

Lopatcong Township School District

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Lopatcong Township School District 2021-2022 Health, Safety, and Learning Protocols Updated November 9, 2021

Health and Safety Guidelines:

The protocols/procedures will follow the guidelines and requirements that are in place by the NJDOE and NJDOH at the time of reopening in September, and are subject to change. At the time of plan development, the following health and safety strategies remain in place:

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

Vaccination: As per EO 253 Lopatcong Township School District staff and personnel will be required to fully vaccinated and present proof to the district by October 18, 2021 or will undergo regular testing for COVID-19 throughout the school year

School Day: The District plans to return to pre-pandemic full day schedule. All students are required to report to school each day for a full day of instruction. The option of remote instruction is no longer available in New Jersey.

- The Scope and Sequence of the curriculum has been evaluated and revised to better address the interruption of the continuum of learning caused by the pandemic.
- The new model framework is based on a tiered model of instruction to address remediation, grade level, and accelerated learning in a trimester model.

Physical Distancing: The District will provide as much social distancing as possible in classrooms, busses, common areas and outdoor space.

- Seating arrangements will be aligned to guidelines to ensure proper social distancing
- Classrooms will have desks in rows, no small groups, and desktop barriers.
- Every effort will be made to maintain proper physical distancing at the designated entrances, including assigned staggered arrivals and dismissal times.

Lunch: Lunch will be offered to ALL students at no cost via the National School Lunch Program. Students will be required to select daily meals during homeroom.

- Additional Health and Safety Protocols to be Implemented during lunch periods
 - Secondary cafeteria space to allow for social distancing
 - Additional staff to monitor
 - Staggering lunch schedules
 - Barriers/Dividers on lunch tables

Cleaning and Disinfecting: The District will continue to follow and maintain the cleaning and sanitizing schedule adopted at the onset of the pandemic. The district utilizes EPA-approved products for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 and follows the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. Frequently touched areas are cleaned and disinfected regularly.

- Air purifiers are in every classroom on an automated schedule

Masks: As of 8/6/2021 The Lopatcong Township School Board of Education, following Executive Order 251, signed by Governor Murphy, will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear face masks while inside school premises with limited exceptions. As such, all students and school staff members are required to wear face masks during the school day while inside school buildings.

Per CDC Federal Order, masks must be worn by all passengers and drivers on school buses regardless of vaccine status and regional level of community transmission.

Permitted face coverings: Per CDC recommendations, face masks and gaiters which consisting of two or more layers of washable fabric, completely cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly against sides of face without gaps, and have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask are permitted.

Face coverings that are NOT permitted: Face masks made of fabric that makes it hard to breath, have exhalations valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape, and face shields alone are not permitted.

COVID Screening:

Parents and Guardians will be required to complete a monthly "COVID-19 Student Self-Screening Consent Form." This form will serve as an attestation of their responsibility to monitor their children every day prior to their arrival at school for signs of infectious illness including but not limited to COVID-19

Staff members will be required to complete a monthly "COVID-19 Staff Self-Screening Consent Form." This form will serve as an attestation of their responsibility to monitor themselves every day prior to arrival at school for signs of infectious illness including but not limited to COVID-19

Isolation and Exclusion:

A student who has symptoms related to COVID-19 will be escorted to an isolation room where they will remain until picked up by a parent/guardian.

Staff who report to school with COVID-19 symptoms will be required to leave campus immediately.

- At least two of the following symptoms: Fever, chills, rigors (shivers) myalgia (muscle aches) headaches, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose OR
- At least one of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder

Students and staff with chronic illness, only new symptoms worse than baseline will be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

Students and staff will be isolated and excluded from school based upon NJDOH Guidelines. Close contacts will be identified and quarantined based on NJDOH Guidelines.

When the regional level of community transmission is low (green) or moderate (yellow), students and staff with COVID-19 compatible symptoms without COVID -19 exposure will be:

- Sent home and referred to a healthcare provider
- Referred for COVID-19 testing; and
- Excluded based on the NJDOH School Exclusion List and guidance

When the regional level of community transmission is high (orange) or very high (red), students and staff with COVID-19 compatible symptoms with potential COVID-19 exposure will be:

- Sent home and referred to a healthcare provider
- Referred for COVID-19 testing; and
- Excluded based on the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion Criteria for Close Contact: The district will comply with the NJDOH and NJDOE exclusion recommendations which are based on potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, the level of community transmission, and vaccination status. The following will occur:

Close contacts who are NOT fully vaccinated and who tested positive for COVID-19 will be excluded as follows:

- When community transmission is characterized as low (green) or moderate (yellow), close contacts will be excluded from school for 10 days OR 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test at 5-7 days.
- When community transmission is characterized as high (orange) or red (very high), close contacts will be excluded from school for 14 days.

Close contacts who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic:

- Are not to be excluded from school
- Will not be referred for COVID-19 testing
- Should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following date of exposure; and
- Should isolate themselves if symptoms develop, be evaluated for COVID -19, including testing, and inform their healthcare provider of vaccination status.

Remote Instruction: Remote instruction is no longer an option in New Jersey.

Remote Instruction will ONLY be providing remote instruction for excluded students throughout the year. Students will be required to use Google Classroom and email participation in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, in synchronous instruction sessions Health, Physical Education, Art and Music shall be asynchronously.

The Remote Students Code of Conduct shall be in place to ensure appropriate school behavior and use of district –provided materials and equipment

If quarantining of students is necessary, the district will utilize Google Classroom as an online platform to provide synchronous instruction for a full day.

Instruction for both virtual and in-person instruction will be taken daily and is mandatory.

The school schedule may be adjusted according to the guidance from the local health department and DOE

The educational program may be adjusted at any given time due to COVID-19 infection, rise, and local/state guidance.

Remote instruction will be provided for all students should the district be required to shut down due to a declared state of emergency, a declared public health emergency, or health – related school closure.

Communication: The superintendent will maintain ongoing communication with all relevant NJ departments and agencies and will share updates with school community as they become available.

The Governor, NJDOH, or NJDOE may sign Executive Orders or directives that may necessitate changes to our plan. Updates will be shared as they become available.

Travel: Lopatcong School District will follow the CDC Guidelines for travel.

After you travel:

- [Get tested](#) with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-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.
- Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

Vaccinated students and staff returning from domestic travel, are not required to quarantine upon return but should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and isolate and get tested if they develop. **If returning from international travel, vaccinated persons follow the testing and quarantine guidelines stated above.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>