

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendices

The Road Forward



**Pitman
Board of Education
Fall 2021**

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix A

Vaccination

The school district

- strongly encourages vaccination of all eligible students and staff
- data collection re: vaccination status (with evidence of vaccination) to assist the district in implementing other health & safety measures. Data collection of staff through online survey in September 2021; vaccinated staff must present proof of vaccination to school nurses or supervisors.
- Per Executive Order 253, all NJ school personnel must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination by 10/18/2021 or be subject to regular weekly COVID testing.
- No immediate plans to require vaccination of students; subject to change (TBD).
- Vaccination of students under 12 – per media reports, EUA expected fall 2021.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix B

Communication with the Local Health Department

- Communication with Health Department
 - Regular, as-needed phone/email consultation between school nurses and health department staff regarding contact tracing and guidance;
 - Superintendent consultation for guidance regarding potential outbreaks and district response, as well as attendance at county superintendents' roundtable meetings (county DOH staff attends monthly or as needed).
- Other communication re: COVID-19 transmission within the school community
 - Regular weekly communication to families – in-district and local case counts, regional risk matrix information (NJDOH - CALI report) provided via email blast
 - As needed/appropriate – written notification to families/staff re: potential close contact/exposure to COVID positive individuals on site.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix C

Mask Wearing Protocol

- Per Governor's Executive Order 251 - universal masking of all staff and students (regardless of vaccination status) in accordance with most recent school guidance from CDC and AAP
- Protocol may be subject to change, pending changing local transmission rates, case counts, and guidance from public health officials
- Limited exemptions – situational; documented medical reason: etc.
 - When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, (e.g. extreme heat indoors);
 - When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face masks 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 mask;
 - 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 mask;
 - 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 mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix D

Physical Distancing and Cohorting Protocols

Physical distancing measures

- Maintaining three feet of distance between students in classroom settings when possible; in crowded outdoor settings, physical distancing shall be implement. In common areas within the schools (hallways, etc.), physical distancing shall be encouraged and monitored (signage reminders). Limited seating at cafeteria tables to maximize distance; six feet of distance when possible between tables to minimize exposure risk while unmasked.

Structural interventions within classrooms

- Provision of physical barriers between students/staff where possible, especially in more crowded spaces (e.g. Plexiglas barriers – desk-mounted, ceiling mounted)

Use of cohorts

- Recess and lunch schedules in elementary schools based on homeroom cohorts; assignment of students to tables/pods in lunchrooms to minimize exposure risk while unmasked.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix E

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols

The school district will continue to follow the following protocols:

- Teach and reinforce hand washing – minimum of 20 seconds with soap/water when possible, or with hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or greater content). Hand hygiene strongly encouraged throughout the day at key times: lunch, recess, scheduled bathroom breaks, etc. Signage in place throughout buildings.
- Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask.
- Maintain adequate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette supplies – sanitizing stations at building entrances and within instructional spaces and offices; tissues and other supplies available upon request.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix F

Provision of Meals

- Lunches will be served onsite; lunch schedules, locations, and seating have been modified to maximize physical distancing and mitigate crowd size. Additional lunch period added at elementary schools, additional locations for meals in place at middle and high schools to de-densify spaces.
- Breakfast – grab and go, pre-packaged meals available; students who eat in classrooms may be gathered as a pod to minimize exposure risk of other students.
- All students will be eligible for free school meals for 2021-22 (federal grant); meals will be individually packaged to maximize health/safety measures.
- Tabletop barriers in selected locations to mitigate exposure risk when students are unable to distance.
- New cleaning protocols for cafeteria and other spaces used for meals.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix G

Transportation Protocols

Per federal order, all passengers must be masked during transport (regardless of vaccination status). Transportation providers enforce mask mandate.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix H

Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow

- Cleaning and Disinfecting Classrooms and Other Spaces
 - 2020-21 protocols will largely remain in place – enhanced daily/weekly routines, including high-touch surfaces. Staff will maintain cleaning schedule and written logs for restrooms, classrooms, and other spaces.
 - Some modifications to products and equipment used to match EPA recommendations. Approved surface cleaning products are the primary product used for cleaning most spaces.
 - Modified timelines and disinfection procedures (per NJDOH guidance) for rooms in which a symptomatic person had been – rooms will be cleaned and are safe to be reoccupied several hours after the symptomatic person was present, and may be reoccupied once they have been disinfected (use of mask and gloves while cleaning required).
- Airflow
 - Safely maximize airflow and exchange of fresh air; open building/room dampers beyond legal minimums to maximize airflow.
 - Encourage the opening of interior doors and windows when this can be safely done to enhance airflow.
 - Use of outdoor spaces as appropriate.
 - Continued maintenance of ventilation systems and equipment – scheduled cleaning/replacement of filters

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix I

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

- Health Screening
 - Encourage families and staff to monitor for symptoms, and self-exclude when sick.
 - Regular reminders to families and staff (email/text); no daily screening questionnaire. Emailed/text reminders are sent to members of the school community twice weekly (symptom reminders, quarantine and exclusion rules, etc.)
- Response to Symptomatic Individuals
 - Designated isolation rooms at all schools; follow 2020-21 protocols
- Exclusion from School
 - Illness in School – sent home; exclusion protocol dependent upon local transmission risk (NJDOH matrix and regional CALI score)
 - COVID symptoms and/or positive COVID test – follow Spring 2021 DOH guidance re: quarantines (minimum 10 day quarantine; 14 day when high transmission with no test-out option)
 - Close contacts – 10 day quarantine if unvaccinated; can be conditionally reduced to 7 days with negative test; quarantine period extends to 14 days, with no test-out option, if regional transmission rate (CALI score) indicated high transmission levels. Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals do not require quarantine.
 - Revised CDC guidance on masked students adopted; properly masked students are exempt from close contact definition (does not apply to unvaccinated adult staff).
 - The school nurses have developed a website for families to reference as well, which is linked to the school district home page under the “COVID-19” tab.
 - Remote instruction
 - no parent option for synchronous remote instructional program in 2021-22
 - Consideration for lengthy absence due to quarantine – live broadcast of lessons from classrooms may be made available to students; students who are substantively engaged with lessons and instructional materials during their quarantine are counted as “present” for attendance purposes. Devices will be distributed to students in grades PreK -4 who have not been assigned a device for daily use outside of school for the duration of their quarantine.

THE ROAD FORWARD

- Google Classroom will be available remotely as a resource to facilitate asynchronous learning while quarantined or on a lengthy absence.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix J

Contact Tracing

The school district will conduct contact tracing in a manner similar to 2020-21 protocols, with county DOH assistance.

- “Close contact” definition remains the same – within 6 feet, >15 minutes cumulative exposure per day (regardless of masking or vaccination status)
 - Revised CDC guidance on masked students adopted; properly masked students are exempt from close contact definition (does not apply to unvaccinated adult staff).
- Circumstances may dictate the need to quarantine some/all members of a class/team/cohort, depending on the particular situation. School staff will consult with the county DOH staff for guidance and recommendations.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix K

Testing

- Diagnostic testing - School nurses can provide referrals for local diagnostic testing options. The nurses have developed a website for families to reference as well, which is linked to the school district home page under the “COVID-19” tab.
- Screening testing – the district has elected to participate in a state-sponsored COVID testing program (option 1) to begin on/about 10/18/2021; as of 9/30/2021, we are awaiting details as to vendor assignment and administration of onsite tests to unvaccinated/symptomatic staff members and/or students.

THE ROAD FORWARD

Appendix L

Student and Staff Member Travel

As of 9/2/2021, the school district is following the recommended CDC guidelines for student and staff member who travel out-of-state for longer than 24 hours (exception for overnight travel to PA and DE).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

These guidelines apply to unvaccinated individuals.