



COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Summary Overview
2021-2022 School Year

August 30, 2021

Dear Colts Neck Families,

On June 15, 2021, the Colts Neck Township Schools shared its *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan* with the school community. In the letter accompanying this plan, I stated the following:

The district intends for preparation and planning for September to reflect pre-pandemic operating conditions; however, during the upcoming months, the district expects to receive specific operating guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health and New Jersey Department of Education. After guidance is received, the district shall further review its current Safe Return Plan and revise it, as needed, prior to the commencement of the 2021-22 school year. Please note, all items contained within the Colts Neck Township Schools Safe Return Plan are subject to change based upon future changes to or additional Executive Orders.

Due to the unforeseeable and unfortunate nature of COVID's impact upon New Jersey, Monmouth, County, and our local community, the district has received the following updated guidance that has forced us to adjust and revise our plans for this September:

- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) (updated 8/5/21)
- [Executive Order 251](#) requiring indoor mask requirements for the beginning of 2021-2022 school year (8/6/21)
- [The Road Forward](#) (NJDOE & NJDOH) (updated 8/20/21)
- [Executive Order 253](#) instituting Vaccination or Testing Requirement for All Preschool to Grade 12 Personnel and for All State Workers (8/23/21)

This **Summary Overview** of the district's *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan* is designed to provide members of our school community with abbreviated, yet specific details about the district's COVID-related protocols for the 21-22 school year. Administration will continue to monitor and assess local and county COVID trends, Executive Orders, and information from the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Health for opportunities to revisit our planned COVID protocols

and requirements. In the meantime, we wish to thank our parents/guardians for their anticipated cooperation and compliance with what we hope will be temporary measures to maintain the health and well being of our students, staff, and school community.

Are masks required to be worn indoors in school buildings?

Colts Neck Township Schools must abide by Executive Order 251 and Executive Order 253. There are limited exceptions to the mask order:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors; (medical documentation required per Executive Order 253)
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; (medical documentation required per Executive Order 253)
- 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 covering; (medical documentation required per Executive Order 253)
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- 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 covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- 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
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task (as excerpted from Executive Order 251 and The Road Forward).

Are masks required on school buses?

Yes. Per [Order](#) of the CDC, passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses, including buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the Order. The district will diligently monitor temperatures on school buses to determine the appropriate opportunities for mask flexibility under one of the aforementioned exceptions. Staff, students, and parents/guardians will be notified by the district when and how mask exceptions on school buses will be permissible.

How will seating, cleaning, and disinfecting be applied to school buses?

For the start of the school year, siblings will be seated together and seating for non-siblings will be coordinated by the Transportation Coordinator.

Are masks required outdoors / during recess?

No.

Will students be permitted to use playground equipment during recess at Conover Road Primary School and Conover Road Elementary School?

Yes. Unless we receive guidance that does not permit the use of playground equipment, students will be able to use the equipment available to them. Playground equipment will be disinfected nightly, after student dismissal.

What will happen if a student arrives at school without a mask?

After last school year, we know that sometimes masks are forgotten on the bus or mistakenly left at home. If a student arrives at school without a mask, school personnel will make a mask available to the student.

Will schools be required to contact trace this school year?

Yes. Schools must continue contact tracing and quarantining students and staff who test positive for COVID, exhibit symptoms that are clinically compatible to COVID, or have been identified as a close contact with a COVID positive individual. The CDC defines "close contact" as being within 6 feet of someone with

suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a twenty-four (24) hour period. **NEW FOR THE 21-22 SCHOOL YEAR!** In the K-12 classroom setting there is an exception to the CDC's definition. This year, students in the classroom setting that are within 3 feet or more of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) **WILL NOT** be identified as a close contact if both students are wearing well-fitting masks the entire time of known exposure. Please note this exception only applies to students and does not apply to the teachers, staff, or any other (non-student) adults in the classroom.

Additionally, guidance dictates that exposed close contacts who are fully-vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

If my child tests positive for COVID, how long is the quarantine period?

10 days, minimum. An individual must also be twenty-four hours symptom free before returning to school.

If my child is identified as a close contact for someone who tests positive for COVID, how long is the quarantine period?

Quarantine periods for close contacts are regulated by the [NJDOH's COVID-19 Regional Transmission Risk Level \(CALI Score\)](#). Currently, the range for quarantine periods, depending upon our regional's COVID activity level is as follows:

Minimum Quarantine Timeframes by COVID-19 Regional Transmission Risk Level (CALI Score) ²			
Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<i>14 days is always preferred as the best way to prevent COVID-19 transmission.</i>			
10 days without testing	10 days without testing	14 days for group settings and organized activities	14 days for group settings and organized activities
OR	OR	14 days for individuals unless it causes <u>significant</u> economic or other hardship	14 days for individuals unless it causes <u>significant</u> economic or other hardship
7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	ONLY IF 14 days is <u>not feasible</u>, follow	ONLY IF 14 days is <u>not feasible</u>, follow
		10 days without testing	10 days without testing
		OR	OR
		7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days

Are there any travel quarantines currently in place?

As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect.

Please visit the following site for recommendations related to domestic and international travel:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-nj-w-jersey>

Will my child be able to buy lunch / snacks at the start of the school year and eat in the cafeteria?

Yes. For the start of the 21-22 school year, the district is happy to share that students will be able to purchase lunches/snacks and eat in the cafeteria. Students will be required to wear masks in the cafeteria unless seated and eating/drinking. For the start of the school year and for purposes of contact tracing, schools will be maintaining assigned seats (PK-5) and seating charts (PK-8) for lunches. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the district's lunch programs, including access to the application for Free / Reduced Lunch.

How will the district address requirements for daily screening?

Upon entry into the building, all students, staff, and visitors will be scanned for their temperatures. Additionally, prior to the start of school on September 9, 2021, all parents/guardians will have to complete and agree to an Annual Health Compact in the Genesis Parent Portal. **NEW FOR 21-22:** For the 21-22 school year, parents/guardians will not have to complete and submit a daily health screener for each child; however, we are asking all parents/guardians to comply with the terms of the Annual Health Compact.

Will the district take any measures to address COVID through indoor HEPA filters?

Yes. Each classroom and school building office is equipped with a Medify Air Purification System. Additionally, each school building has 2 commercial-grade Phoenix Guardian HEPA Air Scrubbers that will be rotated around each school building. The district also continues to address indoor air quality by way of scheduled HVAC system maintenance, replacements, and upgrades.

What is the district's cleaning and disinfection plan?

The district will continue to implement cleaning protocols in place all throughout the 20-21 school year. Cleaning/disinfecting chemicals used by Colts Neck Schools meet CDC guidelines and are listed by the EPA as approved chemicals for use in schools and for fighting Covid-19:

- SSS#61 is on the CDC approved list for use against viral pathogens and human coronavirus claims against Sars-Cov-2...EPA reg number 10324-141
- Pro Series Disinfectant Spray... is on the CDC approved list for products with emerging Viral pathogens AND Human Coronavirus claims for use against SARS-CoV-2 EPA reg number 706-111
- GOJO clear and mild hand wash: Spa-inspired, green certified foam hand soap that is both fragrance and dye free.
- Enriched with moisturizers and skin conditioners
- ECOLOGO® Certified to Standard Name UL 2784
- USDA Certified Biobased Product

All common areas: classrooms, gym, media centers, lunchrooms:

- Clean surface with peroxide base cleaner #51
- Use SSS #61 Disinfectant product on all hard surfaces/touch surfaces
- Use spray disinfectant on all touch surfaces
- Halls, Use spray disinfectant on lockers, door handles, lunch tables, lunch seats

Bathrooms:

- Use SSS#61 Disinfectant on all touch surfaces
- Disinfect Toilet bowls, urinals with NABC (nonacid bowl cleaner)
- Use spray disinfectant on all partitions, under sinks, around toilets...touch surfaces

In addition to purchasing adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfecting practices, the Colt Neck Township BOE has an electrostatic disinfecting sprayer for each school building and for the Transportation department for use in efficiently disinfecting areas. Electrostatic disinfection sprayer units eliminate 99.9% of bacteria on hard, nonporous surfaces and:

- Sanitizes hard, nonporous surfaces in 1 minute
- Eliminates odors
- Sanitizes hard, nonporous food contact surfaces in 2 minutes
- Kills odor-causing bacteria
- NSF-listed (EPA Reg. #67619-14)

How will the district address physical distancing?

The district has identified opportunities to maximize physical distancing, especially during periods of high / very high community transmission. That being said, in [The Road Back](#), the New Jersey Department of Education and Department of Health state that, “...*the absence of one or more of the strategies outlined in this document does not preclude the reopening of a school facility for full-day in-person operation with all enrolled students and staff present.*” In addition to physical distancing, the district will utilize individual desk barriers for students and staff. During the school day, desk barriers will also be used with the facilitation of mask breaks.

Will the district allow school volunteers into classrooms?

The district truly values its school volunteers who work with teachers to enrich learning experiences for children. For the 21-22 school year, the Administration will work with teachers and school volunteers to approve opportunities for school volunteers on a case by case basis. We thank all of our parents/guardians for their patience and understanding as all requests are reviewed. School volunteers will be coordinated in accordance with Board of Education Policy & Regulation 9180 - School Volunteers.

The full 2021-2022 Colts Neck Township Schools REVISED Safe Return Plan is available on the district's website. Public comment on the REVISED plan will be accepted via the website through September 30, 2021. Please note, should the need or opportunity arise for the revision of protocols and measures identified in the district's Safe Return Plan, the Board of Education and administration reserve the right to alter these plans. The district will inform the school community of all changes to its Safe Return Plan.

Building principals will be sharing separate and additional information regarding building-specific protocols and procedures. Should you have any specific questions pertaining to your child after receiving your principal's information, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal(s) directly.

On behalf of the Colts Neck Township Schools, please know that we value the support and cooperation of our parents/guardians in our efforts to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff.

To access the district's full 2021 - 2022 Safe Return Plan (updated August 2021),
Click [HERE](#):

Educationally yours,

Dr. MaryJane Garibay, Superintendent of Schools
Colts Neck Township Schools