

METUCHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Road Forward – August 10, 2021 (update)

- 1.1 Vaccination – not mandated at this time; **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR EVERYONE ELIGIBLE**; vaccination status (students and staff) needs to be shared when necessary to conduct contact tracing or are considered unvaccinated
- 1.2 Communication – updates at: August 10 board meeting, community webinar (possibly August 23), and August 24 board meeting; COVID notifications per school as done last year; update and public comment every 60 days at board meeting as required by law
- 1.3 Masks – required by everyone in school buildings; OK to be off during lunch while eating, when outside distanced in PE, and when actively participating in practices and games.
- 1.4 Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting – 3 feet when possible (note: close contact definition is still 6 feet/15 minutes/24 hour period); assigned seating and seating charts whenever possible; limiting in-person meetings when possible
- 1.5 Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette – instructions posted in buildings, nurses instruction, frequent reminders
- 1.6 Meals – traditional lunch program; outside when possible; true HEPA filters in cafeterias
- 1.7 Transportation – regular routes; assigned seats, mask; windows open when possible; distancing not possible in many situations
- 2.1 Limited Use of Shared Supplies and Equipment – no gym locker rooms; hall lockers TBD
- 2.2 Cleaning and Disinfection – “process cleaning” protocols; additional supplies in all rooms
- 2.3 Improving Airflow – MERV13 filters, HVAC work, unit ventilators all checked and controlled by new BMS
- 3.1 Parental Screening – educational materials sent to parents to check students everyday
- 3.2 Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff – separated areas from routine visits
- 3.3 Exclusion
 - 3.3.1 Definition of COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms
 - 3.3.2 When Illness Occurs in the School Setting
 - 3.3.3 Exclusion –
 - sick with multiple covid symptoms

- unvaccinated close contact must quarantine for 7 days with negative test on days 3-5 OR for 10 days with no test (close contact = 6 feet/15minutes/24 hour period)
- unvaccinated out-of-the-tristate travel per CDC guidelines (must quarantine for 7 days with negative test on days 3-5 OR for 10 days with no test)
- education plan – still to be determined and will include asynchronous access through Google Classroom or the like and some study hall-like tutoring (note – there is no option for synchronous remote instruction)

4. Contact Tracing - close contact = 6 feet/15minutes/24 hour period; can avoid quarantine by producing proof of vaccination; no proof → considered unvaccinated; quarantine for 7 days with negative test on days 3-5 OR for 10 days with no test

5. Testing

5.1 Diagnostic Testing – none right now, although we are watching closely to see if unvaccinated employees will require to test regularly; would consider partnering with a testing company

5.2 Screening Testing – returning to daily screening forms on August 30th for all students and staff and visitors to buildings; no exceptions; at this time, we are NOT reinstating temperature checks

NJDOE and NJDOH, The Road Forward:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/roadforward/docs/HealthAndSafetyGuidanceSY2122.pdf>