

Wallington Public Schools

2021-22 District Reopening Information

(Modified 8/16/2021)



Introduction

These slides are intended to give parents, staff, students, and families some important information about:

- Everyday school practices
- COVID 19 regulations for schools
- Protective measures for schools
- Commonly asked questions

These slides represent some more important “highlights” of the Road Forward Plan for Reopening Schools issued by the Department of Education and Governor’s Office

The Road Forward

In June of 2021, the NJDOE in cooperation with the NJDOH published “The Road Forward”

- Provides guidance and recommendations for the reopening of schools.
- Wallington had been opened fully since May of 2021 (1st K-12 district in Bergen County to achieve this)
- Provides for full day, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year.

Plans Guided by Public Health and Educational Professionals

- New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission
- New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)



Facemasks in School

In August, 2021 Governor Murphy issued a mandate that requires all students, staff, and visitors to wear masks when inside school buildings - regardless of vaccination status.

- Exceptions can be made:
 - When outdoors
 - When there is a documented disability that would preclude face covering
 - When eating
 - When playing a musical instrument
 - When participating in high-intensity physical activity

More on Masking

As was the case in the 2020-2021 school year:

- Mask breaks will be provided whenever practical in the school day
- Parents are asked to provide masks for their children (daily use masks can be provided by the school when needed)
- The mandate applies to time in the school day as well as outside the school day, as long as students, staff, and visitors are indoors.

Improvements to Indoor Air Quality

HVAC systems are inspected and maintained to ensure proper functioning.

- Filters on mechanical systems are changed quarterly or as needed
- Offices and instructional spaces that do not currently have mechanical air exchange systems are outfitted with portable HEPA rated devices.
- All mechanical systems are designed to exchange outside air into the classroom.
- The district has placed needlepoint ionization units (iWave) in all mechanical systems in the district.

Supplemental Measures

Custodial:

- Each building has an additional day custodian who primarily handles additional cleaning and sanitation of common areas and commonly touched surfaces

Health Services:

- Each school building has a full time nurse, and an additional floating nurse has also been assigned to assist where needed.

Other Protective Measures

EPA approved disinfectants are used in all buildings

Electrostatic Sprayers are utilized several times a week or as needed for disinfecting

Disinfecting wipes are provided for each classroom as needed



Other Protective Measures

Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the buildings

Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and common spaces

Signage to encourage distancing in all buildings

Nurses provide numerous communications to staff and students regarding health and safety tips as well as changing guidance

Lavatory use is monitored to enforce physical distancing

Lunch Program

Elementary Schools:

Lunch is administered utilizing: All Purpose Rooms, classrooms, and outdoor spaces (weather permitting).

Aides/Lunch Activity Coordinator are utilized to facilitate lunch and any activities daily.

Students are permitted to go home for lunch with parental permission.

Lunch Program

Jr/Sr High School:

Lunch is administered utilizing: Lunch Room, classrooms, and outdoor spaces (weather permitting).

Teachers and aides are assigned for supervision and to administer the program.

Students are permitted to go home for lunch with parental permission.

Academic Readiness

Steps to ensure and remediate readiness:

1. Classroom and subject area teachers will provide a variety of assessments to determine areas of focus and to plan instruction/remediation.
2. All students will participate in Benchmark Assessments in ELA and Mathematics at different times during the school year.
3. Federal funding will be devoted in part to remedial instruction and intervention, before and after school programming, and Saturday Enrichment programming.

NJDOE Start Strong Assessments

Start Strong Assessments will be administered in grades 4-12 as follows:

- English/Language Arts: Grades 4-10
- Mathematics: Grades 4-8, Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II
- Science: Grades 6, 9, and 12

Data will be used to identify areas of focus and remediation, to plan future instruction, and to determine additional supports students may need.

Student Health and Safety Protocols - Prior to School

If your child is not feeling well prior to school:

- Please keep your child home and monitor for symptoms
- Please notify your school nurse of any symptoms or illness

To report an absence:

- Elementary School: Contact the school nurse
- Jr/Sr High School: Contact the attendance office

Student Health and Safety Protocols - During School Day

If a student becomes ill during the school day:

- Students will be examined by the school nurse
 - Students with COVID symptoms will be isolated from other students until they can be picked up from school by a parent or guardian.
 - Students with non-COVID related symptoms will be evaluated on a case by case basis
- Parents will be contacted by the nurse when there are any concerns about their child.

Remote or Virtual Instruction

At this time, and as per the directive of the Governor, parents do not have an option to choose remote/virtual only instruction for their children.

- Students who stay home from school will be marked as absent in accordance with our district attendance policy.
- Students who are absent more than five consecutive days will be placed on home instruction in accordance with the district policy governing home instruction.

Remote or Virtual Instruction

Remote/Virtual Access can be provided ONLY when:

1. A positive COVID result is confirmed by a physician.
2. Students are required to quarantine due to close contact with a positive COVID case or while they are testing due to COVID-like symptoms (as determined by the school nurse).
3. The school or class is closed upon the recommendation of the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission or other governing authority.

What are the COVID guidelines for sending students/staff home?

To see the updated guidelines that determine when student/staff are sent home due to COVID-like symptoms:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PtTGyVgtIkNypeObQ40eVED6GbZocFi0qWns9X4mdP0/edit>

Return to School Guidelines - Wallington

For students and staff who are identified as having COVID or COVID-like symptoms, the return to school is dependent upon our regional risk category:

See link for updated information:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fc_CYR66a5ilkcXwjfxqKpWcS26m2fISxE8V0FELrmY/edit

Quarantine and Travel

Depending on the type of travel that students or staff take, their vaccination status, and changing guidance from the CDC and NJDOH - Quarantine may be necessary.

Please be aware that the district may not provide remote or virtual instruction for students who travel and need to quarantine.

Please note that the guidelines that determine quarantine and travel are subject to change at any time.

Quarantine and Travel

Domestic Travel (Travel lasting more than 24 hours to states other than Pennsylvania, NY, and Delaware)

For those who are not vaccinated:

1. Viral test 3-5 days after travel
2. If test is negative, then quarantine for 7 days after travel
3. If you do not test, self-quarantine for 10 days after travel
4. If COVID symptoms develop or for positive viral test, follow COVID isolation guidelines

Quarantine and Travel

Domestic Travel (Travel lasting more than 24 hours to states other than Pennsylvania, NY, and Delaware)

For those who are vaccinated:

1. You do not need to quarantine
2. Please monitor for COVID symptoms
3. If COVID symptoms develop or for positive viral test, follow COVID isolation guidelines

Quarantine and Travel

Non-Domestic or International Travel

For those who are not vaccinated:

1. Viral test 3-5 days after travel
2. Quarantine for 7 days after travel (even with negative test)
3. If you do not test, self-quarantine for 10 days after travel
4. If COVID symptoms develop or for positive viral test, follow COVID isolation guidelines

Quarantine and Travel

Non-Domestic or International Travel

For those who are vaccinated:

1. Get a viral test within 3-5 days after travel
2. If your test is negative for COVID, continue to monitor for symptoms.
3. If COVID symptoms develop or for positive viral test, follow COVID isolation guidelines
4. You may return to school or work while waiting for test results (if you are vaccinated).

Updates and Changes to Plans

The district will endeavor to provide updates to staff and students as they become available.

Official guidelines and updates will be posted on the district website as they are published

The district website: www.wboe.org is the only location where official updates will be posted.

Questions?

In the event that you have questions about this document, or any of our school policies and practices - please contact the following:

PK-2 - Dr. Yvette Lozanski - lozanski@wboe.org

Gr 3-6 - Ms. Nancy Giambrone - giambrone@wboe.org

Gr 7-12 - Mr. Mike Fromfield - fromfield@wboe.org

District - Dr. James Albro - albro@wboe.org