that can be held virtually or outside.

Equipment for front office staff

- We have installed physical barriers, such as a clear plastic barrier, in the school's front office to separate staff from visitors and volunteers.
- Teachers and other staff with close contact with students may consider wearing face shields in addition to wearing face coverings.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for special education instructors and aides and healthcare personnel

- A mask and face shield is recommended when providing services to students which requires repeated close contact interactions (e.g., assistance with activities of daily living) or conducting health assessments (including vision and hearing screening).
- Gloves and any additional PPE should be worn as recommended for procedures which require universal precautions (e.g., toileting assistance, catheterization, and insulin administration). PPE for potential aerosol generating procedures (e.g., suctioning of tracheostomy sites and nebulizer treatments) should follow CDC guideline.





COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

PARENTAL SCREENINGS

REQUIREMENTS

Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children.

Students who are sick should not attend school. Schools should strictly enforce exclusion criteria for both students and staff

Webinars about the importance of monitoring symptoms and keeping children home while ill will be available on our website.

Schools can use existing outreach systems to provide reminders to staff and families to check for symptoms before leaving for school.

Schools will provide clear and accessible directions to parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and reasons for absences.










EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

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:

Parents/Guardians or staff members who answer “Yes” to any one of these questions needs to contact the school administrator, school nurse and your physician

<p>1. Has your child experienced <u>TWO</u> of more of the following symptoms?</p> <p>Fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose;</p>	<p><u>NO</u></p> 	<p><u>YES</u></p> <p>STAY HOME and seek medical care</p>
<p>2. Has your child experienced <u>ONE</u> of the following symptoms?</p> <p>Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or new taste disorder.</p>	<p><u>NO</u></p> 	<p><u>YES</u></p> <p>STAY HOME and seek medical care</p>
<p>3. Within the past 14 days, have you had close contact with someone who has been confirmed as having COVID-19?</p>	<p><u>NO</u></p> 	<p><u>YES</u></p> <p>STAY HOME and seek medical care and testing</p>
<p>4. Has someone in your household been diagnosed with COVID-19? Quarantine if you have been in <u>close contact</u> with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been <u>fully vaccinated</u>. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have <u>symptoms</u>. Unvaccinated must quarantine and get tested 3-5 days after exposure.</p>	<p><u>NO</u></p> 	<p><u>YES</u></p> <p>STAY HOME and seek medical care and testing</p>
<p>5. Have you traveled internationally? Vaccinated travelers have to get tested with a <u>viral test</u> 3-5 days after travel. Unvaccinated travelers Get tested with a <u>viral test</u> 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.</p>	<p><u>NO</u></p> 	<p><u>YES</u></p> <p>STAY HOME Contact the school nurse and your physician</p>



COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

RESPONSE TO SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS AND STAFF

All schools will follow procedures to identify and respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms.

School nurses will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions based on the care and tasks required.

Individuals who become ill with COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be isolated in an area away from others.

Staff will be assigned to supervise students waiting to be picked will follow physical distancing guidelines.

WHEN ILLNESS OCCURS IN THE SCHOOL SETTING

Persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms will be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider and should undergo COVID-19 testing.

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.

School nurses will notify the district's Nurse Coordinator on all cases of potential COVID-19 exposure. The Local Health Department will be notified.

Weekly student and staff case counts to NJDOH through the Surveillance for Influenza and COVID-19 (SIC) Module will be reported.



COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

Response to Suspected or Confirmed Cases. and Close Contacts

CLOSE CONTACT REQUIREMENTS

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus.

Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.

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 or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. (updated 8/21/21 by NJDOE and NJDOH)

Our Nurses will identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school. As with any other communicable disease outbreak, schools will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the LHD.

Our schools will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.

Virtual instruction will be offered to those students that have been quarantined. In-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine.

Students with underlying health conditions that may make them more susceptible to or exacerbate the symptoms of COVID-19 may be eligible for home instruction per the process outlined at N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 or as required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.



COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

EXPOSED CLOSE CONTACTS WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED AND HAVE NO COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS:

Vaccinated individuals **do not need to quarantine**, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. However, they should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.

If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

EXPOSED CLOSE CONTACTS WHO ARE UNVACCINATED AND HAVE NO COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS:

Unvaccinated individuals **will need to quarantine**, be excluded from school and be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission levels as follows:

High (orange) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.

Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)



COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

Response to Suspected or Confirmed Cases, and Close Contacts

Return to School after Testing: Positive test results

- Symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return at least 14 days since symptoms first appeared AND at least 72 hours with no fever AND improvement in other symptoms.
- Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 14 days after their positive test result was collected.

Negative Test Results

- Symptomatic individuals, who are not close-contacts and who test negative for COVID-19 can return 72 hours after resolution of fever (if any) and improvement in symptoms.
 - Documentation of a negative test result should be provided to school administrators.
 - In lieu of a negative test result, allow students and staff to return to work with a medical note by a physician that provides alternative explanation for symptoms and reason for not ordering COVID-19 testing.
- Individuals who are close contacts to confirmed COVID-19 cases, who test negative at least 6 days after exposure, and remain asymptomatic, can return 14 days after the date of last exposure to the case. If a close contact continues to be exposed to a case during their isolation (e.g., household member), quarantine ends 10 days after the case's isolation period ends



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 SCREEN TESTING

Athletics
Marching Band
High School Clubs
Academic/Arts Afterschool Activities



Requirements for Screening Testing:

Screening testing involves using SARS-CoV-2 viral tests. Developing and implementing a screening testing strategy is particularly important during periods of high community transmission when physical space limitations prevent the implementation of maximal social distancing practices.

Screening testing has been developed in conjunction with the City of Elizabeth Health Department and the Union County Office of Health Management.

The Screening Testing Matrix Based on COVID-19 Activity Level (CALI) provides recommended screening testing strategies based on the regional COVID-19 activity level.

Screen testing is required for staff and students who are **not fully vaccinated** and who are participating in sports and higher risk extracurricular activities on a weekly basis. High-risk extracurricular activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

Parental consent for minor students is required.

It is not recommended to retest individuals who have tested positive and do not have symptoms for COVID-19 for up to 3 months from their last positive test.

All testing results will be made available to public health authorities as required by the NJDOH.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 SCREEN TESTING



Mayor J. Christian Bollwage
The City of Elizabeth, and
The Department of Health and Human Services
in partnership with
DOCSPOT
Presents:

ELIZABETH GETS SCREENED

COVID-19 TESTING

August HOURS

THURSDAY 3PM-7PM

ERXLEBEN RECREATION CENTER

513 RICHMOND STREET

PROOF OF HEALTH INSURANCE AND PHOTO ID REQUIRED

NO CO-PAY, NO BILL

PRE-REGISTER TO AVOID LONG LINES

VISIT: tinyurl.com/3czt25t2

OR SCAN THE QR CODE

UNINSURED WILL BE TESTED AS WELL

WITH A PHOTO ID



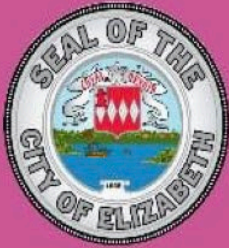
Ma...M...r...v...com





EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 SCREEN TESTING



Mayor J. Christian Bollwage
The City of Elizabeth, and
The Department of Health and Human Services
in partnership with
The County of Union
Presents:

ELIZABETH GETS SCREENED

FREE COVID-19 SALIVA TESTING

AUGUST HOURS

WEDNESDAY 5-8PM SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

STEPHEN SAMPSON CENTER

800 ANNA STREET

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY YOU WILL REGISTER ON SITE USING YOUR
SMARTPHONE

NO EATING, DRINKING OR CHEWING GUM 30 MINUTES BEFORE ARRIVAL

for information call (908) 820-4731

A Service of the Union County
Board of County Commissioners



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

www.ucnj.org





PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOLS

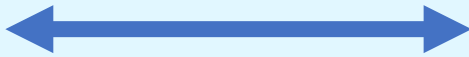
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

- We will teach, model, practice, and monitor handwashing, particularly for lower grade levels.
- We have developed routines to ensure students wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon arrival to campus; after using the restroom; after playing outside and returning to the classroom
- We have posted signage in high visibility areas to remind students and staff of proper techniques for handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes and other prevention measures
- We have ensured adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, face coverings and hand sanitizers (with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol) for staff and students who can safely use hand sanitizer
- We have suspended use of drinking fountains. We are encouraging the use of reusable water bottles. Refillable water fountains are being installed.
- We have minimized the sharing of supplies and equipment among staff and students to the extent feasible. When items must be shared, clean and disinfect items between uses



HAND HYGIENE

PHYSICAL DISTANCING



3 FEET

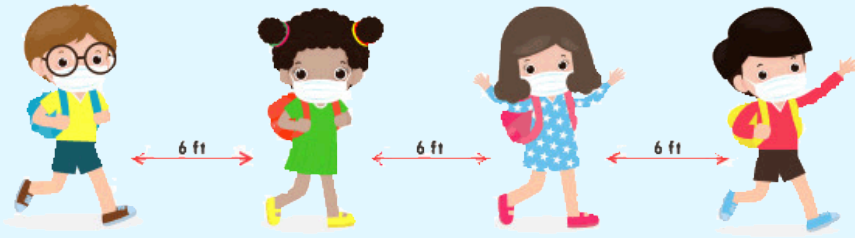
WHENEVER POSSIBLE



GENERAL

- We will train students on protocols for physical distancing for both indoor and outdoor spaces
- All schools and offices have signage reminding students and team members about physical distancing in prominent locations throughout each school
- Visitors to our schools must be vaccinated.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING (cont.)



During periods of [low or moderate community transmission](#), We are required to implement physical distancing recommendations to the maximum degree that allows our schools to offer full in-person learning.

During periods of [high community transmission](#), if maximal social distancing recommendations cannot be maintained, our schools will prioritize other prevention measures including screening testing and cohorting.

Within classrooms, we will maintain 3 feet of physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable, while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students.

Outside of classrooms including in hallways, locker rooms, indoor and outdoor physical education settings, and school-sponsored transportation, we will maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable.

The CDC recommends a distance of at least 6 feet between students and teachers/staff and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated in all settings.

As feasible, cohorts or groups of students with dedicated staff who remain together throughout the day, including at recess, lunch times, and while participating in extracurricular activities.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

PHYSICAL DISTANCING (cont.)

ALL SCHOOLS

- Ventilation has been increased by increasing outdoor air circulation (e.g., by opening any operable windows), using air purifiers and increasing ventilation rates whenever possible. .
- Our student desks should be faced in the same direction (and not facing each other) to minimize risk of disease transmission.
- We have ensured adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials (art supplies, equipment, electronic devices, etc.) to the extent practicable, or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.

NON-CLASSROOM SETTINGS

Restrooms: Stagger restroom use by groups of students to the extent practicable, and/or assign certain groups of students to use certain restrooms.

Physical Education:

- We are conducting activities outdoors whenever possible, with appropriate physical distancing within cohorts to the extent practicable.
- We are going to limit use of shared playground equipment in favor of physical activities that require less contact with surfaces and allow for greater physical distancing.
- Cloth face coverings must be worn during indoor physical conditioning and training or physical education classes. Students should take a break from exercise if any difficulty in breathing is noted and should change their face covering if it becomes wet and sticks to the student's face and obstructs breathing.
- Physical Education teachers will carry first aid kits that include handsanitizer, face coverings, and gloves.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

EPS is committed to securing additional safety equipment to maintain the cleanliness of buildings, including but not limited to:



HAND SANITIZING STATIONS

- Hand sanitizing stations will be located in common areas such as the security desk, front offices, and priority locations identified by the principal.



TOUCHLESS THERMOMETERS

- The district has provided each school and district site with touchless forehead thermometers so our nurses may screen each students as needed.

ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYERS AND PORTABLE UV CLEANERS



- The district has provided electrostatic sprayers for every school
- The sprayers enable custodial staff to more efficiently disinfect our schools. The units spray a fine mist of disinfectant solution that is statically charged and then adheres to the surfaces in the room ensuring coverage. Detailed attention will be given to high-touch areas such as door handles, desktops, sink handles, handrails and restrooms throughout the day.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- At least daily, and more frequently clean and disinfect frequently touched hard surfaces (e.g., tables, desks, chairs, door handles, light switches, phones, copy/fax machines, bathroom surfaces (toilets, countertops, faucets) and playground equipment) and shared objects (toys, games, art supplies, books) pursuant to CDC guidance
- We are using cleaning products that are approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list
- Drinking fountains have been suspended. Students should bring their own water bottles
- Bathrooms will be cleaned and stocked with soap throughout the day.
- Disinfecting wipes and/or disinfecting sprays will be provided in every classroom.
- HVAC systems have been serviced and inspected across the District to ensure proper operation and circulation of outside air.
- The district has upgraded from a 3-ply to a 4-ply filter, exceeding current requirements.
- HVAC schedules will be set to run at least one hour before and after occupied hours.

VENTILATION SYSTEMS

All the ventilation systems will be checked for proper operation. The goal is to provide as much outdoor air as possible, prevent high ventilation rates that may spread the pathogen further from the human host and minimizing or diluting the recirculated air as much as possible. In order to achieve or goals we will:

- Increase the percentage of outdoor air as much as possible to dilute the recirculated air and minimizing the recirculated air.
- Evaluate the using of filters with a higher MERV rating (increasing the level of filtration) when the equipment can handle it.
- Running the equipment always in occupied mode to provide more changes of air by when the students show up.
- Run the UVs at a slower speed to prevent/limit the projection of any possible pathogens in the air.
- Have additional filters at hand so that if necessary, do additional filter changes.
- Lower the setting of the systems controlled by a Carbon Dioxide On-Demand Sensor to force them to increase the amount of outdoor air.
- Evaluate the addition of needlepoint bipolar ionization devices to our HVAC equipment to inactivate/kill the virus in the air and improve our filtration of particles in suspension in the room air.

AIR PURIFIERS

All classrooms will be provided with air purifiers that have a HEPA filter. Most classrooms will be outfitted with two air purifiers that have a HEPA filter.





TRANSPORTATION

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

- All families will need to screen students for COVID-19 symptoms before they board the school bus. Drivers will stand at the entrance to the bus during student loading to perform a temperature check with touchless thermometers. Students not meeting screening requirements will not be permitted to board the bus.
- We are ensuring at least six feet of distance between the bus/van driver and students when seated. We are using physical partitions or visual cues (e.g., floor decals, colored tape, or signs to indicate to students where they should not sit or stand near the bus operator).
- We are maximizing physical distancing between students on the bus by limiting available seats to the extent practicable (e.g., every other row available for seating).
- Students should practice physical distancing while waiting on buses at school bus stops. Students from the same family and/or the same classroom should be instructed to sit together whenever possible to minimize exposure to new contacts.

BOARDING & DISEMBARKING



DISINFECTION & CLEANING



- Buses are being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and after transporting students with electrostatic sprayers.
- Bus Drivers are provided with disinfectant wipes and disposable gloves to support disinfection of frequently touched surfaces during the day.
- Drivers will perform disinfecting wipe down of high touch points following each run.
- Drivers have been directed to increase ventilation on buses/vans by opening any operable windows, to the greatest extent possible, unless doing so poses a safety or health risk for current or subsequent occupants.

FACE COVERINGS

- Due to the CDC requirements on buses, students and drivers will be required to wear face coverings.
- We are requiring bus drivers and students wear face coverings at all times while awaiting and riding on buses.
- We have provided bus drivers with extra face coverings for students who lose or forget to bring their face coverings.





STAY CONNECTED

TO ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



You can find

Elizabeth Public Schools

in the app store.



COME VISIT US



Come visit our
district website at
www.epsnj.org



500 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ



908.436.5000

FOLLOW EPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

