

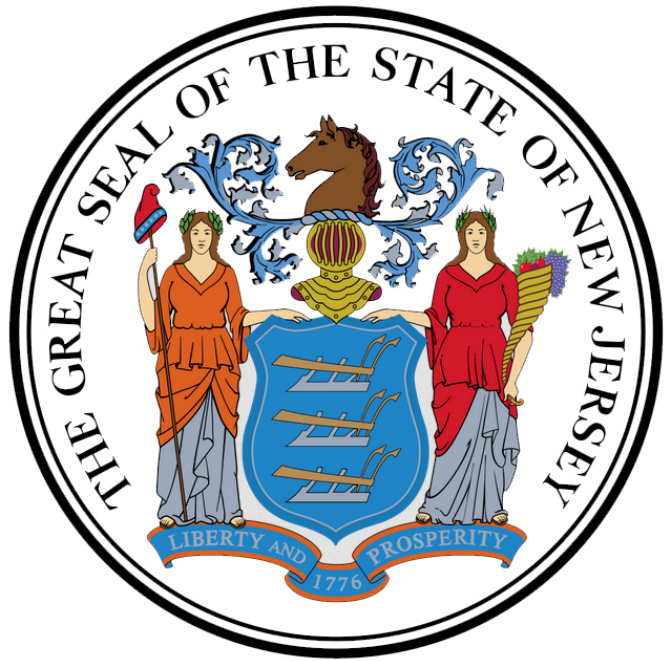


ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 2021

Gov. Murphy Releases The Road Forward



Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education released [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#) which focuses on full-day, full-time, and in-person instruction for September 2021.

As we know that many of you are already thinking about September, we wanted to take this opportunity to share an initial update. Please be aware that additional information will be communicated as we receive updates and plans for September are finalized.

CDC Provides Guidance Update

The CDC recently released updated health and safety guidance as it relates to schools. Major elements of the updated CDC guidance include:

- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.

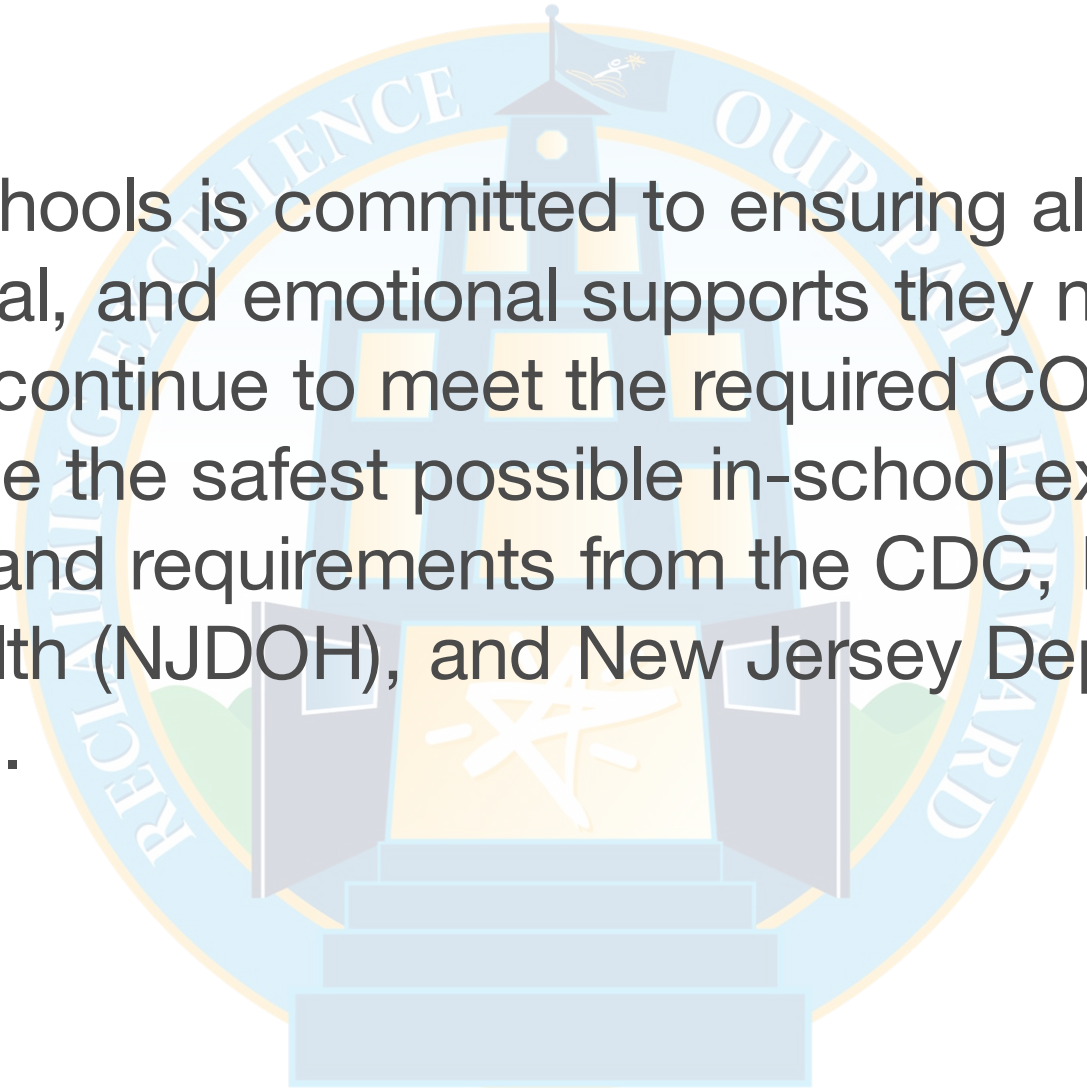
CDC Provides Guidance Update

- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (masking, distancing, testing) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated.



What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Elizabeth Public Schools is committed to ensuring all students receive the academic, social, and emotional supports they need to learn, grow, and thrive. We will continue to meet the required COVID-19 mitigation measures to provide the safest possible in-school experience, based on evolving guidance and requirements from the CDC, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), and New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).



What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Based on the released guidance, we can expect the following this fall...

- Schedules at all schools will include full-day in-person instruction for all students to learn
- Start and end times will return to the pre-pandemic bell schedules
- Breakfast and Lunch will be served at each school.
- Clubs and athletics will continue
- Additional supports will be offered for ongoing mental and emotional needs

What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Communication

We will continue close communication with our local health departments in order to stay current regarding COVID-19 transmission rates, prevention, control measures, and health and safety protocols.

It is important to also remember that COVID-19 may impact certain areas of the state differently, and the NJDOH provides information on COVID-19 transmission at the regional level, characterizing community transmission as low (green), moderate (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red).

What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Masks

Masks are one way to mitigate risk and are currently required in some situations. For instance, masks must be worn by all passengers on buses, regardless of vaccination status per the CDC's Federal Order.

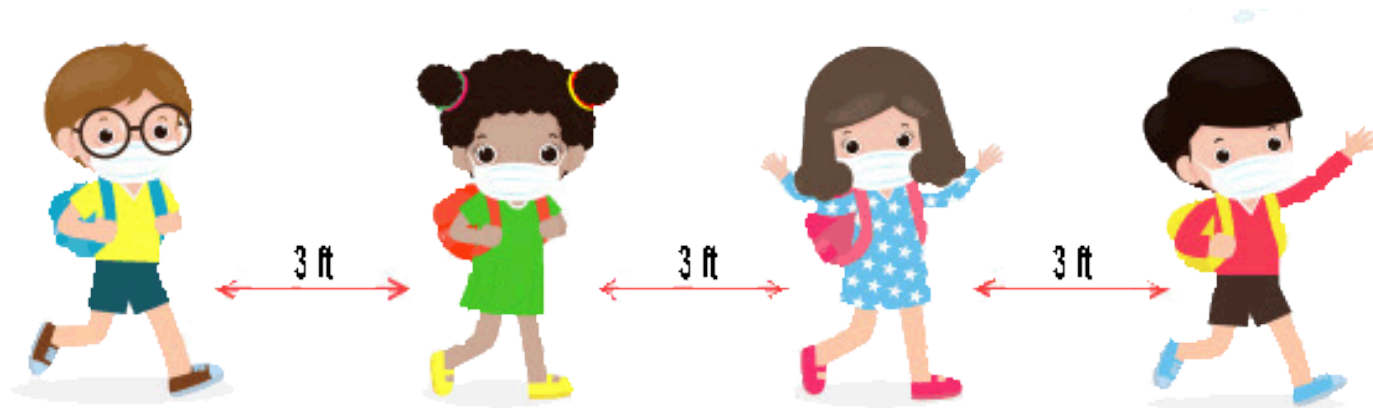
There has not been a final determination regarding masking requirements within the schools and classrooms for the 2021-2022 school year. The Road Forward explains that updated guidance on masking in the school setting is expected prior to September. That CDC guidance will factor into the final recommendations from the state of New Jersey for masking this fall. Additional information, specific to our district, will be provided following that release.

What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Physical Distancing

The district will maintain **three feet** of distance between students in classroom settings to the extent possible while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students.

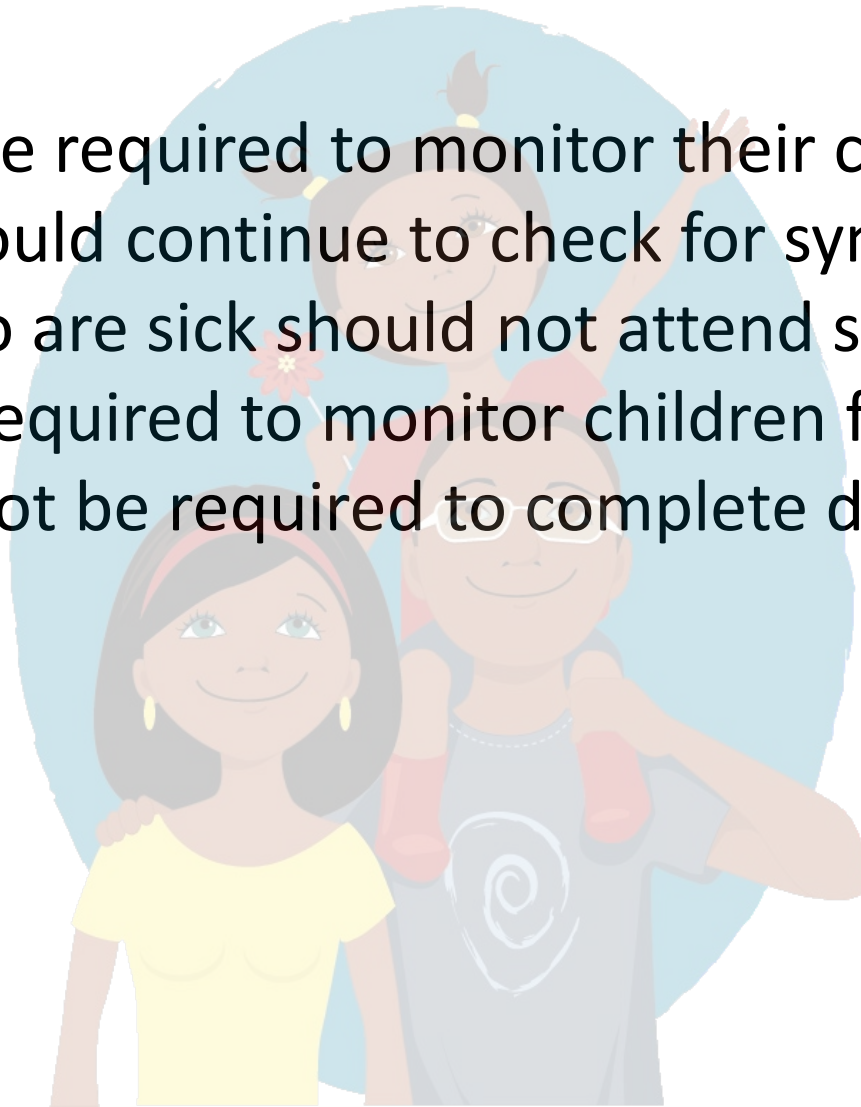
Similarly, the district will maintain **three feet** physical distance between students and staff in lunchrooms and cafeterias when possible.



What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Parental screening

Parents/caregivers will be required to monitor their children for signs of illness every day and should continue to check for symptoms before leaving for school. Students who are sick should not attend school. Although parents/guardians are required to monitor children for signs of illness, parents/guardians will not be required to complete daily screening forms.

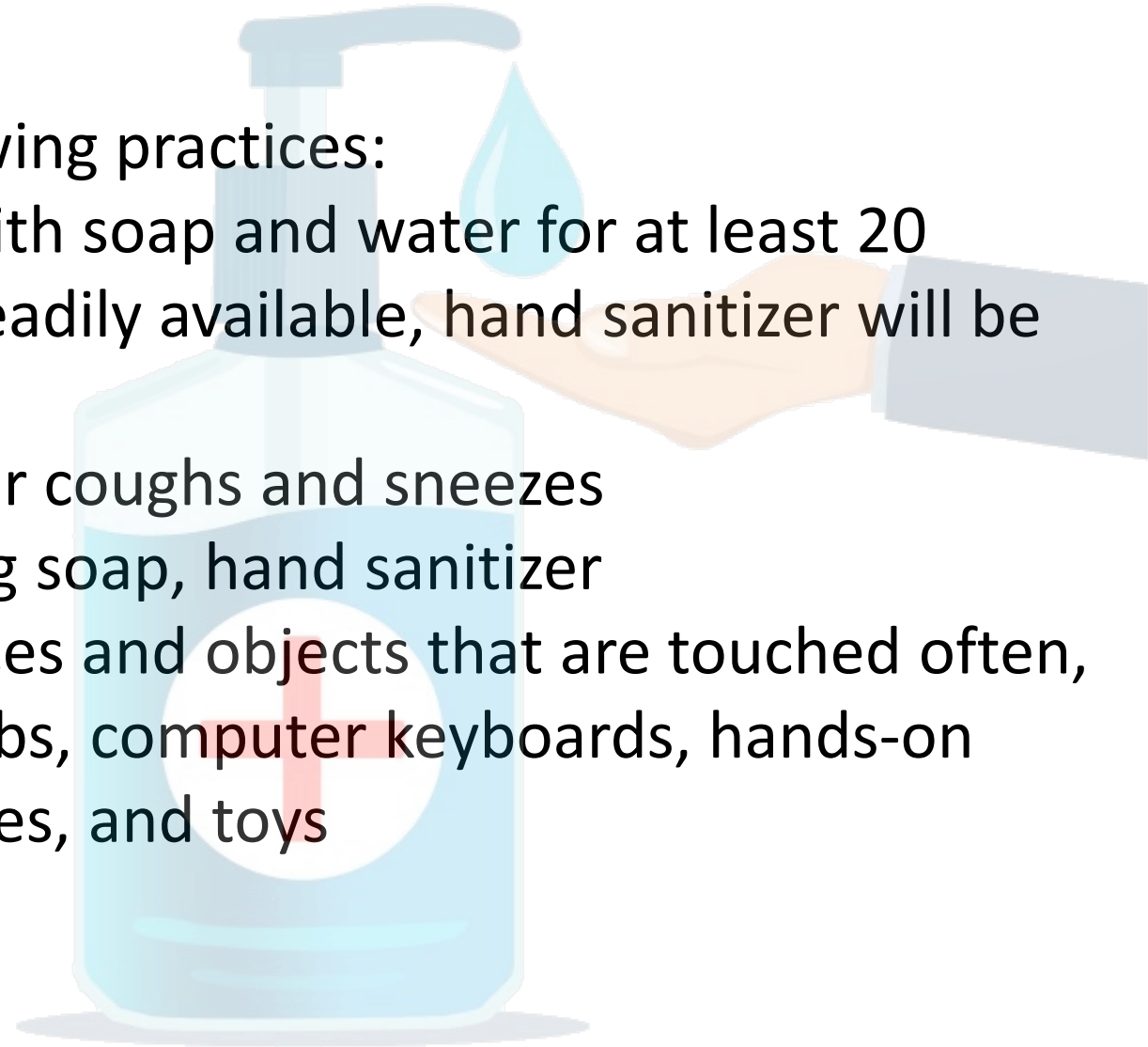


What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Hand Hygiene/Cleaning Practices

We will continue to reinforce the following practices:

- Teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be available. Practice hand hygiene
- Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes
- Maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys



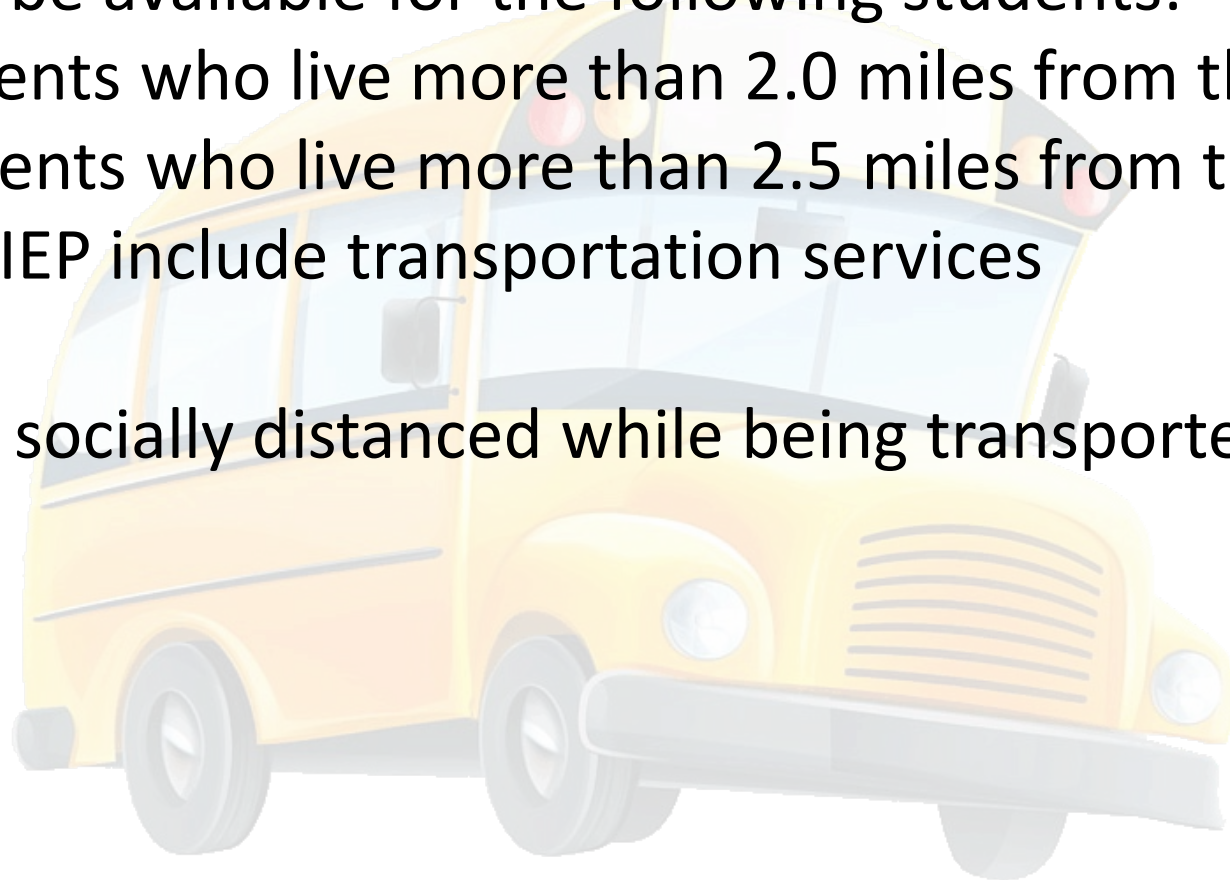
What to Expect: Back to School 2021

Transportation

Transportation will be available for the following students:

- Elementary students who live more than 2.0 miles from their school
- High school students who live more than 2.5 miles from their school
- Students whose IEP include transportation services

All students will be socially distanced while being transported to and from school.



Tdap/Menactra Vaccines

All children **born on or after January 1, 1997 and enrolled in the sixth grade will be required** to receive a booster dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine (Tdap) as well as one dose of meningococcal (Menactra) vaccine.

If your child has already received the above immunizations, please send in a written report from your health care provider so we can update our records.

You have the option of going to your private physician or to a clinic where immunizations are given free of charge. The schedule for these clinics and the necessary forms can be obtained from the nurse's office. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions regarding these required immunizations.

Your child **must be in compliance with vaccine requirements as noted above** or will be excluded from the first day of school on September 9, 2021.

Flu Vaccines

Please be advised that the State of New Jersey, Department of Health Services, has changed several immunization requirements. All children attending licensed childcare centers and preschools are **required** to receive an annual flu vaccination.

If you currently do not have medical insurance, you may qualify for services at the free immunization clinics throughout the city.

According to state mandates, students attending school must provide the following:

- Proof of the vaccine

Please provide proof of your child's required immunization as soon as possible and **no later than December 20, 2021**. Students who do not have the required documentation will be excluded from school as of January 3, 2022.



ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 2021