

EAST RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

03-1230 East Rutherford Public School District 8-2-2021



“The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year”

**Reopening Plan
2021-2022**

EAST RUTHERFORD



WILDCATS

“The Road Forward- Why Inclusivity and Teamwork Matters”

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

In June 2021, The Road Forward was released in aiding local districts to plan and prepare for reopening of schools in September 2021.. According to the Road Forward:

“Local Education Agencies (LEA) must plan to provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations for the 2021-2022 school year. The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) worked collaboratively to develop the following guidance to operationalize that goal. This guidance includes a range of strategies that LEAs should consider implementing to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19 while still allowing for fulltime in-person learning. The absence of one or more of the strategies outlined in this document does not preclude the reopening of a school facility for full-day in-person operation with all enrolled students and staff present. While the State is committed to a resumption of normalcy for next school year, we will continue to monitor the data and our decisions will be guided by science to ensure that we maintain safe and healthy school communities. This document also contains expectations for the fall learning environment. This guidance document is intended to supplant health and safety protocols outlined in Executive Order No. 175 and the Road Back. The document contains recommendations rather than mandatory standards. Non-Public schools may also utilize this document as they plan for full school reopening in the fall. Schools should anticipate potential updates to this guidance prior to the start of the new school year, as additional federal recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) become available.

The East Rutherford School District seeks to develop a comprehensive plan adhering to all key components as outlined in both the “Safety Return Plan” and “The Road Forward Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year.”

East Rutherford School District Return to School Planning Team (Required by the Safe Return Plan)	
Mr. Giovanni Giancaspro	Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Debbie Zoller	Board of Education President
Ms. Gina Lorusso	Board Member & SEPAC President/Board of Education Member
Mr. Orville Drummond	Board Member & President, East Rutherford Education Foundation
Ms. Lameka Augustin	Business Administrator & Board Secretary
Mrs. Regina Barrale	Middle School Principal
Mr. Brian Barrow	Elementary School Principal
Ms. Sharon King-Dobson	Director of Student Services and Curriculum
Mr. Peter Vilardi	Supervisor of Instruction and Technology
Detective Kevin Felten	East Rutherford Police Department
Mrs. Christine Green	PTA President
Dr. Martha Sliowski	District Physician
Mrs. Joanne Saab	School Nurse
Mrs. Kristin Pacelli	School Nurse
Mrs. Sharon Dunn	School Nurse
Mr. Bryan Consulmagno	Head of Maintenance
Mr. Cory Scelsa	EREA President
Mrs. Lauren Cevetillo	Faust School Teacher
Mr. Philip Cocozzo	Faust School Teacher
Dr. Jamie Lee	School Psychologist

McKenzie School Pandemic Response Team	
Brian Barrow	McKenzie Elementary School Principal (Liaison between building and superintendent)
Cory Scelsa	East Rutherford Teachers' Association President
Joanne Saab	School Nurse & School Safety Team
Dave Higgins	District Webmaster & ScIP Member
James Wagner	School Psychologist (Liaison between staff and building principal)
Jamie Lee	School Psychologist (Mental Health)
Carol Mosquera	School Secretary
Beth Narkiewicz	McKenzie School Teacher (K-4 representative)
John Rizi	Special Education Teacher (K-4 representative)
Bryan Consulmagno	East Rutherford School District Maintenance Department
Christine Green	Parent Teacher Association President

Faust School Pandemic Response Team	
Regina Barrale	Alfred S. Faust Intermediate School Principal (Liaison between building and superintendent)
Lukasz Majowicz	Technology Department
Robert Dervishi	Custodial Team
Bryan Consulmagno	East Rutherford School District Maintenance Department
Lauren Cevetillo	Faust School Teacher (Liaison between staff and principal 5-8)
Phil Coccozzo	Faust School Teacher (Liaison between staff and principal 5-8)
Renee Romaglia	School Social Worker & (Mental Health)
Shanelle Muse	School Counselor & Safety Team
Kristin Pacelli	School Nurse
Pat Monks	School Secretary
Jenine McGuire	Parent

AREAS OF FOCUS**1. MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- **1A UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT WEARING OF MASK**
- **1B PHYSICAL DISTANCING**
- **1C HAND WASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE**
- **1D CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION**
- **1E CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE, LOCAL, TERRITORIAL, OR TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**
- **1F DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING**
- **1G EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO EDUCATORS, OTHER STAFF, AND STUDENTS IF ELIGIBLE**
- **1H APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

2. ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- **2A MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL EMOTIONAL INITIATIVES**
- **2B TRANSPORTATION**
- **2C FOOD SERVICES**
- **2D SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**
- **2E QUALITY CHILDCARE**
- **2F PUBLIC COMMENT**
 - **Parental Survey**
 - **Road Forward Committee**
 - **Road Forward Superintendent Communication**
 - **District Website Posting**
 - **Board Meeting Work Session Meeting Discussion**
 - **Board of Education Public Meeting Discussion**
 - **Communication With East Rutherford Mayor & Council**
 - **Communication With East Rutherford Parent/Teacher Association**

PART I: MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

1A. Universal and correct wearing of masks (including school buses)

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR WEARING A MASK

- The wearing of masks will be required for the start of the 2021-2022 school year for all staff and students.
- When wearing a face mask, masks must cover the nose and mouth and must remain in place at all times unless eating or drinking.
- The district will continue to follow updated CDC and New Jersey Department of Health guidelines regarding the wearing of masks as they are released throughout the duration of the 2021-2022 school year.
- When possible, windows in classrooms and school buses should remain open for improved ventilation.
- All visitors are required to schedule an appointment to enter the building. No walk-in meetings will be accommodated.
- All visitors with an appointment entering any school building must wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status.
- Face masks will be provided in cases where staff, students and or visitors forget their mask.
- As per CDC Guidelines, clear masks or cloth masks with a clear plastic panel are an alternative type of mask for people who interact with:
 - People who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - Young children or students learning to read
 - Students learning a new language
 - People with disabilities
 - People who need to see the proper shape of the mouth for making appropriate vowel sounds (for example, during Speech Therapy sessions)
- CDC does not recommend using masks with exhalation valves or vents. The hole in the material may allow your respiratory droplets to escape and reach others. Research on the effectiveness of these types of masks is ongoing.

NJDOH GUIDANCE FOR WEARING A MASK

[Updated August 20, 2021](#)

- Indoors: In alignment with recommendations from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics, on **August 6, 2021**, Governor Murphy signed **[Executive Order 251](#)** which requires that all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the indoor premises of school buildings. This requirement applies to all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools.

CDC GUIDANCE FOR WEARING A MASK

Updated July 9, 2021

Consistent and Correct Mask Use

When teachers, staff, and students who are not fully vaccinated consistently and correctly wear a mask, they [protect others as well as themselves](#). Consistent and [correct mask use](#) by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Indoors: Mask use is recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated including students, teachers, and staff. [Children under 2 years of age](#) should not wear a mask.
- Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of [substantial to high transmission](#), CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated.

Based on the needs of the community, school administrators may opt to make mask use universally required (i.e., required regardless of vaccination status) in the school. Reasons for this can include:

- Having a student population that is not yet eligible for vaccination (e.g., schools with grades pre kindergarten through 6th grade).
- Increasing or substantial or high COVID-19 transmission within the school or their surrounding community.
- Increasing community transmission of a variant that is spread more easily among children and adolescents or is resulting in more severe illness from COVID-19 among children and adolescents.
- Lacking a system to monitor the vaccine status of students and/or teachers and staff.
- Difficulty monitoring or enforcing mask policies that are not universal.
- Awareness of low vaccination uptake within the student, family, or teacher/staff population or within the community.
- Responding to community input that many teachers, staff, parents, or students would not participate in in-person learning if mask use was not universal.

Schools that continue to require people older than 2 years of age to wear a mask should make exceptions for the following categories of people:

- A person who [cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask](#), because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of [reasonable accommodation](#) with workers who are not fully vaccinated who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.

- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

When masks are worn by teachers and school staff in the workplace, the masks should meet one of the following criteria:

- [CDC mask recommendations](#)
- [ASTM International Standard Specification for Barrier Face Coverings](#)
- [NIOSH Workplace Performance and Workplace Performance Plus masks](#)

Schools should be supportive of people who are fully vaccinated, but choose to continue to wear a mask, as a personal choice or because they have a medical condition that may weaken their immune system. School administrators will also need to ensure their selected mask use policy does not conflict with local, state, and territorial laws, policies, and regulations.

During school transportation:

[CDC's Order](#) applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order. Learn more [here](#). For example, if a student attends a school where mask use is not required due to vaccination status (e.g., a high school with a high rate of vaccination), the student is still required to wear a mask on the school bus.

Schools should provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them. No disciplinary action should be taken against a student who does not have a mask as described in the U.S. Department of Education [COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#)

1B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Physical distancing will be implemented based on current CDC guidelines as is correlated to community rate of transmission.
- At least 3 feet between students whenever possible in Elementary and Middle School Classrooms with a mask.
- Stagger outdoor time during recess and lunch (cohorts).
- Recess and playground areas may be mask free zones if social distancing and cohort groupings are reinforced.
- Safe mask storage must be provided as students exit the building into the playground. Masks must be put back on before re-entering the building.

- The same group of students (cohorts) will exit and enter through assigned areas daily.
- Pre-designated entry and exit paths will be utilized by all staff and students.
- All pre-designated entry and exit pathways will be marked with the appropriate signage and markers indicating the required social distancing requirements.
- A separate exit and entry plan for all grade levels will be developed for inclement weather.
- A separate exit and entry plan will be developed for conducting drills such as fire drills.
- One way routes will be created and marked in each building wherever possible.
- Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, and other situations that could lead to adult-to-adult transmission.
- Limit non-essential visitors.

CDC GUIDANCE FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Updated July 9, 2021

Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures, but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement. In general, CDC recommends people who are not fully vaccinated maintain [physical distance](#) of at least 6 feet from other people who are not in their household. However, several [studies](#) from the 2020-2021 school year show low COVID-19 transmission levels among students in schools that had less than 6 feet of physical distance when the school implemented and layered other prevention strategies, such as the use of masks.

Based on studies from the 2020-2021 school year, CDC recommends schools maintain **at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk.** When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking, screening testing, cohorting, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk. Mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is particularly important when physical distance cannot be maintained. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.

Cohorting: Cohorting means keeping people together in a small group and having each group stay together throughout an entire day. Cohorting can be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other, especially when it is challenging to maintain physical distancing, such as among young children, and particularly in areas of moderate-to-high transmission levels. The use of cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated into separate cohorts is not recommended. It is a school's responsibility to ensure that cohorting is done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking, as described in the U.S. Department of Education [COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1](#)

[Prevention Strategies by Level of Community Transmission \(Click HERE for Full Access to CDC\)](#)

Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Elementary Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet between students in classrooms	Elementary Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms Cohorting recommended when possible	Middle and High Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet between students in classrooms	Middle and High Schools Physical distancing: at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms Cohorting recommended when possible Middle and High Schools Schools that can use cohorting: at least 3 feet of distance Schools that cannot use cohorting: at least 6 feet distance between students in
Sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance to the greatest extent possible	Sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance required	Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with more than 6 feet of physical distancing	

1C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- ❑ Hand Sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) will be placed in the following areas:
 - In each classroom
 - At entrances and exits of buildings
 - Near lunchrooms and toilets
 - For preschool classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, the district will prepare stations with soap, water and alcohol based hand sanitizers
 - All students under 5 years of age will be closely monitored by staff when using hand sanitizers
- ❑ Students will continue to clean hands in the following situations outlined below:
 - Upon or before entering the school building
 - Before snack and lunch
 - After snacks and lunch particularly if hands are sticky and greasy
 - After using toilet or an adult after assisting a child to use the toilet
 - When re-entering the building after outside recess
 - After sneezing, wiping and blowing of nose
- ❑ Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles to school.
- ❑ Use of water fountains will continue to be prohibited at this time (*CDC Current guidance: Drinking fountains should be cleaned and sanitized, but encourage staff and students to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains*)

1D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION

- ❑ Frequently touched areas such as desks, chairs, door handles, handrails, kitchens, bathrooms, light switches, shared telephones, shared desktops, shared computer keyboards and mice, drinking fountains, school bus seats and windows will be cleaned daily.
- ❑ The district will continue using no-touch foot pedal trash cans when there is a lid on the trash can or as necessary.
- ❑ With safety in mind, when possible, doors should be propped open to avoid frequent touching of handles.
- ❑ The district will continue to use a sanitizing checklist which will be completed daily by the pertinent staff.
- ❑ Disposable wipes will be provided in ALL classrooms and offices so that commonly used areas such as keyboards etc can be wiped down before use.
- ❑ Windows will be kept opened whenever possible to improve ventilation throughout the buildings

- ❑ The district has increased the number of custodians at each building to provide increased cleaning and disinfection. Custodial Cleaning schedules have been updated to include daily cleaning and disinfection of the following:
 - Classroom desks and chairs
 - Lunchroom tables and chairs
 - Door handles and push plates
 - Handrails
 - Kitchens and bathrooms
 - Light switches
 - Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment)
 - Buttons on vending machines and elevators
 - Drinking fountain, handles, switches, spouts (run water following cleaning)
 - Bathrooms daily, or between use as much as possible
 - Floors will be damp mopped or HEPA vacuum.

- ❑ In addition to daily cleaning described above, custodians will conduct disinfection of high touch surfaces periodically throughout the school day and when cohorts move or classes change. This high touch enhanced custodial disinfection schedule will be focused on the following high touch surfaces (check all that apply):
 - Lunchroom tables and chairs
 - Door handles and push plates
 - Handrails
 - Light switches
 - Drinking fountains
 - Bathrooms daily, or between use as much as possible
 - Personal Protective Equipment - Custodians conducting routine cleaning and disinfection will wear cloth face coverings, disposable gloves, work uniform and safety glasses or goggles to prevent eye irritation.
 - Long sleeved shirts are preferred.
 - Routine Cleaning by Staff and Students

Special Cleaning and Disinfection following Confirmed COVID-19 Diagnosed Case

- ❑ If a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 infection, the classroom or office will be vacated by personnel. Windows will be opened to allow dilution of any airborne virus and doors to the area will be closed to prevent access by others. The East Rutherford Schools custodial staff will be notified of the location and that a COVID case has been confirmed.
- ❑ Wherever possible, a period of 24 hours will occur to allow for airborne settling and natural virus attenuation. After a 24 hour period, custodians will return to the area and conduct enhanced cleaning and disinfection.
- ❑ Electrostatic sprayers supplied with the GK Chlorinated Disinfecting Tablets EPA List N disinfectant will be used to spray impacted areas in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and training provided.

- ❑ Following electrostatic spray use, custodians will conduct cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces, walls, windows and flooring in impacted areas in accordance with training received.
- ❑ Floors will be damp mopped or HEPA vacuum. No dry sweeping will be conducted.

CDC GUIDANCE FOR VENTILATION

Updated July 9, 2021

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with [other preventive strategies](#), including wearing a well-fitting, multi-layered mask, bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems.

During transportation, open or crack windows in buses and other forms of transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. Keeping windows open a few inches improves air circulation.

For more specific information about maintenance, use of ventilation equipment, actions to improve ventilation, and other ventilation considerations, refer to:

- [CDC's Ventilation in Schools and Child care Programs](#)
- [CDC's Ventilation in Buildings webpage](#)
- [CDC's Ventilation FAQs](#) and
- [CDC's Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#)

Additional ventilation recommendations for different types of school buildings can be found in the [American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers \(ASHRAE\) schools and universities guidance documentpdf iconexternal icon](#)

Funds provided through the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Programs and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Programs can support improvements to ventilation. Please see question B-7 of the [U.S. Department of Education Uses of Funds pdf iconexternal icon](#)

guidance for these programs.

1E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus.

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. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.

Exception: In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition **excludes students** who were within **3 to 6 feet of an infected student** (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

School staff should identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school.

- As with any other communicable disease outbreak, schools will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the LHD.
- With guidance from the LHD, schools will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.
- The LHD contact tracing team will notify and interview the close contacts identified by the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements.
- While the District no longer requires daily health screenings to be completed through the Genesis Parent Portal, we are encouraging parents to reference the symptoms checklist provided on pages 19-20 of this document to monitor symptoms as well as to report to the school if their child(ren) meet the criterion given on the checklist.
- East Rutherford will continue to work with parents and local health authorities to ensure that every student tested positive is identified.
- Once parents/guardians provide confirmation from the MD of a positive result, contact is made to the local health department for guidance within 24 hours.
- If a staff member who has been working in a district building, or a student participating in an extracurricular activity, receives a positive COVID test result it will also be reported to the DOE.
- The district will continue to utilize the Incident Report form provided to report said case.
- The district will follow recommendations of the local health department in regards to appropriate measures to take.
- The district will notify anyone in close contact with the student once a form of confirmation is received.
- The school nurse will provide contact support and education to families affected.
- A student and anyone involved in a contact tracing case will be permitted back to school/work after the recommended number of days of self-quarantine has been observed and adhered to.
- Any student involved in a contact tracing case where they have been in close contact with a contact of an individual who tested positive or an individual who is quarantining should be tested at least 3-5 days after the possible exposure occurred.

- Upon the recommendation of the District Physician, a student and anyone involved in a contact tracing case will be permitted back to school/work only with a negative PCR test result. Please note, Rapid test results will not be accepted.
- Throughout this process, all student information will be kept confidential.
- Any positive case of COVID-19 will be reported using the NJDOE County office Incident/Issue Report form.
- DOH Contact Tracer will investigate the incident and contact the appropriate individuals that may have been exposed to individual(s) that were positive with COVID-19.

Updated (8/21/) Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.(updated 8/21)

1F. Diagnostic and screening testing

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING

Screening of Staff

As of September 28, 2021, staff members will no longer need to complete the daily health survey in advance of reporting to their assigned building. Instead, staff members are reminded to monitor their health and wellbeing and to report any symptoms as referenced in the *Parental Guidance* section below immediately to the school nurse and/or main office staff.

- Staff of East Rutherford who are traveling out of state and country will be required to take a COVID19 test before re-entering school unless fully vaccinated (Proof of vaccination is required). Please review the most recent updates to the [CDC's travel advisory HERE](#), as well as all [NJDOH updates HERE](#).
- An isolation room/area will be assigned to contain any identified staff who is a potential carrier or has been exposed to COVID19 on school premises.
- Staff will be asked to leave or not enter the buildings if demonstrating the following below:
 - 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: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.
- Staff who are removed/excluded from work due to displaying TWO symptoms and/or a fever will be required to receive testing and doctor's clearance before reentry.
- Staff who are removed/excluded from work displaying ONE symptom will be required to receive doctor's clearance before returning to school.

- Staff displaying one or more symptoms will be evaluated by the school nurse and our contact tracing liaisons will communicate with families and the local health department.
- Determination of exclusion will be made according to the District Plan.

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

The East Rutherford School District has partnered with Meadowlands Diagnostics located at 177 Valley Boulevard Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075 (2nd Floor) 201.347.6778 for all staff members needing a PCR, Antibody or blood work panel assessments.

The East Rutherford School District has continued to partner with Dr. Martha Sliwowski at: 42 Locust Avenue, Wallington, NJ for any students, parents, staff members who are interested in vaccinations. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered at this location.

Screening of Students

- As of September 28, 2021, families will no longer need to complete the daily health survey in advance of sending their child to school. Instead, families are reminded to monitor the health of their child and report any symptoms as referenced in the *Parental Guidance* section below immediately to the school nurse and/or main office staff.
- Following CDC Guidelines, parents will be asked to monitor their child(ren) and self-assess their child(ren)'s health in two facets: Symptoms and Close Contact/Potential Exposure (see below).
- Students of East Rutherford who are traveling out of state and country will be required to take a COVID19 test before re-entering school unless fully vaccinated (Proof of vaccination is required). Please review the most recent updates to the [CDC's travel advisory HERE](#), as well as all [NJDOH updates HERE](#).

COVID-19 exclusion criteria for close contacts:

- CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case.
- While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period – and thus the preferred school exclusion period – it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in NJDOH quarantine guidance.
- In the school setting, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on Regional Risk Levels:
 - High (orange) 1 exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.
 - Moderate or Low (yellow or green/blue) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days. (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)
 - Schools serving medically complex or other high-risk individuals should use a 14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts throughout all risk levels.

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

The East Rutherford School District has partnered with Meadowlands Diagnostics located at 177 Valley Boulevard Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075 (2nd Floor) 201.347.6778 for all students needing a PCR, Antibody or blood work panel assessments.

The East Rutherford School District has continued to partner with Dr. Martha Sliwowski at: 42 Locust Avenue, Wallington, NJ for any students, parents, staff members who are interested in vaccinations. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered at this location.

Parental Guidance

According to the NJDOH: "Parents should not send students to school when sick. NJDOH recommends 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: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder or 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.

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts

Exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 testing. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days should not be referred for COVID-19 testing.

- If negative they should quarantine at home according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Table after exposure.
- If positive they should isolate for 10 days.

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-like symptoms and are either fully vaccinated or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days:

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, but should be tested 3-5 days following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- Should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

School exclusion duration for close contacts:

CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period – and thus the preferred school exclusion period – it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in NJDOH quarantine guidance.

In the school setting, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission Levels:

- High (orange) exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded for 14 days.
- Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days).

Schools serving medically complex or other high-risk individuals should use a 14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts in all levels of community transmission.

CDC GUIDANCE FOR SCREENING TESTING

Updated July 9, 2021

Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. In K-12 schools, screening testing can help promptly identify and [isolate](#) cases, [quarantine](#) those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and are not fully vaccinated, and identify clusters to reduce the risk to in-person education. CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing and do not need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms; though decisions regarding screening testing may be made at the state or local level.

[Screening testing](#) may be most valuable in areas with substantial or high community transmission levels, in areas with low vaccination coverage, and in schools where other prevention strategies are not implemented. More frequent testing can increase effectiveness, but feasibility of increased testing in schools needs to be considered. Screening testing should be done in a way that ensures the ability to maintain confidentiality of results and protect student, teacher, and staff privacy. Consistent with state legal requirements and [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\) external icon](#), K-12 schools should obtain parental consent for minor students and assent/consent for students themselves.

Screening testing can be used to help evaluate and adjust prevention strategies and provide added protection for schools that are not able to provide optimal physical distance between students.

Screening testing should be offered to students who have not been fully vaccinated when community transmission is at moderate, substantial, or high levels (Table 1); at any level of community transmission, screening testing should be offered to all teachers and staff who have not been fully vaccinated. To be effective, the screening program should test at least once per week, and rapidly (within 24 hours) report results.

Screening testing more than once a week might be more effective at interrupting transmission. Schools may consider multiple screening testing strategies, for example, testing a random sample of at least 10% of students who are not fully vaccinated, or conducting [pooled testing](#) of cohorts. Testing in low-prevalence settings might produce false positive results, but testing can provide an important prevention strategy and safety net to support in-person education.

To facilitate safe participation in sports, extracurricular activities, and other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, and exercise that could lead to increased exhalation), schools may consider implementing screening testing for participants who are not fully vaccinated. Schools can routinely test student athletes, participants, coaches, and trainers, and other people (such as adult volunteers) who are not fully vaccinated and could come into close contact with others during these activities.


Schools can implement screening testing of participants who are not fully vaccinated up to 24 hours before sporting, competition, or extracurricular events. Schools can use different screening testing strategies for lower-risk sports. High-risk sports and extracurricular activities should be virtual or canceled in areas of high community transmission unless all participants are fully vaccinated.

[CDC Table 1. Screening Testing Recommendations for K-12 Schools by Level of Community Transmission \(Click HERE for Full Access to CDC\)](#)

	Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Students	Do not need to screen students.	Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.		
Teachers and staff	Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.			

High risk sports and activities	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports ² and extracurricular activities ³ at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports and extracurricular activities twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.	Cancel or hold high-risk sports and extracurricular activities virtually to protect in-person learning, unless all participants are fully vaccinated.
Low- and intermediate-risk sports	Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports.	Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants	

1 [Levels of community transmission](#) defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥ 100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, $< 5\%$; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, $\geq 10\%$.)

2 The NCAA has developed a risk stratification for sports. See https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/ssi/COVID/SSI_ResocializationDevelopingStandardsSecondEdition.pdf 

Examples of low-risk sports are diving and golf; intermediate-risk sport examples are baseball and cross country; high-risk sport examples are football and wrestling.

3 High-risk extracurricular activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

1G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible (Verify medical office webpage)

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS

- Everyone 12 years of age and older is now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination
- The district will provide staff and parents/guardians with information regarding where vaccines may be obtained. This information will be posted on district nurse's webpage as well as district website
- The district will work closely with local hospitals, pharmacies and healthcare providers to disseminate vaccine information to staff and parents/guardians as is appropriate.

- The East Rutherford School District has continued to partner with Dr. Martha Sliwowski at: 42 Locust Avenue, Wallington, NJ for any students, parents, staff members who are interested in vaccinations. The Pfizer vaccine will be administered at this location.

1H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR PROVIDING APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Special Education

The East Rutherford School District will continue to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) consistent with all health and safety guidelines. If students with disabilities are unable to access the district reopening plan as designed, school teams will facilitate individualized and alternative plans based on student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input.

Parents are partners in the planning for students with disabilities and will be included in decisions made about program modifications in both general and special education. Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services.

- Students will be provided with transportation consistent with their current IEPs.
- Students will follow the school routines with accommodations and modifications required per the IEP or impact of the student's disability.
- Related services will be provided primarily through individual and small group sessions in a separate setting with staff wearing appropriate PPE.
- The room and materials will be cleaned between each session.
- All staff will be required to wear gloves and protective clothing covers.
- Special Education services will be provided as described in the student's current IEP to the maximum extent possible in order to maintain safety of the student and staff.
- Any changes that need to be made to accommodate the implementation of the safety guidelines will be communicated to parents. IEPs will be amended to reflect changes agreed upon.

PreSchool and PreSchool Disabled

- All preschool children will follow the same mask guidance for elementary students as set forth above in the "EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR WEARING A MASK" section.

- Hours of instruction will revert to normal hours with pre designated drop off and pick up areas for each class.
- Related services (pull out) will be provided individually or in a small group of twos according to IEPs.
- Related services (push in) will resume with the appropriate 3ft social distancing adhered to.
- Recess will resume with predesignated times for each class allowing for cohorting. All safety guidelines must be adhered to during recess.
- Cleaning of classroom toys and manipulatives will follow the CDC guidelines.
- Bins will be placed in classrooms to identify soiled toys needing cleaning/laundrying.
- Sensory “table” will remain closed.
- Individual sensory bins can be utilized during this time and disinfected between students’ use.
- Playdough or sensory materials will be utilized by individual students and disposed of daily.
- Students and staff will require multiple sets of change of clothing on site.
- Both clean and soiled clothing will be stored in sealed containers.
- Art materials will be stored in separate bags or bins for each child.
- In the preschool setting, students will continue to be assigned weekly centers instead of daily.
- Weekly assignment of centers will ensure that students are in “cohorts” weekly as opposed to “daily.”
- Weekly cohorts will better lend itself to contact tracing if necessary.
- Nap time will be reinstated only if the appropriate physical distance (3ft.) can be adhered to.
- Lunch will resume with the appropriate social distancing guidelines as well as cleaning protocols being reinforced (e.g. students sitting 3ft apart, cleaning of table tops, after lunch, washing hands after lunch etc.)
- Preschool staff will continue to wear protective gear as practiced in the past.

PART 2: ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDANCE FOR ENSURING CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

- The School Counselors, Social Worker and School Psychologists who constitute our mobilized crisis recovery team will provide emotional and psychological support as needed.
- School Based Counseling support services for students and families will be available July 6- July 30 during our Summer Academic Camp Program as well as during the 2021-2022 school year.
- CST support will be available throughout the 2021-2022 school year for families of students who are in need of behavioral and mental health support.
- School counselors, Social Worker and School Psychologists in conjunction with pertinent outside providers will co-facilitate staff training related to re-entry concerns, e.g. trauma, grief, school avoidance etc.

Mental Health & Social Emotional Initiatives

- School counselors and district behaviorists will consult with classroom teachers about student needs and develop classroom strategies to provide support as appropriate to the age and grade level.
- Identify and refer students to outside counseling as needed.
- Provide safe social distancing for group counseling sessions.
- Co-teach lessons with the health teachers on depression symptoms and warning signs and offer referral services to students and staff as needed.
- Develop behavioral plans for students and families to ensure a smooth transition back to school full time.
- Parent workshops will be held to share coping strategies as well as strategies for handling difficult behaviors within the home environment.

Academic & School Success

- Assists with the development and implementation of adjusted schedules.
- Continue to track student academic growth.
- Continue to submit monthly attendance data according to subgroups
- Collaborate with parents, teachers and related service providers as needed to develop comprehensive learning plans for students as needed.
- Provide Summer intervention through our Summer Academic Enrichment Camp.
- Provide year round after school tutoring in our After School Academic Intervention Program

Social Emotional Supports and Programming

- The district counselors will be launching our 2021-2022 Social Emotional initiative in Fall 2021
- This plan is relevant for all students in East Rutherford and affirms diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- This plan will allow for the implementation of strategies and action steps for systemic improvement, not just an intervention for at-risk students.

Transportation

*** Up to a full bus load masks are required per CDC requirement and Federal Order for all risk levels.**

Low Transmission Risk

- Masks must cover the nose and mouth during transit.
- The mask must be in place prior to boarding the bus, and remain in place during transit .

Moderate Transmission Risk

- May reduce passenger density. **(Depending on CDC Guidelines)**
- Masks must cover the nose and mouth during transit.
- The mask must be in place prior to boarding the bus, and remain in place during transit.

Critical Transmission Risk

- May be suspended completely, with an exception of IEP driven Special Education students as well as students living outside of the 2 mile radius. **(Depending on CDC Guidelines)**

*** Please keep in mind that as the level of transmission risk intensifies, the East Rutherford School District may suspend busing for students. Parents/Guardians will be notified of this busing change.**

Protocols

- Hand sanitizing and temperature checks will be conducted prior to entering the school bus
- Provide face masks on all buses for those students who forget to bring one.
- Students board the bus with the first students on the bus sitting in the back, and filling seats from back-to-front so that the last students loaded are sitting in the front.
- Students must exit the bus with students sitting in the front exiting first.
- Students should sit with their siblings or household members.
- Masks must be worn at all times including boarding and exiting the bus.
- Students who are unaccompanied at the bus stop should not be left alone.
- If a student is refusing to wear a mask, the driver should remind the student, and if the student refuses to comply, the bus driver will continue the route. After arriving safely at the final destination, the driver will follow the reporting procedure to explain the incident to the principal so that administration may follow up and remind families that lack of compliance is a disciplinary issue in order to maintain health and safety. Bus access may be temporarily discontinued for the student if the principal deems it necessary.
- If a driver notifies the principal of non-compliance, the nurse should be called to the bus in order to take the temperature of each child as they exit the bus.
- If a child should become ill while riding the bus and vomit, the driver should call the school so that the nurse meets the bus upon arrival and children may be temporarily sequestered so that their temperature is checked and the sick child may be taken to the designated isolation room.
- Parents are encouraged whenever possible to use personal transportation to transport their children.
- All students and parents and bus personnel should be wearing masks or protective face coverings (one will be provided for them if they do not).

- Students should not have the need to remove their face masks while on the bus, and be encouraged to use minimal vocalization (no yelling).
- Students must wear their masks during the entire bus ride.
- Upon arriving at school students should leave from the front to back to avoid walking through the full bus.
- Students should practice social distancing to the best of their ability until they reach their classroom or destination.
- When possible, windows should remain open for improved ventilation.
- Illness on the bus – any student who becomes ill while on the bus to school shall be separated by at least two seats one in front and one to the side and the bus driver should be instructed to call ahead to notify the nurse that a sick child is arriving. Should the illness occur on the return ride, the driver should notify dispatch and the parent will need to be notified by school.
- Refusal to wear a mask by a student will require the student to be seated as if ill, (two seat isolation) a parent will be notified, school will discipline and the student will be asked to use alternate transportation.

Food Services

Elementary Building:

- In September and October, students will be eating lunches in shifts within their classrooms.
- Lunch is delivered via a box or cart, and the delivery is placed outside the classroom door for the teacher to retrieve. There is no entry into the classroom by the person who is delivering.
- Brown bag or box lunches delivered to the classrooms to mitigate contact.
- All students will receive a recess break during lunch.
- From November (anticipated) through June, students may eat in the cafeteria and classrooms as needed within the social distancing guidelines. No lines will be utilized for lunch service.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch via Genesis. Individual school communication will be sent out with enrollment dates. This process will occur at the beginning of each school year.

Middle School Building:

- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria/multipurpose room, as well as classrooms.
- For students eating in the classrooms, lunch will be delivered via a box or cart, and the delivery is placed outside the classroom door for the teacher to retrieve. There is no entry into the classroom by the person who is delivering.
- All students will receive a recess break during the lunch period.
- No lines will be utilized for lunch service.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced Lunch via Genesis. Individual school communication will be sent out with enrollment dates. This process will occur at the beginning of each school year.

Sports & Extracurricular Activities

- ❑ According to the most updated CDC Guidelines, sports and extracurricular activities occur with at least 6 feet of physical distance to the extent possible when the transmission risk is low.
- ❑ According to the most updated CDC Guidelines, sports and extracurricular activities must occur within 6 feet of physical distance when the transmission risk is moderate.
- ❑ When transmission risk is high or critical, Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with more than 6 feet of physical distance.
- ❑ The District is currently exploring different options for hosting the East Rutherford Basketball and Cheering Team. The building principal will actively seek coaches at the beginning of the school year.

Quality Child Care (YMCA)

- ❑ The YMCA will be providing childcare before and aftercare based on the number of days that students will be physically present in school. [Please see the YMCA Flyer HERE.](#)
- ❑ Bussing will be provided for district students from the McKenzie School campus to the YMCA East Rutherford Campus until November 1st, pending the completion of the McKenzie School gym floor renovations.
- ❑ Families who qualify may apply for financial assistance to offset the cost of before and after care.
- ❑ All registration will be conducted online.
- ❑ YMCA Before & Aftercare Programs will be held at the YMCA until further notice.
- ❑ The YMCA and the East Rutherford School District will collaborate to offer assistance to our most struggling learners who are enrolled in their before and aftercare programs. (At-Risk Students)
- ❑ The YMCA will provide social emotional activities to be completed at home. This will complement the district's Sanford Harmony Program, which is embedded within our instructional K-5th Grade framework.