

FINAL District Reopening Action Plan

August 27, 2021

Please note that any and all plans outlined below are subject to change based on the following criteria:

- CDC, NJDOH and BCDOH guidelines
- Local rates of virus transmission
- Local, state and federal mandates

The District reports to, receives, and follows the guidance/recommendations of the Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH). The BCDOH falls under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). Any and all medical related guidance, recommendations, and/or mandates received through the Bergen County Department of Health, will continue to be strictly and uniformly adhered to.

Overall Goals

- Return to full day in person instruction;
- Maintain social distancing to the best extent practical;
- Maintain use of the desk shields as a secondary level of protection;
- Create a variety of new “lunch areas” for students so as to alleviate crowding in one main cafeteria or gathering space;
- Create outdoor classroom opportunities where possible so as to allow for periods of extended time without masks;
- Maintain continuity of instruction in the event that a positive case and/or close contact situation requires a student to quarantine and attend school virtually.

School Day

- The school day at both Maywood Avenue School and Memorial for K-8 students will return to a full day;
- Morning line up and Dismissal will revert back to normal. Students will be required to wear masks outside during lineup as they gather in larger groups;
- Students in grades 5 through 8 will have lockers for daily use;
- Lunch will take place in both buildings. We encourage and recommend students bring a bagged lunch if possible to allow for the most efficient use of time at lunch;
- Extracurriculars will take place in both buildings;
- Before and Aftercare YMCA programs will be available at a cost to all families.

Face Masks/DeskShields

All students, educators, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face masks upon arrival to school grounds for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Masks are required in the indoor premises of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings, with limited exceptions. These exceptions to the mask requirement remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year. Masks are optional while outdoors.

Exceptions to the mask requirement remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year, and include:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an IEP or 504 plan precludes use of a face covering;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the 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.

Building Maintenance

- The District will maintain its custodial rotation that will include the use of the UVC stationary lamps in each room and office after school hours.
- All ventilation units are now equipped with ionizer UVC rod units to cleanse and disinfect incoming air.
- The District will continue the use of all approved cleaning materials that were used for the 20-21 school year.
- The district will use traditional cleaning methods along with pump sprayers and misters to sanitize the schools and district equipment/materials.

- Public health signage (i.e. importance of hand-washing, social distancing markers) and Plexiglas/similar protective material will remain in place.
- Schools will also be equipped with additional soap, hand sanitizer stations and cleaning supplies.

Travel Guidance

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

Quarantine/Close Contacts

The District will follow the most up to date quarantine and contact tracing protocols available.

Screening Protocol

- The District will continue to use the morning health form to start the school year. All families and staff will receive this form daily at 6 am. The form cannot be filled out any earlier than an hour before arrival to school;
- Temperature screenings will not take place at the start of the 21-22 school year, as per CDC guidance;
- Parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep their child home if he/she is exhibiting any symptoms.

Vaccination Status

- Although the vaccination is currently not available for children under 12, the District will communicate local and state recommendations regarding vaccinations, when provided;
- There is no COVID vaccination requirement for students by either the State of New Jersey or the Maywood School District. However, school districts are permitted to request the health information of its students and staff. This includes vaccination status for all manner of childhood diseases, not just for COVID. Quarantine guidelines are different for those who are vaccinated and those who are not, and therefore when and if vaccinations become available for children under the age of 12, this information may be required by the district;
- As per Governor Murphy's executive order of August 23rd, all PreK through 12 school personnel are required to be fully vaccinated by October 18th or undergo regular testing at a minimum of once to twice each week.

Clubs/Extracurricular Activities, Field Trips

- Clubs, extracurricular activities, and field trips will take place at both buildings;
- The district will abide by guidelines and regulations as set forth by the BCDOH and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) for sports.

Transportation

- Any student who is transported in a school district bus/vehicle or by a contracted transportation company **is required** to wear a facemask for the duration of the trip. This is a specific NJDOH/BCDOH policy.

Wellness Support for Staff, Students & Families

- The administration and staff will continue to be available to assist individuals and families in need of referrals for mental health assessments and treatment;
- The District will have two full time guidance counselors at MAS and 1.5 guidance counselors at Memorial along with the district child study team consisting of a social worker, school psychologist, behaviorist and learning consultant;
- The District will provide Mental Health First Aid Training to all staff and will provide opportunities for families to get involved in various training as well.

Contact Information

Any and all issues related to a student absence, potential Covid close contact and/or a confirmed positive case must be immediately reported to the following individuals. Please do not contact the teacher.

Memorial School

Ameluso@maywoodschoools.org and mhalligan@maywoodschoools.org

Maywood Avenue School

dzuccaro@maywoodschoools.org, mjordan@maywoodschoools.org and ktimmins@maywoodschoools.org

When To Stay Home

- Student has tested positive for COVID-19;
- Student was potentially exposed to COVID-19 as a close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- Student is the sibling of someone who has symptoms or who has tested positive. Stay home until the symptomatic sibling receives a negative test result;
- If someone in the student's household is being tested for COVID-19 due to illness, stay home until the test result is received;
- The student or anyone in the household has COVID-19 compatible symptoms;
 - 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.

Masking Common Sense

The District fully understands that wearing a mask for six hours is not ideal. It is with this in mind, and while trying to balance the need to abide by the mandate, that the District will continuously look to provide times during the school day where both staff and students will be able to take a break from masking. The following outlines our tentative and continuously evolving plans.

- The District will continue to provide outdoor mask breaks at all grade levels throughout the school day. This practice took place consistently last school year;
- Where possible and weather permitting, the District will work to have certain classes take place outdoors on school grounds, where masking is optional;
- PE will take place outdoors as much as possible, weather permitting, where masking is optional;
- Lunch and recess will take place outdoors as much as possible, weather permitting, where masking is optional. ***All students are encouraged to bring their own beach towels to school so as to comfortably sit and lounge outside for lunch and outdoor class experiences;***
- The District is in communication with BCDOH regarding the fact that every Maywood student has a desk shield at all times while inside any classroom. We interpret the guidance prior to the mask mandate that as long as the child is behind the desk shield, masking is not needed. If we find that the shields allow the district to allow for optional masking while inside the classroom we will do so. We will await a follow up as to our question in this regard.

- If the district decides that the temperatures in either building is such that we can implement optional masking as per the guidelines, we will do so. We will make every attempt to make such a decision the evening before each school day. However, oftentimes the temperatures change throughout the day and the conditions in the building are hotter than what the thermometer outside says.

Please note that when the situation presents itself as an optional masking opportunity, it will be the child's responsibility to either mask or not. That decision will not be the decision of the teacher or any other school employee, nor will they be charged with enforcing it. Instead it must be the decision of the parent. We ask that parents, particularly of the younger students, have a clear plan and communicate it to the child as to whether he/she will be allowed to take their mask off when masking is optional.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year !!



