

Middletown Township Public School District

2021-2022

Safe Return Plan Procedures



Approved:

Ensuring Continuity of Instruction & Maintaining Health and Safety of Students and Staff

- Full-days of in-person learning for all students
- Lunch will be served daily, hot and cold options will be available and is free for all students. Students will have the opportunity to eat outdoors, weather permitting.
- Breakfast will be provided in all schools at the beginning of the day and is free for all students.
- [Regular student start/dismissal times and schedules](#)
- Physical Education classes will be held outside when/if possible
- Playground equipment will be accessible and used at all elementary schools
- Lockers will be available for middle and high school students during the school day
- Continued emphasis on handwashing and respiratory etiquette as well as maintaining clean and healthy school facilities.
- 3 feet physical distance will be maintained whenever possible

FACE MASKS

- The Governor's [EO 251](#) and [EO 253 - subsection 9](#) mandate that staff, students and visitors wear face masks in the indoor portion of school district premises, specific medical exemptions are detailed in the next slide.
- Use of face masks is mandatory on all school buses as per CDC Order.
- Face masks are optional when outdoors on our school campuses.

We believe that masks breaks are important and our staff will work to provide them for all students as frequently as possible. More detailed information will be provided by your child's school.

Face Mask Exemptions

Pursuant to EO 251, all staff, students, and visitors to the indoor premises of the school district shall be required to wear face masks. Exceptions to this requirement are listed below. Please note that pursuant to EO 253, written documentation from the individual's medical professional must be provided to support exemptions for (a-c) below:

- a. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
- c. 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. An IEP or 504 plan may, but is not required to specifically provide that a mask is not required. Rather, even if not specifically provided for by an IEP or 504 plan, a mask will not be required if the District receives correspondence from the individual's medical professional indicating that the student's documented medical condition or disability precludes the use of a face mask, which shall not be subject to District Physician review;

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Face Mask Exemptions, continued

- d. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- e. 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. Such activities also include, but are not limited to, lunch, snack, chorus/choir, Speech, and Occupational and Physical Therapy sessions which implicate the mouth or facial movement;
- f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- g. 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
- h. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Face masks are optional in any outdoor areas on district premises.

Procedures for Submitting an Individual's Face Mask Exemption

- Parents/guardians shall submit documentation from their child's medical professional to the building principal and school nurse. Such documentation is not subject to review by the District Physician.
- Staff shall submit documentation from their medical professional to the Human Resources Department (Charlene O'Hagan) and their building principal/immediate supervisor. Such documentation is not subject to review by the District Physician.
- The documentation will be reviewed and a determination will be communicated by the end of the following school day.

Other Face Mask Procedures

Procedures have been established in the event a student forgets or refuses to wear a face mask while indoors on school premises and/or on a school bus. Please be assured that every student will be treated with kindness and respect.

- If a student forgets to bring or wear a face mask, he or she will be provided with one.
 - If the student cooperates, they will continue with their regular routine.
 - If a student does not cooperate, an administrator will contact the parent/guardian and request that they ask their child to wear a face mask so that they can resume their regular routine.
- If the above interventions are not successful then:
 - The student will be supervised in an alternate location within the school and have access to asynchronous classwork until their parent/guardian is able to pick them up.

Contact Tracing

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.

As per the NJ Department of Education's "Road Forward" guidelines, school staff should identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school. Similar to last year, building administrators and school nurses will conduct this process.

- 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 Local Health Dept.
- 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.
- When necessary and with guidance from the Middletown Township Health Department, school staff will notify parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion/quarantine requirements, while maintaining confidentiality.

Use of Face Masks will Significantly Reduce the Need for Students to Quarantine

On August 20, 2021 the NJDOE updated its guidance in alignment with the CDC:

- In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, a student who was within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student, where both the infected student and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time, will not be required to quarantine.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Other Exemptions to Quarantine Requirements

Under current guidance, individuals do not need to quarantine if:

- They are fully vaccinated.
- They have recovered from COVID-19 within 90 days.

Note: Currently, there is no travel quarantine requirement.

Quarantine/Isolation Protocols - Positive Test or COVID Symptoms

Individuals who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19:

- 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.
- For individuals with a documented* medical condition, only additional symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria. (*New or existing documentation from a medical professional or documented in an IEP, 504 or Health Plan)
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

Quarantine Protocols - Close Contact

Individuals who were in Close Contact of a COVID positive individual:

- Exposed close contacts who have **no** COVID-like symptoms and are either **fully vaccinated** or have been **diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days**:
 - Do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school.
 - Should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
 - It is recommended (not required) these individuals be tested 3-5 days following an exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19.
- Exposed close contacts who have **no** COVID-like symptoms and are **unvaccinated**:
 - Quarantine for 10 days from date of close contact.
 - Exception: Test between days 5-7 and return to school on day 8 if the test was negative.
- A student who was more than three feet distanced from a COVID positive student is not required to quarantine if both students were consistently and correctly wearing a face mask.

EDUCATING QUARANTINED STUDENTS

Four categories of students who qualify for quarantine instruction:

1. Student has **tested positive for COVID-19** (with verification).
2. Student is identified by district staff as a close contact of a COVID-positive individual and **placed on quarantine by the district.**
3. Student exhibits COVID-compatible symptoms and submits a **doctor's note detailing the COVID-compatible symptoms.**
4. Student is identified by the Local or Regional Health Department or a physician as a close contact of a COVID-positive individual and **placed on quarantine.** Documentation stating the student is quarantined as a close contact from the Health Department or physician is required.

INSTRUCTION DURING QUARANTINE

- All teachers will maintain a Google Classroom to post classwork and assignments.
- Students will complete work independently from home during the school day.
- Teachers will be notified when a student is quarantined and will provide a Google Meet link so that they have the ability to view live teacher-directed instruction in the classroom. Please note: quarantined students will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with teachers during supplemental instruction.
- Students will be provided the opportunity to participate in supplemental instruction provided virtually by Middletown Township School District teachers/staff after school hours.
- In the event a **whole class** has to quarantine, synchronous instruction will take place remotely during the regularly scheduled school day.

HEALTH SCREENING

- Parents/guardian and staff will NOT be required to submit a Daily COVID-19 Health Screening Form.
- At the start of the school year parents/guardians will certify through ONE form in PowerSchool that they will monitor their child's health daily and keep their child home when they are ill.

COVID-19 Symptoms

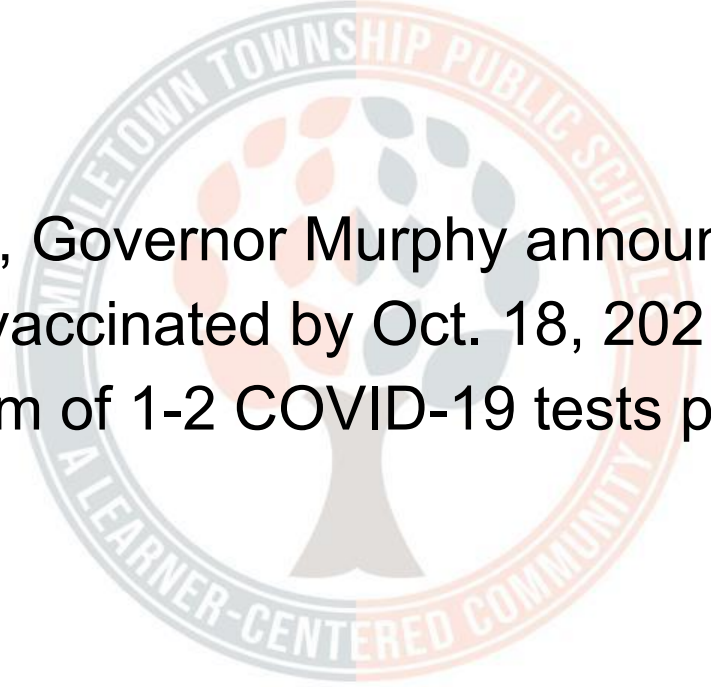
Individuals should not report to school when sick. For school settings, the NJDOH recommends that individuals with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; **OR**
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

For individuals with a documented* medical condition, only additional symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria. (*New or existing documentation from a medical professional or documented in an IEP, 504 or Health Plan)

STAFF VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

On Aug. 23, 2021, Governor Murphy announced that all district staff must be vaccinated by Oct. 18, 2021 or submit to a minimum of 1-2 COVID-19 tests per week.

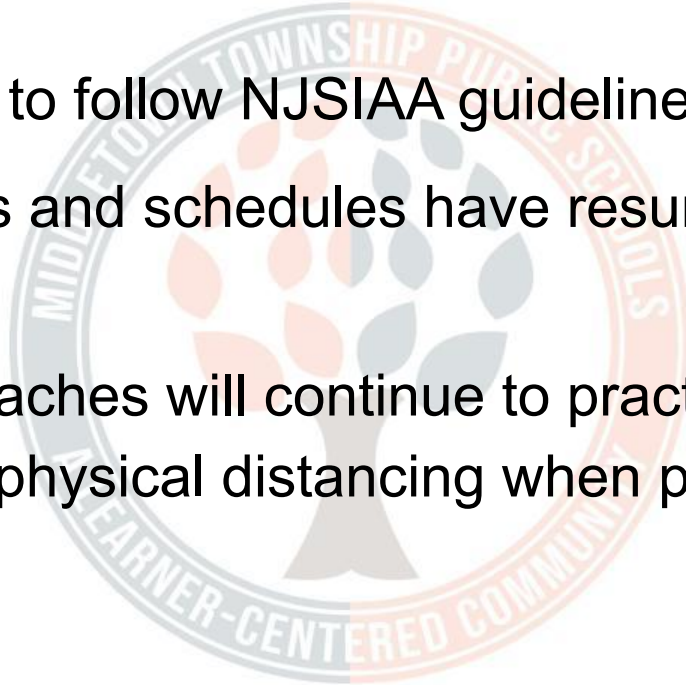


BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

- Back to School Nights will be held in-person at each school. As a reminder - masks are required per the Executive Order.
- Parents/guardians will have the option of viewing Back to School Night presentations virtually via teacher Google Classrooms if they do not attend in-person.
 - Principals will share more details and specific instructions for accessing your child's Back to School Night teacher presentation virtually.

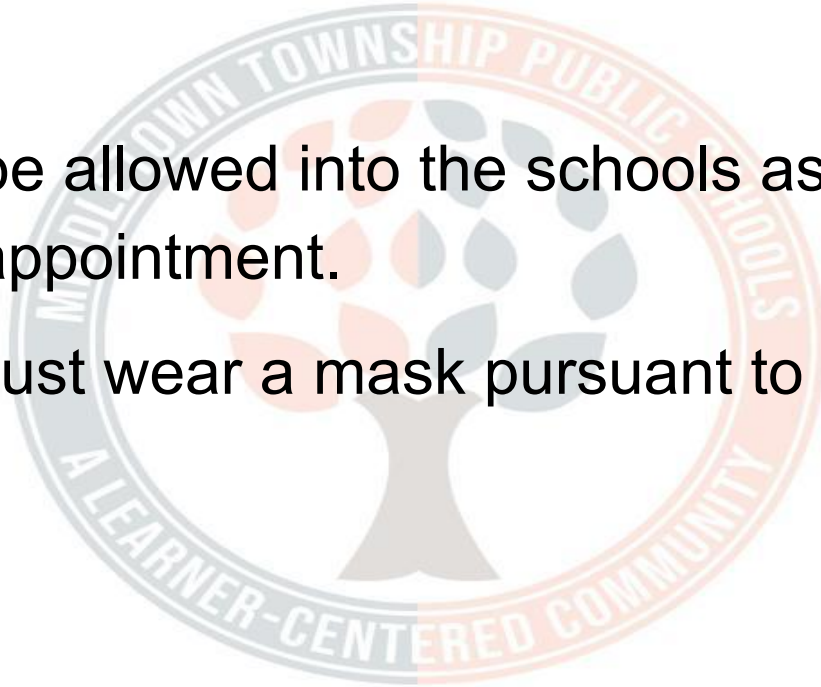
ATHLETICS

- We will continue to follow NJSIAA guidelines.
- Athletic practices and schedules have resumed under normal schedules.
- Students and coaches will continue to practice safety procedures and physical distancing when possible.



VISITORS

- Visitors will be allowed into the schools as necessary and with a prior appointment.
- All visitors must wear a mask pursuant to EO 251.



Questions? Please contact building administration for school-specific answers.

