

North Arlington Public Schools

Safe Return Plan – Family Guide

2021-2022



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Plan for Safe Return

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and Governor Murphy, released [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). This document was released to provide guidance to all schools in preparation for full-day, in-person instruction for the upcoming school year.

School-based schedules can be found in the student handbook for each building by visiting the school district's website: www.navikings.org.



A) VACCINATION:

"Although COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and accessible, not all school-aged children are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Most K-12 schools will have a mixed population of [fully vaccinated](#), partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals at any given time, thereby requiring the layering of preventive measures to protect individuals who are not fully vaccinated," as per [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). For this reason, any information received from the Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH) regarding vaccines is disseminated to our school community. Vaccines are currently available to all people ages 12 and up. To schedule an appointment, please visit: <https://www.bergencovidvaccine.com/>.



B) COMMUNICATION:

Close communication between the North Arlington Public School District and the North Arlington Department of Health (NADOH) is maintained in order to "provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures," as per [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). Additionally, the District's *Safe Return Committee* has met to review the [LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service](#). This document will continue to be reviewed and revised, as needed, over the course of the school year.

C) MASK WEARING PROTOCOL:

As per Governor Murphy's [Executive Order 251](#), face coverings must be worn on school property, at all times, by all visitors, staff and students. Students must wear face coverings, as per Governor Murphy, unless it inhibits their health (proper medical documentation required). If this is the case, please contact your child(ren)'s school principal(s).

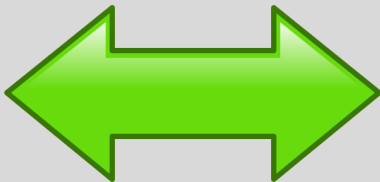


As per the CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH, face coverings must be worn by all passengers on a school bus. Students are allowed to remove their face coverings during high-intensity activities in physical education class, while remaining six feet apart. Students may also remove their face coverings when it would obstruct the ability to play a musical instrument.

Students and staff will have access to additional, disposable face-coverings; however, students are encouraged to utilize personal face coverings with tightly woven cotton or cotton blends, breathable, and consisting of two or three fabric layers. These face coverings should be washed daily. More information on face coverings can be found at [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) and [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#).

D) MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCING & COHORTING:

- As outlined in [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), physical distancing recommendations must not prevent a school from offering full-day, full-time, in person learning to all students for the 2021-2022 school year.
- All rooms in our district facilities comply with recommended social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable. Physical guides are also in place, which reinforce social distancing and traffic flow.
- **Desk barriers may be requested for elementary students and face shields may be requested for secondary students (VMS & NAHS).**
- Additional entry/exit points have been established to balance physical distancing and security protocols.
- All parents and students must follow the entry and exit procedures outlined at each building.
- All parents and students must maintain social distancing and use identified social distancing markers outside and within all school buildings.
- Visitation will be restricted to emergencies only in order to decrease foot-traffic and increase safety.



- When waiting for students to exit their assigned buildings, all parents should maintain social distancing.
- Certain outdoor areas may be restricted during entry/exit times to increase safety measures. Please respect all procedures in place.

E) HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE PROTOCOLS:

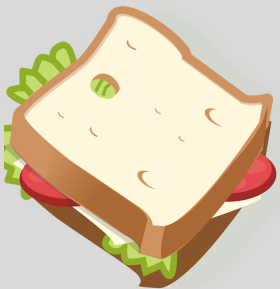


The district promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as encouraging the practice of hand hygiene. Signage supporting these efforts have been posted throughout the North Arlington Public School District. Hand sanitizing stations, which contain at least 60% alcohol, have been placed in each classroom and in common areas throughout each school building. Students will practice appropriate hand hygiene at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing.

F) PROVISION OF MEALS:

As per [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), the North Arlington Public School District shall implement “layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.” These strategies include the following:

- Maintaining physical distancing between students and staff, if possible
- Staggering eating times to allow for greater physical distancing
- Maintaining student cohorts and limiting mixing between groups, if possible
- Avoiding offering self-serve food options*
- Discouraging students from sharing meals
- Encouraging routine cleaning between groups



* Elementary school students will begin the school year with pre-packaged lunch to limit contact with food-related items. Please contact your child(ren)’s school principal(s) if you wish to pick up your child(ren) for lunch.

Students at VMS will have additional space in their new cafeteria and NAHS has added an additional lunch period to reduce the number of students in one location. Additionally, NAHS students (Grades 10-12) have an open lunch. Open lunches are available for grade 9 students with parental approval.

Daily Breakfast Provided

Elementary Schools: 8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
 Veterans Middle School: 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.
 North Arlington High School: 7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

G) TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS:



As per [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), the following protocols will be in place for the North Arlington Public School District regarding school buses:

- Masks must be worn by all passengers on buses, regardless of vaccination status
- If occupancy allows, maximize physical distance between students (one passenger per seat, when possible)
- Open windows to increase airflow in buses and other transportation, if possible
- Regularly clean high touch surfaces on school buses at least daily

H) CLEANING, DISINFECTION, & AIRFLOW:

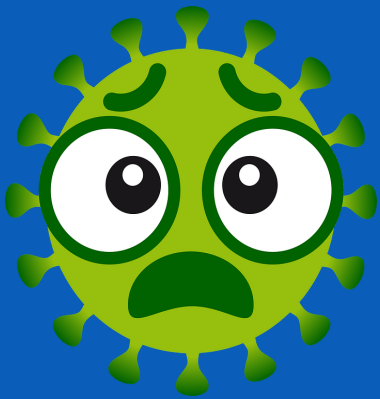
- Limiting Use of Shared Supplies: In order to limit the use of shared supplies and equipment, the North Arlington Public School District has provided all students, K-12, with 1:1 electronic devices. Additionally, as per [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), the teaching staff will “minimize the sharing of high-touch materials, encourage hand hygiene practices between use of shared items, and discourage the use of shared items that cannot be cleaned or disinfected.
- Cleaning & Disinfection: All classrooms and high traffic areas are currently equipped with hand sanitizer dispensers. Throughout the school buildings, copy machines and school-based printers have nitrile gloves next to them as well as disinfectant wipes to wipe the machines after usage. Throughout the day, bathrooms are wiped and sprayed down using Bioesque, an EPA approved disinfectant spray. All rooms, districtwide, undergo a thorough surface wipe-down and are fogged daily using the Bioesque.
- Airflow: All air units have been upgraded to run on MERV13 filters. They have also been treated and cleaned with EVAP-Fresh. As per [The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year](#), teachers and staff will continue to be encouraged to “improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air” as long as open windows do not pose any safety or health risk.



I) SCREENING, EXCLUSION, & RESPONSE TO SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS AND STAFF:

Although the NJDOH provides guidelines for one and two-symptom exclusions, the North Arlington Public School District adheres to one-symptom exclusion guidelines set forth by the BCDOH.

- Parental Screening: In order to keep our North Arlington School Community safe and healthy, it is imperative that our families take part in our collective efforts. Parents should refer to the Exclusion Checklist each morning to determine if they should send their children to school each day.
- Additionally, the district relies on families to notify us if students have had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period) with a person with COVID-19 or someone in a household is diagnosed with or being tested for COVID-19.
- Exclusion Checklist: Has your child had any of the following symptoms in the past 24 hours?
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Fatigue
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- If yes, please keep your child home and note that your child may not return to school until they have met one of the following conditions:
 - A negative viral test for SARS-CoV-2
OR
 - They have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptoms appeared and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without medication and their symptoms have improved.
- Response to Symptomatic Students & Staff
 - Individuals displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are safely and respectfully isolated from others. Re-admittance policies are consistent with the [NJDOH Recommended Minimum Quarantine Guidelines](#).



J) CONTACT TRACING:



The North Arlington Public School District collaborates with NADOH in regards to necessary reporting, contact tracing, and quarantine guidelines. Policy and regulation 8451 (Control of Communicable Disease) provides guidance to school personnel. Additionally, seating charts will be in place for all classes across the district to assist in the contact tracing process.

As per the CDC, NJDOE, and NJDOH, a “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.

Exception: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting face coverings the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

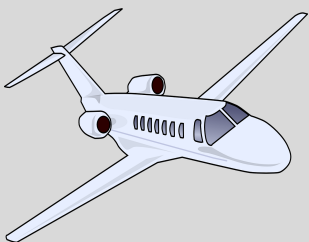
K) TESTING:



As recommended by the NJDOH, at all levels of community transmission, the North Arlington Public School District works with the BCDOH and NADOH to identify viral testing options in the community for the testing of symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19. At the moment, a testing location is located in North Arlington at the Queen of Peace Parking lot on Ridge Road: [Testing Registration](#). Also, please visit [How To Get Tested For COVID-19 In New Jersey](#) for more information on testing and locations.

The North Arlington Public School District will continue to monitor [Weekly COVID-19 Activity Reports](#) and the [COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix](#) to ensure that appropriate recommendations are being followed.

L.) STUDENT & STAFF MEMBER TRAVEL



Although New Jersey’s travel advisory is no longer in effect, please visit: [Are there travel restrictions to and from New Jersey?](#)

Recommendations and guidance are provided for domestic and international travel.

If you have any questions, please contact your child(ren)'s school principal(s).

- Anthony Elementary School: jrodriguez@navikings.org
- Jefferson Elementary School: mgriggs@navikings.org
- Roosevelt Elementary School: agiammanco@navikings.org
- Washington Elementary School: ejaume@navikings.org
- Veterans Middle School: nrusso@navikings.org
- North Arlington High School: pbott@navikings.org

