



Nutley Public Schools Update to Safe Return

Update to Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services for September 1, 2023 Submission

This is a living document, and as such, the plan will continue to be revisited and reviewed again, with public comment in approximately 60 days.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Board promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; allowing the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings. Even if social distancing is possible and being practiced, face coverings are **optional** for students, and face coverings are also **optional** for visitors as well as are optional on school buses.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

Physical distancing will be encouraged to the greatest extent possible. Currently, there are no restrictions for physical distancing to be maintained.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The Nutley Public Schools will **continue** to follow the requirements and guidelines established by the New Jersey Department of Health for handwashing and respiratory etiquette. The following procedures are based on the directives given through executive orders by the Governor in conjunction with health officials and guidance from the CDC.

The Board of Education has worked to adopt and communicate the behaviors determined by health officials and guidance from the CDC that reduce the spread of COVID-19. Hand hygiene in schools will continue to include the teaching and

reinforcement of frequent hand hygiene among students and staff, coughing or sneezing into the elbow, and disposing of tissues in a waste receptacle.

In schools, students and staff should practice frequent handwashing including at entry and exit, before and after snack and mask breaks, after blowing their nose, sneezing, or coughing, after going to the restroom, and at other key times such as after handling touchpoints (doorknobs, banisters, etc...)

Soap and water are effective against COVID-19. All surfaces of hands (front, back, between fingers, fingernails) should be scrubbed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dried using single-use hand drying materials (when available) or air dried. If hands are not visibly dirty, hand sanitizer with at least 65% alcohol content can be used as an alternative to washing hands with soap and water.

All schools will **maintain** hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers. The stations are in each classroom, at entrances and exits of buildings, and near main offices, lunchrooms and common spaces.

These practices will remain in place.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The custodial/maintenance protocols and cleaning schedule remains in-force with daily cleaning and sanitizing of all facilities and outside common areas on a daily basis. After dismissal each day of instruction, custodial staff will continue to disinfect and/or sanitize all surfaces and classroom/common area spaces. Restrooms are maintained on a daily or as needed basis. The district will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. The continued plan follows established cleaning and disinfecting schedules, and emphasizes touchpoint areas to be cleaned such as doorknobs, light switches, desktops, chair backs, and counters. Additionally, ventilation and HVAC systems are monitored to ensure proper operations and acceptable levels of air circulation. All system filters are changed on a regular schedule.

Currently, there are no restrictions on the use of restrooms, as well as the use of water fountains, or playground equipment.

The Pandemic Response Team and School Improvement Panel will: Oversee each school's implementation of the Plan and providing safety and crisis leadership, adjust or

amending school health and safety protocols as needed, provide staff with needed support and training, review school level data regarding health and safety measures and the presence of COVID-19 and report information to administration.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

The Nutley Public Schools will **continue** to follow the requirements and guidelines as established by the New Jersey Department of Health for contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. We are currently following procedures and directives given through executive orders by the Governor in collaboration with health officials and guidance from the CDC.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Currently, the district will utilize screening testing as needed, and under the advisement of the local health department should the need arise due to an increase in cases.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The school district will continue to work with local, county, and state health officials and medical institutions to provide vaccination opportunities and information.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

The Safe Reopening Plan is inclusive of all children in the Nutley learning community, including those students with disabilities. In all stages of pandemic response and recovery, the CDC recommends the following: Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Even if social distancing is possible and being practiced, face coverings will be encouraged for students, and for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health. Accommodations for students unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to requirements for face coverings when face coverings are mandatory are as follows: A student's documented medical condition, or

disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of face covering. It is also acknowledged that enforcing face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.

Academic, social emotional and mental health supports will **continue** to be integrated into lessons, classroom programs, and extended opportunities. In addition to increased school counseling support for students, staff and families, the district has implemented social emotional learning curricular supports, and has expanded academic support at each instructional level.

These will all be significant as we re-engage students and staff, provide support to families and the community, rebuild relationships, and continue to prioritize individual student's learning needs.

I. Public Comment

The proposed Safe Return to School Plan was posted on the district website, for review and public comment via ReentryPlan@NutleySchools.org. Translation, or accommodations pursuant to ADA can be provided to any parent or community member who needs assistance to read, understand, or receive the Plan.