

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Hampton Public School Board of Education

School Year: 2022-2023

Date: August 29, 2022

Date Revised:

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Hampton Public School will continue with a traditional school year with full in-person instruction for all students. The school day will be the normal 8:25am-3:00 pm hours.

Below is an overview of the few COVID-19 protocols that will remain in place for 2022-2023 school year as recommended by the CDC and/or NJ Department of Health. Positive COVID-19 cases should still be reported to the school nurses so we can track any outbreaks or clusters to the school nurse, 908 537-4101 extension 103.

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

VACCINATION:

Vaccination, including booster shots, remains the most critical strategy to protect students and staff and reduce interruptions in learning. Everyone who is eligible should be vaccinated and receive all recommended doses.

As a clarification from the NJ Department of Health, for children 5 through 17 years of age, a primary COVID-19 vaccine series consists of 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. For persons 18 and older, a primary series consists of:

- A 2-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or
- A single-dose COVID-19 vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine)

The CDC recommends that people remain [up to date](#) with their vaccines, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised and [booster doses](#) at regular intervals. The NJDOH states that "up to date" with vaccination means being fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 **AND** having received all recommended additional doses, including booster doses when eligible. "Fully vaccinated" means being at least two weeks past completion of a primary vaccination series. If schools are unable to determine the vaccination status of individual students or staff, those individuals should be considered not up to date.

If your child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, please consider sending in a copy of the vaccination record to the health office so that they may add it to your child's immunization file. The vaccine is not a requirement, but it is a great way to keep your student's records updated and all in one place should you need a copy for college.

MASKS:

Masks remain optional both in school and while riding the bus for the 2022-2023 school year. Each student and staff member can make their own decision as to whether they want to wear a mask. We are asking everyone to respect each other's decision, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. In accordance with our district policy and Code of Conduct, bullying will not be tolerated.

It is possible that the district may need to reinstate the mandatory mask requirement if the number of positive COVID-19 cases increases in our schools or Hunterdon County, or if outbreaks occur in our school community.

Exception to masks being optional:

- Per the CDC, if your student tests positive for COVID-19 and returns to school after the required five-day isolation period, **masks are required to be worn on days 6-10 after symptom onset or positive test result**. Those students who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask should stay home for the full 10 days and not return to school until day 11. See more information below under the Isolation section.

For those who choose to wear a mask, as a reminder the following are unacceptable forms of face coverings: bandanas, gaiters and masks with vents. Only surgical, cloth or clear masks will be allowed in schools.

HAND WASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE:

We will continue to reinforce proper hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to all students and employees. Touchless hand sanitizers were installed in classrooms in 2020-2021 and mobile sanitizing stations at main entrances and common areas will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Teachers will also be reminded that the sharing of equipment and supplies is discouraged unless items can be cleaned between uses.

CLEANING/DISINFECTION OF FACILITIES, AIRFLOW AND VENTILATION:

Enhanced cleaning protocols established in the 2020-2021 school year have continued over the last two years. The electrostatic sprayers will continue to be used throughout the buildings every day. Common touch points such as door handles, knobs, railings, water fountains, etc. will be disinfected on a rotating basis throughout the school day. Custodians will continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect daily once students have been dismissed.

In regards to airflow and ventilation, the HVAC system checks and monthly filter changes for proper air quality will continue.

HEALTH SCREENING:

Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Students who are sick (see symptom list below) should not attend school.

The same protocol applies to employees. Employees should monitor their symptoms and not report to work if they are not feeling well. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, he/she needs to inform the school nurse or the chief school administrator.

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, CDC and NJDOH recommend that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- 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: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms, or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

If your child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms as noted above, we strongly recommend that they be tested for COVID-19. If your child does test positive for COVID-19, please inform the school nurse immediately (908-537-4101 extension 103).

For COVID-19 testing locations, please visit the Hunterdon County Department of Health's website:

<https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Coronavirus/testingsite.html#other>

POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND ISOLATION PERIOD:

Students and employees with COVID-like symptoms who are in school will be separated away from others until they can be sent home. Sick individuals will be provided with a mask if they do not have one, unless the individual has a contraindication to doing so. Any confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported directly to the school nurse immediately (908-537-4101 extension 103).

The district will follow the CDC and NJ Department of Health guidelines for isolation of positive cases or students with COVID-like symptoms as outlined below.

Isolation is still in effect for ill individuals or those who test positive for COVID-19 as follows:

1. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 and **are symptomatic or persons with COVID-19 symptoms who weren't tested or who are waiting for test results:**
 - Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms).
 - If symptoms resolve (fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication and other symptoms improve), isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
 - If symptoms persist (fever or if other symptoms have not improved), continue to isolate until fever-free for 24 hours without medication and other symptoms have improved.
2. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but **have no symptoms:**
 - Stay home and isolate from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test).
 - If no symptoms develop, isolation can end after 5 full days (i.e., on day 6).
 - If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms. Follow recommendations above for ending isolation for persons who have COVID-19 symptoms.

Additionally, students need to wear a well-fitted mask when around others through day 10. For those ending isolation on day 5, this would be during days 6 through 10. Students who are unable to wear a mask when around others should stay home and isolate from other people for a full 10 days. If students receive a negative test result with a test taken on at least day 6 from symptom onset, they do not have to wear a mask.

** An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.*

Virtual learning is no longer provided for positive students in isolation. Students should contact teachers to keep up with schoolwork while they are out of school.

Contact Tracing, Quarantining of Close Contacts, and Test to Stay Are No Longer Recommended:

Per the updated guidance from the CDC released in August 2022, contact tracing of individual cases is no longer recommended for school settings. Our nurses will be monitoring for outbreaks or clusters, which will be reported to the NJ Department of Health. If your child tests positive, we do recommend parents conduct their own contact tracing when possible and let others know of potential COVID exposure. Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being

within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. Any close contact that begins to show COVID-like symptoms should get tested.

Quarantining of students who are close contacts to a positive case is no longer recommended in school settings. Please monitor your child for COVID-like symptoms and get them tested if symptoms begin. If they test positive for COVID-19, they will be excluded from school for at least five days from the onset of symptoms or testing positive as outlined above.

APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

The IEP team will review physician's orders and other formal and informal data to determine whether any additional accommodations are required with respect to health and safety policies to support the safe return and/or continuity of services and in-person attendance of students with disabilities. When it is determined that additional accommodations and supports are needed, the student's IEP will be revised accordingly.

Teachers and staff will continue providing increased support for maintaining appropriate hygiene in regards to hand washing, sanitizing, and maintaining social distancing.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

All students at Hampton Public School returned to a full school day (8:25am-3:00pm) in the 2021-2022 school year, as the option for remote learning was no longer in effect for the 2021-2022 school year per the expiration of the Governor's executive order.

The district will continue to assess students' progress in key subject areas and identify where remediation is needed. Supplemental information will be provided to parents and students related to learning strategies to help students succeed. Please reach out to your child's teacher for assistance.