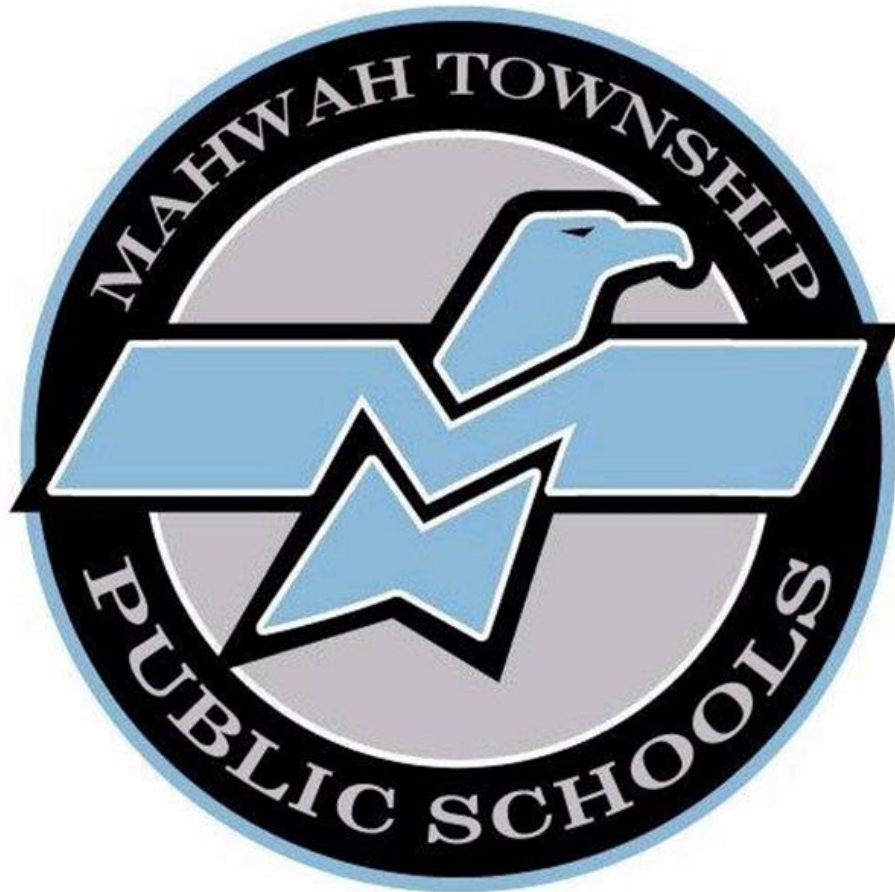


# Mahwah Township Public Schools

## Road Forward Plan: 2021-2022



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<http://www.mahwah.k12.nj.us>



## **Mahwah Schools - Road Forward Plan 2021-2022**

Guided by the plans created and implemented in the 2020-2021 school year, using current guidance from CDC and mandates from NJDOH, as well as, setting the course for what we know is best for our students and staff, the following plan is presented as our framework for the 2021-2022 school year.

Our reopening plan is also guided by Governor Murphy's and the New Jersey Department of Education's [\*The Road Forward\*](#).

Our system is designed to use a range of *layered prevention strategies*:

- Staying home when unwell
- Getting vaccinated consistent with eligibility
- Physical distancing
- Cohorting
- Masking
- Maintaining physical distancing
- Hand washing and respiratory etiquette
- Screening testing
- Contact tracing
  - Isolation
  - Quarantine
- Monitoring community transmission
- Facility cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing
  - Use of appropriate disinfectant on all surfaces
- Fresh air ventilation/exchange

The following resources have served as informing our district-wide decisions regarding the navigation through the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [New Jersey Executive Orders](#)
- [New Jersey Administrative Orders](#)
- [New Jersey Department of Health](#)
- [New Jersey Department of Health – Quarantine Guidance](#)
- [New Jersey Travel Guidelines](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)

As a quick reference guide, please find information in the below table pertaining to the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Additional information will be shared with you by your building leadership and has been more extensively discussed in the following pages of this document:

<b>Item</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Full-day instruction	Yes
Masks	As dictated by state mandate
Social distancing	3 feet
Field Trips/Assemblies	Yes
Virtual Wednesdays	No
Back-to-School Night	Yes
Parent Conferences	Yes
Lockers, Grades 4-12	Yes
School Signage	Yes
Cleaning Procedures	Yes
Lunch	Yes
Virtual Office Hours	No
Quarantine as Close Contact	Yes
Post-travel quarantine	Yes
Bussing (masking required)	Yes
Physical Education	Yes
Performing Arts	Yes
Award Ceremonies	Yes
Fully-Remote Option	No
Extracurriculars and Clubs	Yes

Senior Off-Campus	Yes
Work Study/Structured Learning	Yes
Volunteers (attestation and masking required)	Yes
Facility-use for Outside Groups (e.g., athletics, Boyscouts/Girlscounts)	Yes
Mandatory Vaccinations	No

All Mahwah Public Schools are returning to their pre-pandemic schedules for full day instruction inclusive of school lunch and after school activities consistent with the buildings’ programs.

**Full-Day Schedule:**

School	Full day hours
Mahwah High School	7:40 a.m. - 2:17 p.m.
Ramapo Ridge	8:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
Joyce Kilmer	8:52 a.m. - 3:22 p.m.
Lenape Meadows	8:50 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.
Betsy Ross	8:42 a.m. - 3:12 p.m.
George Washington	8:42 a.m. - 3:12 p.m.

**Arrival and Dismissal:**

Protocols for both activities will be communicated to you directly by building principals.

## **Lunch:**

School lunches will resume with our full-day schedule. Students will be able to purchase lunch, bring lunch, and eat in the cafeteria. Additional information on meals available will be provided by Pomptonian Food Services.

Snacks within the elementary school day will also resume and be guided by the individual building's protocols, following physical distancing, as practicable.

Mahwah remains a nut-free environment.

While eating, students will be placed within a reasonable distance of each other.

Sanitizing stations are available for pre- and post-dining.

If a student is placed in quarantine, they may coordinate with the building administration to provide meals if they are needed.

## **Lunch Procedures:**

Building-specific information will be shared by principals. Generally, dining will take place in cafeterias. Unmasked dining may include the use of plexiglass and maximizing outdoor seating where possible. As of May 2, 2022, plexiglass barriers will be removed from the cafeteria setting. Cafeterias will have stand-alone HEPA air filters as another layer of cleanliness to supplement our HVAC system.

## **Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken daily.

## **Recess:**

Outdoor and indoor recess will resume for all students attending our K-8 programs. Playground equipment will be reinstated in the schools. Sanitizing stations are available for pre and post recess activities.

### **Physical Education:**

Our physical education classes are fully resuming with activities. Materials and equipment will be distributed and shared consistent with instructional needs.

Secondary students will have access to the locker room for the purpose of meeting their participation requirements.

Masking during this instructional period will be consistent with the district's requirement.

### **Chorus and Band:**

Our programs will return with our full expectations for on-site performances taking place within our schools.

### **Lab sciences and makerspaces:**

Our programs will return with regular instruction and use of the range of facilities. Materials will be distributed and shared consistent with instructional needs.

### **School Events:**

Indoor school events will take place in person, inclusive of Back-to-School Night, school plays, band and choral performances, student clubs, student dances and proms, award ceremonies, and end-of-year events. More specific guidance will be provided to you by your building principal.

### **Related Services:**

Our services will continue to be offered as per the IEP.

### **Field trips:**

Day trips will resume for staff and students. All visits to locations outside of our schools will require all participants to follow the health standards of the location being visited. The district is not currently participating in any overnight trips.

### **Extra-curricular activities:**

As previously offered, buildings that provide for this experience will continue to do so while abiding by any health and wellness layered measures used during the school day.

### **Extra-curricular sports:**

Will continue to be supported consistent with NJSIAA requirements and district health and wellness layered measures.

### **Masking:**

As per Governor Murphy's Executive Order, lifting the masking mandate, masks are optional for students and staff members.

### **Transportation:**

Windows and ceiling vents will be open to allow for the flow of fresh air. Students are encouraged to remain socially distanced on busses. Parents may decide to transport students to school and can advise the transportation office of this decision.

Students may sit more than one student per seat only if necessary due to bus occupancy.

Masks remain optional on school buses. Children who are immunocompromised are recommended to wear a mask.

Paraprofessionals will be on all K-3 buses through October 1, 2021.

### **Facility cleaning:**

Touch-point cleaning will continue to take place throughout the course of the school day. Lunch rooms will be cleaned between use. Thorough cleaning will take place after school hours and when the facility is closed to students.

### **Ventilation:**

Emphasis is being placed on the exchange of fresh air via open windows. Our air handling units continue to be regularly serviced and filters changed according to manufacturer recommendations at a minimum.

### **Physical distancing:**

Where possible and as part of our layered prevention strategies, we will create a distance of 3 feet or more. However, no activities will be limited if and when this strategy is not able to be used.

### **Visitors:**

The district will welcome visitors to the building.

### **Vaccinations:**

We strongly encourage any and all vaccination-eligible students and adults to participate in that option. Unless required to do so by the NJDOE or NJDOH, the district is not unilaterally requiring vaccinations for those who are eligible. Student and staff vaccination rate will be regularly reported to our community, and there will be opportunities for staff, eligible students, and community members to secure their COVID-19 vaccination and/or boosters when the district is utilized as a vaccination site.

Please advise your school nurse when you are fully vaccinated. For students, this information will be stored consistent with other district-required medical documentation.

### **Community Transmission:**

Overall township and community wellness will continue to be monitored for their impact upon the district's ability to maintain programs and services. In the event that community transmission spikes, the district may enact or remove activities, or adjust district- or building-based protocols accordingly.

### **Attestation forms:**

Daily attestation forms are not required for staff or enrolled students. Parents, caregivers, and guardians continue to be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day.

Visitors to any building will no longer be required to complete an attestation form.

### **Temperature checks:**

Temperature checks will no longer be used by the district to attest for your wellness. Visitors must adhere to our visitor requirements.

### **Testing:**

[Ginkgo Bioworks](#) serves to provide weekly mandated testing for unvaccinated staff members and optional testing for all other staff members who wish to be tested. Beginning on Friday, May 6, parents who wish to have their child tested for any reason will be able to have their child tested, through the completion of a consent form.

Parents and adults are encouraged to seek testing from a range of providers within our area particularly when you or a child are feeling unwell and are not vaccinated. Your school nurse can provide you with information on local testing sites.

### **Contact tracing:**

[Our district's COVID dashboard](#) will be regularly updated regarding COVID-positive cases connected to our district.

**Quarantine and travel quarantine:**

The definition of fully vaccinated is everyone 5 years and older who receives their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. **Except in cases of close contact during which age 18 or older require their booster when eligible.** The CDC recommends that people remain up to date with vaccines, which includes additional doses.

**Those adults and students who are in days 6-10 after completing a 5-day isolation or quarantine need to remain masked while outdoors during physical education with modification, recess, or participating in school sports.**

- Please do not attend school and stay home if you are unwell or have symptoms.
- Continue to use well-fitting masks in indoor settings - in and out of school, dependent on the COVID-positive case.
- Get tested.
- Maintain contact with your physician regarding any medical questions.
- Contact your school nurse for guidance on district protocol.

Status	Exposure	Outcome
Fully Vaccinated Partially Vaccinated Previously Positive Unvaccinated Not fully vaccinated Not previously reported positive	COVID positive asymptomatic	Isolate for 5 full days. Day 0 is the day of the test. May return to school on day 6. If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms.
Fully vaccinated Partially Vaccinated Previously Positive Unvaccinated	COVID positive and symptomatic or Persons with COVID symptoms who weren't tested	Isolate for 5 days. Day 0 is the day of the test or symptoms. May return to school on day 6, <b>if</b> symptoms subside and/or 24

<p>Not fully vaccinated</p> <p>Not previously reported positive</p>		<p>hours fever-free and without fever-reducing medication.</p>
<p>Fully vaccinated and previously reported positive (clinically recovered) within past three months**</p>	<p>Close contact</p> <p>or</p> <p>Family member awaiting test or COVID-19 positive</p>	<p><b><u>No quarantine is required.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>If symptoms develop, stay home and contact your school nurse.</u></b></p>
<p>Fully vaccinated</p> <p>Previously reported positive with past three months</p>	<p>Awaiting COVID-19 test results not due to personal illness</p>	<p>May attend school and report to work.</p>
<p>Fully vaccinated</p> <p>Previously Positive</p> <p>Unvaccinated</p> <p>Not fully vaccinated</p> <p>Adult Requiring a Booster</p> <p>Not previously reported positive</p>	<p>Experiencing COVID symptoms</p> <p>not identified as a close contact</p>	<p>Get tested and remain at home until test results are received.</p> <p>Untested requires you to remain at home for 5 days with day 0 being the first day of symptoms.</p> <p>Symptoms must be subsiding and/or 24-hours fever free and without fever reducing medication.</p> <p><b>Or</b> an alternative illness diagnosed by a physician. Contact your school nurse for diagnosis-specific exclusions.</p> <p>(e.g., strep throat, flu, RSV)</p>

<p>Unvaccinated</p> <p>or</p> <p>Not fully vaccinated</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Adult Requiring a Booster</p> <p>or</p> <p><u>Not</u> previously reported positive</p> <p>or</p> <p>Previously reported positive greater than past three months</p>	<p>Close contact</p> <p>In school or at home</p>	<p>Quarantine for 5 days with a return to school on day 6 when symptom-free.</p> <p>Day 0 is the last day of contact or last day of exposure.</p>
<p>Unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated, adult requiring a booster, not previously reported positive, or previously positive greater than three months- residing with a newly diagnosed positive person (unable to isolate)</p>	<p>Unable to isolate while residing with a COVID positive household member</p>	<p>Complete a 10-day isolation period plus 5 additional days post isolation period.</p> <p>10 days + 5 days = 15 days</p>
<p>Unvaccinated or not previously-reported positive, residing with a symptomatic person or person awaiting a test</p>	<p>Residing with a person with or without symptoms awaiting a COVID test result</p>	<p>Exclude from school until the person with symptoms tests negative.</p> <p>Positive test result requires an isolation/quarantine period.</p>

**Travel**

Status	Exposure	Outcome
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Fully vaccinated	Domestic travel	<u>No</u> quarantine or testing required after travel.
Fully vaccinated	International travel	<u>No</u> quarantine required. Get tested 3-5 days after travel .  You may attend school while awaiting results.
Previously positive (clinically recovered) within past three months	Domestic travel	<u>No</u> quarantine or test required after travel.
Previously positive (clinically recovered) within past three months	International travel	No quarantine or testing required after travel.
Unvaccinated or <u>not</u> previously positive	Domestic and International travel	<b><u>Get tested 3-5 days after returning, stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days post travel even if the test result is negative. If not tested, stay home and quarantine for <u>10</u> days post travel.</u></b>

Regardless of your vaccination status, the district will always inform close contacts when identified.

- Quarantine timeline is based upon the positive test date and not the start of symptoms
- In all cases, it is essential to monitor yourself for symptoms. Do not attend school if you are feeling unwell.

**Documentation**

\*Vaccination card provided to school nurse. “Fully vaccinated” means confirmation of age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccination proof with date on which you are fully vaccinated. Two weeks post the last administered dose deems a staff member or student fully vaccinated.

For students ages 12 and older, one booster five (5) months after the primary series is recommended to become up to date.

\*\* Previously positive must document:

- o Name of patient, date of test, physician or location of testing, and clearly denote a positive test.
- o Rapid tests will only be accepted to denote a positive test.

### **Health and wellness:**

Please do not attend school if you are unwell. Staff and students must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. The school nurse has the authority to evaluate any staff or student's wellness for the purpose of exclusion from school.

Continue to resume your regularly scheduled wellness appointments with your physicians including appointments to be vaccinated as part of your regular health maintenance.

All health screening as required by NJ Code will be administered at school including but not limited to height, weight, blood pressure, and vision.

### **Snow days:**

The district will continue to respond to inclement weather consistent with previous years. In the event that road conditions result in our inability to safely transport students to school then a traditional snow day will be used.

### **Hackensack Meridian Endorsement**

Our reopening plan is reviewed by medical professionals from Hackensack Meridian (Keeping American Safe Program) on a quarterly basis. This plan has been re-endorsed by this accredited medical organization.