

Reopening Update - August 7, 2021

Good evening, I hope all is well. As noted in prior communications we will be convening reopening committee meetings in August to map out our plans for September. The first of those meetings was to be held this Tuesday with staff, but it has been postponed because of the news from Governor Murphy yesterday. The news of mandatory masking comes without any further guidance on issues and questions related to that decision. Therefore we postponed the Tuesday meeting until such time that answers are provided to a myriad of related questions. Once we decide on a new date for our staff Reopening Committee, we will then look to schedule our Parent Reopening Committee meetings.

Please find Maywood's most updated plan based now on the change from the Governor on Friday, the 6th.

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. Our expectation has always been and continues to be that health officials make medical decisions as opposed to leaving it to the discretion of individual districts. Whether the district likes, dislikes or is neutral to a medical mandate is irrelevant. We are bound by the mandate and will follow the mandate as set forth, as well as any other mandates that may follow.

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 in classrooms and during lunch;
- Create a variety of new “lunch areas” for students so as to alleviate crowding in one main cafeteria or gathering space;
- 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;
- Before and Aftercare YMCA programs will be available at a cost to all families;
- Lunch will take place in both buildings;
- Extracurriculars/Clubs/Sports will take place in both buildings.

Face Masks

As of Friday, August 6th, the Governor formally mandated the wearing of face masks for any person in any K-12 school building in the state of New Jersey. This applies to all students and adults, regardless of vaccination status.

As per the Governor’s decision of August 6th:

All students and staff are required to wear a face mask *indoors* during the school day.

Masks are optional *outdoors*

Masks are optional *indoors* under the following circumstances:

- Days the district deems to be excessive heat days.
- During lunch
- Playing musical instruments
- During rigorous PE class activities and sports

Parents whose children have documented medical conditions or disabilities that may make wearing a mask dangerous may request a 504 meeting. During that meeting it will be decided as to whether the condition will allow for the child to be exempt from wearing the mask during the school day.

This is NOT a change from last year. At any time last year and now, a parent may request the convening of a 504 meeting to provide medical documentation and doctor recommendations. As is the case for any 504, the request should be emailed to the 504 coordinators in each building, they being cbyrnes@maywoodschoools.org at Memorial and kleto@maywoodschoools.org at MAS.

Quarantine

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

Please note that any student who the BCDOH indicates needs to quarantine because of a school based close contact exposure or any student who tests positive for COVID 19 resulting in a quarantine will receive virtual instruction for the length of the quarantine period. This is the only time a virtual instruction program will be provided.

- Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine because of a close contact exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Individuals who have clinically recovered from COVID do not need to quarantine if the exposure occurs within 90 days of recovery.
- Secondary contacts continue to have no restrictions but should monitor and report any symptoms that may develop.

Screening Protocol

- The District has yet to decide as to the use of the morning health form and/or in person temperature screening to start the school year. Regardless, parents are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep their child home if he/she is exhibiting any symptoms.

Vaccination Status

- Although the vaccine 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 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.

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 during school hours 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.

Cleaning/Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- 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 ionized 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.

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.

I thank you for your continued cooperation during these unprecedented times. Further updates will be provided when appropriate throughout August. As always, we will get through this because of the collective efforts of so many.

Have a great weekend.

Michael Jordan

Superintendent of Schools