



Reopening Plan 2021- 2022: Frequently Asked Questions

General Health and Safety Protocols

Is there a mask mandate?

- Yes, there is a mask mandate. As per Governor Murphy’s announcement on August 6, 2021, all students, staff, outside providers, and visitors will be required to wear masks inside of school buildings for the 2021-2022 academic school year regardless of vaccination status. **Exceptions include:**
 1. When doing so would inhibit the individual’s health
 2. When the individual is exposed to extreme heat
 3. When the individual has trouble breathing
 4. When a student has a documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Plan that precludes the use of a face covering
 5. When the individual is eating or drinking
 6. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity physical activity
 7. When a student, as part of music instruction, is playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering
- Individuals who utilize district owned or contracted buses are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status as per the Governor’s mandate.
- Each school will have masks available for students, staff members and outside providers if needed.
- Teachers and staff will demonstrate proper mask wearing for students.
- The “gaiter”, bandana type, and masks with ventilators are not acceptable types of face coverings and should not be worn to school.
- Teachers will identify times during the school day when students will be able to have a “mask break”.

Is there a vaccine mandate for students?

- There is no requirement for vaccination by either the State of New Jersey or the Fort Lee Public Schools. However, there are different quarantine requirements depending on vaccination status. Please scroll down for detailed information about isolation and quarantine protocols.

Is there a vaccine mandate for staff?

- There is no requirement for vaccination by either the State of New Jersey or the Fort Lee Public Schools. However, there are different quarantine requirements depending on vaccination status. Please scroll down for detailed information about quarantine requirements.

Where can I go to get vaccinated or tested for COVID?

- There are multiple locations in our communities providing access to COVID tests and vaccines such as CVS, Walgreens, ACME Pharmacy, Royal Pharmacy, and STAR Pharmacy. Click this link for additional vaccination and testing sites in Fort Lee and neighboring communities:
[Fort Lee Health Department COVID Testing and Vaccination Locations](#)
- Visit [COVID19.nj.gov](https://www.covid19.nj.gov) to find additional testing sites based on your zip code and the types of tests each site offers.

What social distancing protocols will be implemented in schools?

- To the extent possible, a physical distance of 3 feet will be maintained between students.
- Signage and markers will be used to promote social distancing in the halls, stairwells and cafeterias.
- Desk shields will be placed at each student's seating area in classrooms to promote social distancing and provide an additional barrier and layer of protection

What should I do if my child wakes up feeling ill?

- Students who are not feeling well should stay home.
- School nurses and Healthcare Assistants may contact parents of students who are ill and request that they pick their child(ren) up from school as soon as possible.

Will parents be required to complete and submit a daily COVID symptom screener?

- No. Parents will not be required to complete a daily COVID symptom screener form. However, parents should monitor their child's health daily and keep their child home if their child is sick.

What happens if a student, staff member, or outside provider has COVID compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID?

- All quarantine protocols for vaccinated and unvaccinated students, staff members, and outside providers who have COVID compatible symptoms, or test positive for COVID are outlined in the chart below.
- All quarantine protocols for vaccinated and unvaccinated close-contacts of students, staff members, and outside providers who have COVID compatible symptoms, or test positive for COVID are outlined in the chart below.
- In order to determine if a student or staff member is symptomatic, they must be experiencing:
 - **TWO** of these COVID compatible symptoms: fever of 100 or greater, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose
 - OR**
 - **ONE** of these COVID compatible symptoms (difficulty breathing, loss of taste, loss of smell, cough, shortness of breath)
- A "close-contact" refers to an individual who is within 6 feet of a COVID-19 symptomatic or positive person for more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period regardless of setting.
- Refer to the chart below to determine the appropriate quarantine protocols students, staff members, and outside providers must follow depending on the individual's vaccination status.

If a student, staff member, or outside provider:	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated (14 days after receiving both doses of a two-shot vaccine, or 14 days after receiving a one-shot vaccine)
Exhibits COVID-like symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of symptoms ● Recommended to see a healthcare provider and get tested for COVID ● NOTE: An alternate diagnosis without a negative COVID PCR test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID exclusion criteria ● Isolate while awaiting test results ● Submit negative test results to the school nurse before returning to school ● For Central Office or District employees, submit negative test results to the Director of Human Resources ● If COVID is not ruled out, isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms ● Must have improvement of symptoms that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of symptoms ● Recommended to see a healthcare provider and get tested for COVID ● NOTE: An alternate diagnosis without a negative COVID PCR test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID exclusion criteria ● Isolate while awaiting test results ● Submit negative test results to the school nurse before returning to school ● For Central Office or District employees, submit negative test results to the Director of Human Resources ● If COVID is not ruled out, isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms ● Must have improvement of symptoms that includes no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
Tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of the test result ● Isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or the date of the positive test if no symptoms are present ● Must be symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify school nurse or direct supervisor of the test result ● Isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or the date of the positive test if no symptoms are present ● Must be symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
Is a close-contact of someone who tests-positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine for 14 days from the last known exposure date ● Follow isolation protocols if COVID compatible symptoms develop ● NOTE: In Moderate to Low COVID community transmission levels and when a 14-day quarantine causes a significant burden, quarantine may be shortened to 10 days without 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine not required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic ● Recommended to see a healthcare provider and get tested within 3-5 days of exposure. ● Mask for 14 days following exposure ● Follow isolation protocols for

	testing or to 7 days if a negative PCR test is produced that was collected between days 5 and 7 following exposure. Individuals should mask and physically distance up to 14 days	vaccinated individuals if COVID compatible symptoms develop or test is positive
Is a close-contact of a household member who tests positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine for 24 days from the onset of the symptoms of the household member who tested positive or from the test date if the household member is asymptomatic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic Monitor for symptoms of COVID for 14 days following the last exposure date Follow procedures for vaccinated individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID if symptoms develop
Is a close-contact of a household member exhibiting COVID compatible symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine until symptomatic household member receives a negative test result If the symptomatic household member tests positive or does not test, follow the quarantine time frame above for household close contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic Monitor for symptoms of COVID for 14 days following the last exposure date Follow procedures for vaccinated individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID if symptoms develop
Is exposed within 90 days of recovery from COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as individual remains asymptomatic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required as long as individual remains asymptomatic
Is a secondary contact of someone who tested positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required Monitor and report any symptoms that develop to the school nurse or direct supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine is not required Monitor and report any symptoms that develop to the school nurse or direct supervisor

Will the district conduct any contact tracing?

- The building principal and the school nurse must be notified as soon as possible if a student, staff member, or outside provider tests positive for COVID, was exposed to someone who tests positive, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID.
- The school nurse will conduct the contact tracing and notify all close-contacts in the school building.
- A “close-contact” is an individual who is within 6 feet of the symptomatic or positive person for more than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period regardless of setting.
- Upon receipt of notification of a positive test result of a student, staff member, or outside provider, the school nurse and/or principal will contact the Fort Lee Health Department.

What happens if a student, staff member, or outside provider begins to experience COVID compatible symptoms during the school day?

- As recommended in *The Road Forward*, students, staff members, and outside providers who experience symptoms related to COVID during the school day will be safely and respectfully isolated from others in a separate location from the nurse's office and monitored by a Healthcare Assistant.
- There will be an air purifier in each isolation area in every school building.
- In order to determine if a student, staff member, or outside provider is symptomatic, they must be experiencing:
 - **TWO** of these COVID-compatible symptoms: fever of 100 or over, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose

OR

- **ONE** of these COVID-compatible symptoms (difficulty breathing, loss of taste, loss of smell, cough, shortness of breath)

How will non-COVID related medical issues be handled?

- The school nurse will support students with non-COVID related medical needs as in any other school year.
- As a rule, we will not use the school nurse's office for COVID related occurrences.

Will there be any facility enhancements to support the health and safety of the students and staff?

- Touchless faucets will be installed in all bathrooms by the end of August.
- Automatic flushometers will be installed in all toilets and urinals by the end of August.
- Public health signage (i.e. importance of hand-washing, social distancing markers) will be used to promote proper hand washing, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing.
- Schools will also be equipped with touchless hand sanitizer dispensers.
- All ventilation units will be equipped with ionization units to further purify incoming air by the end of August.

Will school buses be cleaned and sanitized?

- Yes. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- Before the start of the school year, bus drivers will be trained on how to spray/wipe down areas with disinfectant once students exit the bus.
- Bus drivers will be supplied with hand sanitizer as well as peroxide wipes, botanical disinfectant, and paper towels to clean in between bus routes.
- Windows will be open during bus routes to provide ventilation, weather permitting

In addition to cleaning, what types of health and safety protocols will be implemented on buses?

- All individuals are required to wear masks on school buses with the exception of individuals who have a documented medical condition or disability, have trouble breathing, or in cases of extreme heat.
- Eating and drinking will not be permitted on buses.

- A paraprofessional will accompany the bus driver on each bus to serve as additional supervision and assist students with mask wearing on buses.
- Windows will be open during bus routes to provide ventilation, weather permitting.
- Siblings will be seated together on buses where possible.
- Students will be assigned seats on buses.

What are the quarantine protocols for travel?

- As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect. The CDC, however, has quarantine recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers that the District will follow. Please refer to the chart below for more detailed information.
- The following quarantine protocols after travel are in place:
 - Domestic Travel as per the CDC and in consultation with the Fort Lee Health Department
NOTE: As per the New Jersey Department of Health, domestic travel is defined as travel lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than contiguous states (i.e., Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware).

Unvaccinated	Vaccinated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel. ● Quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. ● Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. ● If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. ● If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarantine is not required. ● Self-monitor for COVID-like symptoms. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols.

- International Travel as per the CDC and in consultation with the Fort Lee Health Department

Unvaccinated	Vaccinated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel. ● Quarantine for a full 7 days after travel. ● Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. ● If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. ● If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel. ● If your test is negative, self-monitor for COVID symptoms. ● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols. ● If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected. ● Vaccinated individuals do not need to await

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● If COVID compatible symptoms develop, follow isolation protocols.	test results to return to school or work.
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School Operations and Procedures

What will morning entry procedures look like?

- There will be no special entry procedures for students and staff.
- Individuals are not required to complete a temperature check when entering the school buildings. It is strongly recommended that individuals stay home if they are feeling ill.
- Entrance procedures for specific buildings will be communicated by the building principals.

Will visitors be permitted to enter the school buildings?

- Yes. All visitors must access the buildings through the main entrances during school hours and must be prepared to present identification.
- If a parent is dropping off items for their child, a security officer will direct them to an appropriate location where the items can be retrieved.

How will we accommodate students in the classrooms and use other spaces to provide the recommended distance between them?

- To the best extent possible, the recommended social distance of 3 feet will be implemented.
- Each school building will use other spaces, such as the media center, as needed to support social distancing guidelines.
- Desk shields will be placed at each students' seating area to promote social distancing and provide an additional barrier and layer of protection.
- Signs and markers will be placed throughout the school buildings reminding staff and students to maintain social distancing and follow the designated traffic patterns.

How will we manage lunch?

- Lunch will be served in building cafeterias. Additional indoor spaces such as the media centers and classrooms will most likely be used to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria.
- At the middle and high schools, outdoor spaces may be reserved for eating, weather permitting.
- Lunch will be served in individually wrapped containers.
- Markers will be used to signify where students should stand to maintain an appropriate distance while in line to select their lunch
- Certified staff members will be assigned to locations to supervise students during lunch.
- Additional substitutes will be hired to supplement regular staff and provide adequate coverage.
- For grades K-6, lunch will be separated into sessions; one for eating, and one for recess.
- Areas will be cleaned prior to a new group of students entering the eating area.

What is the process for cleaning and sanitizing areas?

- All spaces will be cleaned daily by the custodial department using the following process:
 - Remove all visible soil from all surfaces with attention to high touch areas like desktops and chairs
 - Thoroughly disinfect all hard surfaces in the room using a disinfectant approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Provide time for the disinfectant to air dry to maximize its effectiveness
 - Mop the area using a microfiber pad and cleaner
 - Re-sanitize the area using our electrostatic spray applicators and botanical disinfectant

Instruction and Program

What schedule will students follow?

- Students will return to school for their regular full-day, full-time, in-person instructional program in September, with all traditional bell schedules, programs and extracurricular activities in place, provided that regulations do not prevent us from doing so.
- All students at the intermediate, middle and high schools will receive their schedules prior to September 9th. If there are any questions regarding a student's schedule, please contact your child's guidance counselor or building principal.

Will there be an option to choose remote instruction for students?

- As per NJDOE guidance issued on August 11, 2021, "where an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the NJDOH's COVID exclusion criteria, LEA's (Local Education Agency) are strongly encouraged to immediately provide virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction." Therefore:
 - There will not be an option to select remote instruction this school year.
 - Remote instruction will ONLY be made available to students who are required to quarantine due to COVID exposure whether it be as a result of a positive test, or a close-contact situation.
 - Remote instruction will commence after an individual positive COVID test result is provided to the school nurse, or consultation with the school nurse determines that a student is a close-contact of an individual who tested positive for COVID.
 - Remote instruction will be accessible via a unique link that will be provided to students. Each school building will establish their individual protocol for communicating with parents and students about remote instruction.
- Depending on their assignment, staff may be able to work remotely if they are required to quarantine due to COVID exposure.

What will classroom instruction look like?

- Regular interactions that take place in a classroom (i.e. small group instruction, collaborative group work, laboratory activities) will take place during the school day.
- Teachers will continue to post assignments, notices, and classroom materials on Google Classroom or Seesaw (Grades K-2 only).
- For students attending school remotely, instruction will be provided through a live-stream of lessons and activities.

How will the district address the learning needs of students?

- We will assess student learning and teachers will identify areas of focus, and plan instruction accordingly.
- District benchmark assessments in English language arts and math will be administered to students in grades K-12 at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.
- The New Jersey Department of Education is requiring all NJ public school districts to administer the Start Strong Assessment at the beginning of the school year to students in grades 4-12 in the various content areas and grade levels:
 - English Language Arts: Grades 4-10,
 - Mathematics: Grades 4-8, Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II
 - Science: Grades 6, 9, and 12
- The District will use the data from its benchmark assessments and the Start Strong Assessment to identify areas of focus with regards to curriculum and instruction and determine supports students may need.
- Teachers will be able to provide support in the classroom setting through differentiated instruction. Differentiation can occur in a variety of formats such as small group instruction and one-to-one instruction during lessons to meet the needs of individual students. Teachers can also use online resources to differentiate instruction for students.
- All of the instructional support programs that are offered to students every school year will remain in-place. These support programs may include, but are not limited to Gifted and Talented, Basic Skills, Title I, Smart Readers and any program or service made available to our English Language Learners and students with special needs.
- The District will also offer instructional support programs either before or after school for identified students. More information will be shared in regard to these program offerings.

How will we meet accommodations for students with special needs?

- All programs and related services will remain as they are written in the Individualized Education Plan and 504 Plan.
- Students who are assigned a paraprofessional throughout the day will continue to receive this support.
- If a student who has a current 504 plan is having difficulty, please contact the student's guidance counselor AND the office of the building principal.
- If a student with an IEP is having difficulty, please contact the student's case manager and the office of the Director of Special Services.

Will students use personal lockers to store their belongings?

- Personal lockers will be assigned to students in grades 5-12. Time spent at lockers will be minimized to avoid hallway gatherings.

Will students use locker rooms to change for Health and Physical Education?

- Yes, locker rooms will be available so that students may change for PE.

Extra-Curricular Activities, Field Trips and Assemblies

When will co-curricular activities be available to students?

- Yes. The beginning of individual programs depends on the specific activity and the grade level(s) of students involved.

Will field trips be permitted?

- Field trips will occur if deemed necessary by the District curriculum and approved by the Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and Board of Education.

Will schools hold assemblies?

- Yes, assemblies will resume with social distancing protocols implemented to the extent possible.

Will all extra-curricular music, art and theatre activities take place?

- Yes. All scheduled extra-curricular activities in music, art and theatre will take place in-person. They will follow the same district protocols that are in effect.

Will students participate in athletics?

- Yes, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) resumed regular operations effective July 1, 2021.

Will spectators be allowed at athletic events?

- Yes, attendance will be permitted at athletic events.

Will athletes have access to locker rooms to change for practice and games?

- Yes, locker rooms will be available for use during athletic events.

Mental Health and Social-Emotional Wellness of Students and Staff

What resources and supports will be available this year to continually support students?

- All counseling services, including those that are offered before and after school will continue to be provided in the 2021-2022 school year.
- 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 guidance department will continue to conduct student wellness surveys for students in all grade levels.
- Summer counseling services were offered to identified students in grades K-12.
- The District will implement a series of programs across all grade levels to address student mental health and wellness which will include the following:
 - Flow and Grow curriculum for grades K-4
 - Reboot curriculum for grades K-8
 - Kid Grit curriculum for identified students in grades 7 and 8
 - Timothy Schumacher's Raising Resiliency Program for students in grades 7-12
 - Dr. Michael Fowlin's presentation to the 10th grade class
 - Additional assemblies will occur in all school buildings focusing on various mental health topics, social-emotional wellness, positive affirmation, and character as well as leadership development.
- Training will be made available to staff members to assist with identifying and helping students who are experiencing mental health or addictions challenges or are in crisis.
- Our Student Assistance Coordinator (SAC) will be trained as an instructor in Teen Mental Health First Aid which will allow the District to provide additional staff members with this training in subsequent years.
- The Guidance Department will provide a parent portal of resources that will be accessible on our website.
- Trained staff are ready to assist. Please contact your school's principal for more information or to express a concern.

What resources and supports will be available this year to continually support staff?

- To ease staff anxiety, each school will discuss concerns surrounding the start of the school year. The topics will include but are not limited to social distancing in classrooms, disinfecting plans, substitute process, COVID testing, a quarantine process, and reporting COVID 19 diagnosis.
- Time and space will be provided for staff members to process traumatic events, re-establish connections with each other, and receive support to promote healing.
- We will continue to identify mental and behavioral resources and encourage faculty and staff to use these services.
- The following resources are always available to staff:
 - Free access to headspace App through Pure Edge <http://go.headspace.com/pureedge/>
 - Free access to on demand educator focused stress relief webinars through Pure Edge <https://pureedgeinc.org/pure-community-webinars/#on-demand>
<https://pureedgeinc.org/mindful-mondays-3/>
<https://www.mindfulschools.org/back-to-school/>
- Mental health and social-emotional wellness resources are also available to staff through the Human Resources department.