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Reopening After Pandemic-Related Closure

R8451.01 REOPENING AFTER PANDEMIC-RELATED CLOSURE

This regulation establishes procedures for resuming school operations following pandemic-related closures. These procedures apply to all employees, contractors, students, and families.

A. Health and Safety Standards

1. The lead administrator for each site must communicate the following standard safety precautions to all students, families, employees and contractors:
 - a. Wear a face covering and maintain 6 feet of social distance whenever possible.
 - b. Notify your immediate supervisor or principal and stay home if you test positive or feel sick or if you recently had close contact with someone who is sick, and do not return until you meet criteria to discontinue home isolation.
 - c. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - d. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth, and avoid sharing items with others.
 - e. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or inside of the elbow when coughing or sneezing, immediately throw tissue in trash, then wash hands.
 - f. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces often.
 - g. Avoid crowding and large gatherings.



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2. The lead administrator for each site must:
 - a. Provide appropriate training for students and staff regarding standard safety precautions.
 - b. Designate "isolation areas", where potentially ill persons can be safely and confidentially separated from other building occupants until they are able to go home to self-quarantine.
 - c. Report every suspected or confirmed case of illness to the District's Nursing Supervisor.
 - d. Ensure signage and appropriate physical barriers are in place to assist with social distancing.
 - e. Ensure hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or other sanitizing materials are available and accessible throughout the premises.
 - f. Ensure facilities are routinely cleaned and frequently touched areas are disinfected at least daily.
 - g. Enforce compliance with occupancy and gathering size limits set by public health authorities.
3. The use of face coverings shall be optional, unless mandated by the Superintendent or by public health authorities based on elevated COVID transmission rates or outbreaks.
 - a. Whenever a mandatory masking policy is implemented, every person on school property must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth at all times, unless: (i) doing so would inhibit their health, or would create an unsafe condition for operating equipment or completing a task, or



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- (iii) in extreme heat outdoors, with a distance of six feet from every other person, or (iv) in designated well-ventilated areas with a distance of six feet from every other person, or (v) while eating or drinking or taking medication, or (vi) while engaged in intense physical activity.
 - b. The District will supply a face covering to any person who does not have one.
 - c. Face coverings need not be worn by any person who is age 2 or younger or anyone who is having difficulty breathing, is unconscious, is incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- 4. Social distancing strategies will be implemented and enforced at all times, when mandated by the Superintendent or by public health authorities based on elevated COVID transmission rates or outbreaks.
 - a. Persons will be spaced no fewer than six feet apart whenever possible.
 - b. Indoor and outdoor gatherings will be limited in size according to then-current occupancy limits set by public health authorities.
 - c. Schedules will be staggered to the extent feasible to limit crowding.
 - d. Sharing of equipment and supplies will be discouraged, but if equipment or supplies are shared, they must be disinfected before each use.
 - e. Appropriate physical barriers and signage will be installed to help ensure social distancing.



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5. Facilities and equipment will be cleaned routinely, and all high-traffic areas and touch points will be disinfected daily, as necessary.

B. Health Screening, Self-Reporting and Quarantine Requirements

1. All students and staff will be required to complete a certification form at the beginning of the school year, acknowledging that they will self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily and will not enter any District facility while experiencing symptoms.
2. All others must complete a health screening questionnaire daily upon arrival to any District facility. A person who was screened upon entering school property does not need to be re-screened if they leave and return later the same day.
3. Entry into District facilities will be denied in the following scenarios and quarantine will be required:
 - a. Regardless of vaccination status, if a person is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but has not been tested or tested positive for COVID within the past five (5) days.
 - b. If a person is not fully vaccinated (and did not recover from COVID-19 in the past three months but more than 2 weeks ago), after close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, after travel to any state or country subject to a government-issued travel advisory or quarantine recommendation, and while awaiting COVID-19 test results.
 - c. The duration of the quarantine period will be based on current levels of COVID-19 transmission in the community, as well as guidance from public health authorities and the New Jersey Department



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of Education. The quarantine period will be (i) at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms, with proof of a negative test taken on day 6, or (ii) until they have no symptoms and are fever-free for (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours. After completing their quarantine period, individuals must continue to wear a mask when around others at home and in public for an additional 5 days.

4. Temperature checks may be taken as part of the health screening process. Readings must be taken in an area away from direct sunlight or heat. If any person exhibits a fever greater than 100.4°F, they will be placed in an Isolation Area and temperature should be checked again in 20 minutes. The person will be sent home if the second check shows a temperature above 100.4°F, or if the person shows other symptoms of COVID-19.
5. Every person is required to report their health status to the school principal or their immediate supervisor and stay home if they test positive, or feel sick, or recently travelled to any state or country subject to a government-issued travel advisory or quarantine recommendation.
 - a. Persons with confirmed illness and those who have symptoms of COVID-19 must remain at home until they receive written clearance from a medical doctor.
 - b. Persons who travelled to any state or country subject to a government-issued travel advisory or quarantine recommendation must remain home while self-monitoring for symptoms.



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- c. If a person had "close contact" with someone who is sick, they must carefully monitor for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days. If COVID-19 symptoms develop, they should immediately get tested and follow isolation recommendations. "Close contact" means being within 6 feet for at least a period of 15 minutes. Close contacts who have no symptoms and test negative during days 5-7 after the date of last contact may return on day 8 or thereafter.
 - d. A person with COVID-19 compatible symptoms and no known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the last 5 days, may return to school if they have an alternative diagnosis (i.e., strep throat, influenza, worsening of chronic illness) supported by clinical evaluation. Quarantine may be required for certain illnesses other than COVID-19 according to [NJDOH School Exclusion List](#).
6. In the event it is determined that any student requires immediate transportation to a hospital or other emergency medical facility, if a parent or other designated adult is not available, a school staff member will accompany the student to a hospital or other emergency medical facility. If the school staff member is not permitted to enter, the parent/guardian will be notified accordingly.

C. COVID-19 Response Protocols

- 1. If any person on District property is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, the lead building administrator must:
 - a. Separate the person from others in a manner that safeguards their privacy while minimizing exposure



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risk and bring the person to the designated isolation area if they cannot immediately return home.

- b. Determine who else on District property the person may have interacted with, for how long, and which rooms or equipment in the facility they may have used in the last 5 days.
 - c. Notify the person's close contacts regarding possible exposure and direct unvaccinated close contacts to self-quarantine and seek medical attention if symptoms develop. The identities of potentially ill persons should not be disclosed to others unless absolutely necessary.
 - d. Report the person's name and the names of any close contacts to the Nursing Supervisor and notify the person's close contact that they may have been exposed and should monitor for symptoms, and call a doctor if symptoms develop.
 - e. Ensure the isolation area and any other spaces or equipment used by the person are immediately closed off, properly ventilated and then thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. If more than 5 days have passed since the person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
2. Persons who test positive for COVID show symptoms will not be permitted to return until they provide written medical clearance.
 3. The Nursing Supervisor will notify public health authorities and the Superintendent of any confirmed or suspected cases of illness.



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- D. The procedures in this regulation are consistent with government-mandated health and safety standards in effect as of the date when it was adopted or last revised. Future public health orders that are inconsistent with these provisions will govern in case of conflict. This regulation will be revised as often as practicable to reflect current standards and requirements.

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