



Safe Reopening Plan
2021 - 2022

Safe Reopening Guiding Principles:

- Consider the safety and wellness of students and staff members, first and foremost, by following the guidelines set forth by the NJ Department of Education’s “The Road Forward” plan, Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and state guidelines.
- Maintain the continuity of education and meet the rigorous educational standards of the district and state.
- Respond to the needs of vulnerable and high needs populations.
- Be adaptable and flexible based on public health conditions and the needs of the community.
- Maintain consistent communication with students, families, and employees to ensure respect and success within the evolving situation.

A Full Return for All



At the onset of school on September 8, 2021, all students in grades 1-8 will return to school for full days every day.

Students in Preschool and Kindergarten will be offered options for half days or full days based on preference.

Health & Safety Guidelines:

The health and wellbeing of our students and staff continues to be our top priority. These guidelines are subject to change as we continue to adapt to the recommendations set forth by the CDC, AAP, and the New Jersey Department of Health as well as all pertinent Executive Orders.

All parents/guardians of students will be strongly and continually encouraged to assess their children for COVID-compatible symptoms, as well as signs of other infectious illness, including daily at-home temperature checks prior to school. The presence of COVID-compatible symptoms should be shared with the school nurse as soon as possible and appropriate guidance will be provided.

All staff will monitor their health on a daily basis following the 2021 established COVID screening protocols. Any identified COVID-compatible symptoms shall be reported to the school nurse by the individual, as appropriate, and return-to-work guidance will be provided.

Health & Safety Guidelines (continued):

MASKS

As of March 7, 2022 New Jersey Executive Order 251 and the related statewide mask mandate for schools will no longer be in effect. Millstone Township School's policy regarding masks has always been pursuant and subject to Executive Order 251. With the sunseting of this Executive Order, Millstone Township Schools will no longer mandate the wearing of masks inside school buildings starting March 7, 2022.

Health & Safety Guidelines (continued):

MASKS (continued)

- As of March 7, 2022, all individuals, i.e., students, staff, and visitors, will continue to be provided the option of wearing a mask at their discretion.
- There will be no tolerance for harassment, intimidation, or bullying of, or retaliation against any individual in relation to their medical decisions regarding face masks and/or vaccines. These decisions are personal, based on individualized need, and shall be left to the discretion of students, their parents, and their health care providers.
- All Millstone Township Schools will continue to follow the district's recently updated protocols for in-school close contacts, i.e., notification of in-school exposure will be provided but students will not be excluded from school unless they exhibit Covid-compatible symptoms, or they choose to self-quarantine.

Health & Safety Guidelines (continued):

Health Offices:

All students and staff exhibiting COVID-compatible symptoms in school will be evaluated by the building nurse. Students and staff exhibiting fever, chills, rigors/shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder will be subject to school exclusion pending a negative COVID-19 PCR test or clearance from a prescribing physician.

The district requires COVID-19 testing and/or a doctor's visit when students present with two or more symptoms that are compatible with COVID-19 and/or if students miss more than two days of school for illness.

School exclusion decisions are at the discretion of the school nurse who will assess for differences from the individual's baseline (or typical) health conditions/status.

Health & Safety Guidelines (continued):

Exclusions/Quarantines:

Any individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school for up to 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of his/her confirmed positive COVID-19 test. Students who are symptom free may begin to return to school after 5 days with clearance for the school nurse.

Students and staff living in the same household as a confirmed positive case will be excluded from school for 10 days from the date of the affected individual's positive COVID-19 test.

Health & Safety Guidelines (continued):

Parent/Guardian Pickup from Health Offices: Students who are identified for school exclusion should be picked up within 30 minutes of receiving a phone call from the nurse. Parents must update their contact information as emergency contacts will be called in the order listed in Genesis.

Return to School: Upon their return, students and staff must report directly to the Health Office to obtain clearance from the school nurse before returning to class.

Notification: In the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, notification will be sent to the students and staff associated with the infected individual. In the event that close contacts are identified, individualized notification will be made to each affected person. In-school close contacts will be advised to monitor for Covid-compatible symptoms and given the option to self-quarantine.

Food Services

The cafeterias will be utilized to serve lunches in all buildings. Social distancing will be encouraged to the greatest extent possible - though six feet of space between students is unlikely in most lunch periods.

Meals will continue to be provided by Maschio's Food Services following food-service regulations set forth by the NJDOH.

Food service workers and custodians will be trained and responsible for carrying out all necessary sanitation and disinfecting procedures.

Transportation:

As per Executive Order 251, all students and staff must wear face masks while on school buses until March 7, 2022. Mask wearing on buses will only be required beyond March 7, 2022 if mandated by State or Federal law. If there is no such legal requirement, the District will not require masks on buses.

Bus windows will be open as long as weather conditions permit.

Bus assignments will be made with distancing implemented to the greatest extent possible.

Routine cleaning of buses will be performed using EPA-approved cleaners and disinfectants.

Building & Grounds, Facilities, and Operations

Classrooms, common areas, and shared spaces have been redesigned to maximize space for individuals and ensure three feet of space when possible and practical.

Social distancing visual indicators are prominently placed in all hallways establishing direction of traffic and reminding individuals to maintain distance from others whenever possible.

Additional daytime custodians may be assigned to our schools to support the increased cleaning demands required to maintain a safe and healthy environment.

EPA-approved disinfectant and sanitizers will be used in all cleaning processes.

Playsets, playgrounds, and shared materials will be cleaned as per NJDOH and CDC guidelines.

Building & Grounds, Facilities, and Operations

Schedule for cleaning in all buildings:

During the School Day: Touch point surfaces will be sanitized as recommended by the CDC and NJDOH. This includes door handles and other corridor touch points that will be wiped/sprayed with disinfectant as appropriate. Bathrooms will be sanitized at least once during the day shift. This includes sanitizing all bathroom touch points, cleaning visible messes, and checking dispensers.

In the Evenings: At night, buildings will be cleaned and disinfected according to the most up-to-date and relevant guidance from the NJDOH and CDC.

Building & Grounds, Facilities, and Operations

Hand sanitizer locations and procedures for refilling and maintaining: The custodians will be responsible for checking and restocking hand sanitizer dispensers and bathroom soap dispensers throughout the day (and overnight). Hand sanitizer stations will be at entrances/exits and easy to access in common areas.

Cleaning and sanitizing: Surfaces will be cleaned before being disinfected using a two-step process. Cleaning with soap and water, or EPA-approved cleaner, will remove dirt and germs before surfaces are disinfected with EPA-approved disinfectants.

Building & Grounds, Facilities, and Operations

Restrooms: Students will be instructed on how to monitor their own social distancing when using the restrooms. Staff members may also be utilized to limit access to restrooms. Allowing students to use the restroom during class in a controlled way will minimize the number of students using the restrooms between classes. Restroom doors will be kept open, when possible, to increase air circulation and limit touching of doors and handles.

Water fountains: Traditional water fountains may be closed depending on current NJDOH/CDC recommendations. Water bottle filling stations will remain available and will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. All students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school each day.

Building & Grounds, Facilities, and Operations

Procedure for building disinfecting if a case of COVID is identified: Depending on the circumstances, entire school buildings or identified infected rooms may be closed for 24 hours. Cleaning and disinfecting will be performed according to the most recent and relevant NJDOH and CDC guidelines.

Maintaining proper ventilation and circulation of air: The maintenance staff will closely monitor the HVAC systems for proper air flow and will continue to replace the air filters as per the manufacturer's recommendations. Dampers will be set to increase the flow of outside air into the building where possible.

Continuity of Education



In the event of school exclusions, mandatory quarantines, and/or periods of isolation directly related to COVID-19, the Millstone Township School district will provide instructional services to affected students.

These services will include any one, or a combination, of the following: up to two hours of daily home instruction with a certified teacher, access to live-streamed classes through Zoom, asynchronous work, and daily check-ins with classroom teachers.

The method(s) of instruction will be determined by the Director of Curriculum based on the affected students' ages, complexity of material, and the age-appropriateness of the instructional methodology.

Social Emotional Health and Wellbeing:

We recognize that the challenges caused by this pandemic have taken a tremendous emotional toll on our students and staff. We also acknowledge that a full return to school may not be easy for some. Our administrators have been working alongside our mental health professionals to identify ways to address these concerns and ensure that everyone involved is supported upon their return and continually throughout the school year. Building-specific strategies to assist students and staff and support their social emotional health and wellbeing will be shared at the building level.

Parent/Community Communication

This plan is based on lessons learned throughout the 2020-2021 school year, feedback from key stakeholders, guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control.

We recognize, and ask you to as well, that modifications to this plan may become necessary as the public health situation evolves.

We encourage all parents, guardians, and community members to monitor our website and digital communications (emails, ListServ alerts, Facebook page, website, and Instagram acct.) for the most up-to-date information.