



Updated 08/13/2020

The Wyckoff School District recognizes the need to be flexible and nimble in responding to new information, and is willing and ready to refine approaches when specific procedures are not working. The reopening of our schools will include necessary limitations to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. Our plan is built upon that premise, but with the recognition that we must be ready to adjust our educational models should consistent health data require it.

Frequently Asked Questions (Alphabetical by Topic)

UPDATE

Today, August 7, 2020, [Governor Murphy](#) announced at the beginning of the Coronavirus Media Briefing that NJDOE released questions and answers regarding school reopening.

These questions and answers are meant to supplement information provided in [The Road Back](#), the Department's reopening guidance for schools.

<https://nj.gov/education/reopening/faqs/index.shtml>

CLEANING / FACILITIES

- A. **Are we going to increase the number of our cleaning/disinfecting team since their job responsibility has increased?**
Yes, we plan to add an additional custodian for each building while school is in session whose sole responsibility will be to perform the additional cleaning procedures outlined in the [Road Back](#).
- B. **Please explain how the new cleaning procedures differ from the old procedures and how frequently the schools will be cleaned.**
Surfaces and areas that are frequently touched will be cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day by our custodial staff, in accordance with state health and safety guidelines, versus once a day as it had been in the past. This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, push plates, light switches, hand railings, water filling stations, faculty rooms and bathroom touch points. Cafeteria tables and chairs will be cleaned and sanitized between each lunch period.

Disinfecting procedures that were typically done weekly will now be done daily by the custodial staff. Daily cleaning and disinfecting will include desks, chairs, floors and other flat surfaces using a high-capacity disinfectant sprayer.

Bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day. While deep cleaning will take place daily by the custodians, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom for use by students and teachers in between classes and throughout the day.

Our cleaning products are approved by the EPA for use against the virus that causes Covid-19, yet safe for use in schools.

- C. Will cleaning the desks, chairs and shields with the provided wipes become part of the student routine prior to leaving or entering a classroom throughout the school day?

Yes.

- D. What specific cleaning products will be used?

All cleaning products are approved by the EPA as safe for schools and hospitals and are effective against the virus that causes Covid-19. Custodial staff uses Enviro Solutions 64H and Total Solutions Spec 4 for disinfecting. Teachers and classrooms will be provided with Clorox disinfecting wipes for use in between cleaning by the custodians.

*According to the EPA website, Total Solutions offers 0 products that are proven effective against COVID and Enviro Solutions offers only 1 product proven effective against COVID. Will this be addressed?

Total Solutions is the distributor name.. The EPA Registration Number for Total Solutions Spec 4 is 6836-340.

- E. How is air circulated in each of our buildings?

Each of the elementary school buildings (except gyms), and two-thirds of the middle school is air-conditioned. All classrooms in all schools (even those at EMS that are not air-conditioned) have fresh air circulation, and dampers will remain open for fresh air circulation in all classrooms. As per NJ QSAC, we meet all state-mandated requirements for fresh air supply. Filters have been and will continue to be changed frequently.

- F. If the HVAC system circulates air throughout a building, doesn't that mean that a "contaminated class" will be spreading to other classrooms?

No, each classroom has its own univent which has its own fresh air supply and exhaust. It is not linked into another classroom.

- G. Can you provide details on air cleaning? IE: What type of filters will be used, where you use bipolar ionization or UV light?

The univents (air flow exchangers) in the elementary school classrooms have all been replaced within the past five years. They all run on a building automation software that is monitored daily. Outside air comes into the building and through a filter before entering the classrooms. For our HVAC systems that are roof top, outside air is also run through a filtration system before entering the building.

Our buildings use MERV (minimum efficiency reporting value) 5 and 10 filters. It provides filtering yet allows for maximum fresh air flow into the buildings. The system is designed to bring in fresh air, filter the air, and remove it from the building.

Bi-polar ionization and UV lights are not being considered at this time because the studies are inconclusive as to the effectiveness of both products and there are safety concerns with the use of UV lights. Neither products are recommended by the State nor CDC for use in schools..

- H. Will water fountains be available?

Traditional water fountains will be closed, but hands-free water bottle fillers are available throughout the buildings. Students are encouraged to bring a filled reusable water bottle to school that is clearly marked with their name.

- I. Will any classes be held outside?

Outdoor learning spaces will be utilized when possible and appropriate for the learning environment. Outdoor tents and mobile instructional materials will be used to facilitate outside learning when and where feasible.

- J. Will parents be allowed to see their child's classroom and or provided a map or diagram of their child's classroom, to include desk setup, desk shields, traffic flow, etc? Can we be told more about the desk shields...Maker, size, etc...?
Elementary classrooms will be equipped with student desks (rather than tables) spaced out in rows 4-6 feet apart depending on the number of students in each classroom. A desk shield of 21 inches in height will be given to each student. To promote social distancing, most other furniture will be temporarily removed from the classroom. As we head closer to the start of the school year and the rooms are prepared for student and staff return, pictures will be shared with parents of typical layouts of classrooms.
UPDATE: Please find pictures of the desk shields here:
[Desk Image 1](#)
[Desk Image 2](#)
- K. Have the older sinks been replaced with automatic, "no-touch" faucets? The existing sinks make it very difficult for students to properly wash their hands.
Because the district has more than 100 bathroom sinks between students and faculty restrooms, updating them all with "no touch" faucets is not economically feasible at this time.
- L. Can we order/utilize portable sinks and air purifiers for the classrooms?
It would be cost prohibitive to add portable sinks to all classrooms. Sinks with soap and water are available in the restrooms throughout the buildings. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently. Our air purification system is explained in detail in item F above. There would be no need to bring in portable air purifiers.
- M. Will the Middle School students have desk shields?
Desk shields are not planned in middle school classes where social distancing can be achieved.
- N. Regarding the support classrooms without windows, will instruction in those rooms be moved to another space?
There are a few small group instructional spaces throughout the district that do not have windows, yet they are all provided with fresh air via the HVAC system.

FACE COVERINGS

- A. Can you define what constitutes a mask... guidelines or minimum requirements and provide a video or informational session for parents and children to view prior to school opening that gives instruction on proper wearing and removal of the mask?
A mask or any type of cloth face covering is required in school. Face shields are not designed to take the place of a mask; therefore, if a face shield is worn, a mask must still be worn underneath. The CDC provides the [following guidance](#) on wearing masks. Working together with our school nurses, we will provide ongoing instruction and guidance to our students regarding the proper use of masks. During the summer, parents should ensure that students begin to get comfortable wearing a mask and building endurance.
- B. Will students, staff and custodians be required to wear face coverings while in the schools? The NJDOE says they are recommended but not required.
Yes. Students, school staff, custodians and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. There will be frequent breaks throughout the day where students will be able to remove their face coverings. Examples: outdoor physical education or breaks, and individual student health concerns. Students with health concerns will be required to wear a face shield.

While it is expected that students and employees bring their own masks, each school will have an extra supply to replace lost or damaged masks. Physical barriers will be provided for classrooms and offices, including desk shields and plexiglass barriers. Accommodations will be made for students with special needs.

We strongly encourage parents to begin practicing having our younger students wear masks. In addition, we ask parents to explain the importance of wearing a mask to protect each other.

- C. Will there be a district policy in place for wearing face coverings? What will be the recourse if/when a student, parent, custodian, etc... will not wear or takes off their face mask?
Yes, face coverings will be required for students and staff in the school buildings. Our response to a student taking off his/her face covering will be from an educational standpoint, recognizing the developmental age of the student and the reason for the difficulty wearing the mask. Our staff will work with families and students during this process, and the response may be situational. We encourage parents to work with their children to build up stamina in wearing the face covering as we progress through the end of summer.
- D. Will parents be notified if a child or teacher in their child's classroom has a special exemption from wearing a face mask? Will people with exemptions be required to wear a shield?
Parents will not be notified. Every student in school will be required to wear a face covering. With regards to exemptions, a shield will be required.
- E. Will teachers be provided with face shields? Will masks that show teacher or student mouths be provided?
Each school will have a number of adult face shields available to be used as extra protection over a mask, if desired. The district is currently researching various types of masks, including those with a sheer portion where the mouth can be seen.
- F. Will the sheer/clear face masks (for hearing impaired students) be available to the teachers by the start of school?
We are acquiring a small supply of those face masks to be trialed and distributed to educators working with certain populations of students. If there is success with this style of mask then additional masks can be purchased.
- G. Considering that teachers will be wearing face coverings (mask and/or shield) which will muffle their voices, will they be outfitted with microphones?
Some district classrooms are equipped with microphones. We will monitor a need for more.
- H. Will the requirement to wear a mask change in a classroom of 16 students or less that meets the social distancing requirements of 16 students/6ft?
Students are required to wear face coverings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Although student desks may be placed at six feet apart, at any given time a child or staff member may be closer than 6 feet. With that being said, mask breaks will be provided and individual student needs will be considered.
- I. The orders of NJ state : "Face coverings are required in indoor public spaces and in outdoor public spaces when social distancing is difficult to maintain. When you are confident that social distancing is possible in the classrooms, why are you still mandating face coverings?
Recently, the NJDOE revised its anticipated minimum standard regarding the use of face coverings to require that all students wear face coverings, except where doing so would inhibit the individual's health or in the exceptions listed below. The amended language will state:
"Critical Area of Operation #5: Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms Anticipated Minimum Standards
• *Students are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals*

with disabilities”.

HAND WASHING/SANITIZING

A. How will hand washing/sanitizing take place in the schools?

Hand sanitizing dispensers will be installed at school entrances, nurse offices, hallways, and common areas such as the cafeteria and multipurpose rooms. In addition, every classroom will be provided with an adequate supply of hand sanitizer. Proper hand washing with soap and water will be encouraged and taught. Parents are encouraged to reinforce these practices at home, as well.

HEALTH (Screening, PPE, Presentation of Symptoms)

A. How will you protect all students and staff members, including those with and without medical issues?

According to the CDC, currently, the most effective way to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is using multiple mitigation strategies in combination. This includes students, teachers, and staff staying home when sick; appropriately covering coughs and sneezes; wearing face coverings; social distancing; cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces; and washing hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol ([cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

Our school district is also offering a full, virtual learning option for any and all students whose family chooses this option. Please refer to specific topics throughout the FAQ.

B. Will there be daily health screenings for all students, teachers, staff and custodians? And for substitute teachers?

The district is in the process of developing screening protocols for students, staff, custodians and substitute teachers, according to the [Road Back](#) guidelines. Screenings will likely include a questionnaire and temperature check. Sample screening items from the CDC can be viewed here to give you an idea of the types of screening questions for families that will be included in our protocols:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/Daily-Home-Screening-for-Students-Checklist-ACTIVE-rev1.pdf>

C. Is there a plan for rapid testing within the school for teachers and students?

Currently, no. We are exploring this area and will communicate with families and staff if any type of on-site testing options will be offered in the future.

D. What will be the procedure if/when a student or staff member is sent home with symptoms? How will they be discharged from the building?

According to the NJDOE's [Road Back](#), students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others.

Students or staff who are showing signs of illness upon screening will be sent to the designated quarantine area in their building. The quarantine/isolation spaces will be used for only one person at a time. Additional spaces would be utilized should more than one person be ill in the same building at the same time. The quarantine/isolation spaces will be properly sanitized following CDC protocol.

Parents/Guardians/Emergency Contacts of students will be notified to retrieve the student immediately at the door closest to the designated quarantine area or Nurses Office. The school nurse or designated staff member will escort students to the door

to meet their parent/guardian/emergency contact. The parent/guardian will be required to sign the student out, as per the school's sign out protocol. If students do not get picked up immediately, they will remain in the quarantine area.

If a student or staff member is showing signs of illness within a classroom, they will be evaluated by the school nurse. Students or staff members who are determined to be ill by our nursing staff will be sent home in the same manner as stated previously.

Before returning to school, the student/staff member must present a medical clearance note from a doctor AND be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

E. What happens when a student, staff member, custodian, or YMCA staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

If a school district becomes aware that any individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

Based on current information provided by the Bergen County Department of Health, if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, the specific class, the teacher (first degree of contact), and any other contact must self-quarantine for two weeks.

To prevent the spread of the virus, all areas used by the infected person will be immediately closed down for at least 24 hours before cleaning as per CDC guidelines. After 24 hours, windows will be opened to increase air circulation and all areas will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

A virtual visit with the school nurse will be conducted before returning to school. The virtual visit will be scheduled one day prior to return.

F. What if the Governor shuts down all schools again?

The District will follow all updated directives from the Governor as well as the State and county departments of health and education, and will be prepared to shift to remote learning if such a mandate is issued or if health conditions warrant this shift.

G. If, as a parent, I elect to send my child to school in September, can I later decide to switch to remote learning? And vice versa?

Yes, parents may change their decision regarding remote or in-person instruction; however, please note that there may be a delay before the desired change goes into effect, in order to effectively prepare for the transition.

H. How will the district address the emotional needs of staff and students during these unique circumstances?

As a district, we recognize that the transition back to school, both in person and virtually, will be especially challenging during these times. Students and staff may experience associated stress, anxiety, and emotional needs. As members of our school-based Pandemic Response Teams, our guidance counselors will work together with staff and administration to address these needs. Our district's focus on social-emotional learning through Responsive Classroom (elementary school) and Advisory (middle school) will lend itself to providing this level of support. School administrators will work closely with our building based teams to ensure they understand the unique needs of students and staff during this time and maintain open lines of communication.

J. How will temperature screening for students be managed at drop off?

Our Pandemic Response teams are currently working out these details.

LUNCH @ EISENHOWER

A. How will lunch work? Where will middle school students be eating?

Lunch will be available on a daily basis at the middle school through our food service provider, Pomptonian. It will consist of pre-packaged, grab-and-go items available at kiosks. Parents will be encouraged to prepay for their student to reduce the handling of cash. While lunch will be available for purchase on a limited basis, we encourage students to bring lunch from home as often as possible. We are exploring the purchase of a pre-ordering system to expedite the distribution of meals.

We will provide sufficient seating for all students to eat lunch outdoors, using six foot tables to limit the distance between students. We are planning to utilize canopies/tents as cover in the event of inclement weather. In the event that weather conditions are too severe for outdoor dining, students will be divided between the media center and cafeteria, seated at individual tables, positioned 6 feet apart to maintain proper social distancing.

Tables indoors and outdoors will be cleaned and disinfected after each lunch period.

- B. **How are we able to offer indoor lunch with the State ban on indoor dining?**
Schools will follow the NJDOE [Road Back](#) to provide a lunch environment to meet the guidelines.
- C.. **Can EMS students be signed out for lunch by their parent/s?**
It's always a parents' prerogative to sign their child out for a portion of the day.

REMOTE / VIRTUAL LEARNING

- A. **How will the schools cover the mandated curriculum in a remote learning environment? Will remote learning follow the same curriculum as the in-person instruction for Wyckoff schools?**
Our innovative staff and approach to curriculum and learning has positioned the Wyckoff School District to seamlessly transition to a virtual learning environment. The curriculum will be the same for both virtual and in-person instruction. In planning, we are focused on continuing to build highly effective instruction in both virtual and in-person learning environments. Learning gaps will be assessed throughout each unit of instruction, as we continue to focus on meeting the major content outlined in the grade-level New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).
- B. **Can you elaborate on the format for virtual learning please? Will it be live instruction? Will the "off" days be presented to middle school students virtually via a live video feed? When students are learning online, how will you ensure the proper quality of education for all of the students?**
All students will participate in daily learning. Elementary remote students will be taught by a certified Wyckoff School District teacher, dedicated to and grouped by grade level. All middle school virtual students will be attending each class live, virtually through Google Meet, according to their daily schedule. Students will be able to participate/ask questions when they are present virtually. The format for student participation and questions will vary based on the particular lesson and activity. The schedules will be synchronous, with students virtually participating in all assigned classes, following the in-school bell schedules for elementary and middle school students. Attendance will be taken.
All students are expected to attend their classes and work through the curriculum regardless of their location. Students attending class from home are expected to engage with their classroom teacher as determined by the teacher, using video conferencing tools (i.e. Zoom, Google Meet) and any other digital platforms/tools provided by the district. Students will be expected to complete and submit assignments, and will be assessed both formatively and summatively by the teacher.
- C. **Will all students be given Chromebooks or other technology devices?**
All students in grades 2-8 will continue to receive Chromebooks for both in-person and remote learning. Students in grades Pre-K, K and 1 will be given the option to request a district-issued device if needed for remote learning.

- D. Will cameras be set up in each EMS classroom?
Instruction will be live streamed directly by the teacher. Currently, the district is considering iPads as the livestream device for use by teachers.
- E. Will children be at a disadvantage if they do only remote learning? Will they have an opportunity to meet with their teachers remotely if they need extra help?
Students will not be at a disadvantage if they select remote learning. In the elementary schools, students will participate and interact daily with their assigned remote learning teacher for live instruction.
EMS students will participate in livestreaming with their classrooms. EMS students will also be able to participate in the TIEE sessions for extra help.
- F. Will virtual classes be recorded and accessible for review for students who have difficulty with the virtual learning platform?
The virtual classes will not be recorded.
- G. Has the district developed a better/more improved plan for 100% remote learning, both from a learning and teaching standpoint? What has been improved?
The remote learning will provide an increased amount of live instruction, more small group interactions, and increased assessment.
- H. Will the virtual teachers be familiar with/have experience with teaching the grade level and will virtual learners be assigned to their grade level teacher?
Staffing decisions regarding who will be teaching virtually at each grade level have not been decided yet, as it needs to be determined which teachers might not be returning in person.
- I. If/when we have to go back to 100% remote learning, will the initial remote learners stay with their remote teacher or will they join the classroom teacher ?
To provide for consistency and continuity of instruction, our current thinking is that remote learners will remain with their “remote teacher.” Although we cannot predict factors beyond our control or unique circumstances, we feel that the consistency will be important especially since there is the possibility of multiple changes throughout the year between in-person and remote learning. This is subject to change depending on the circumstances.
- J. Will there be opportunities for virtual learners in Elementary School to engage with and interact with their Principal and classroom peers?
Opportunities will be planned for students to interact with their classroom peers. Additionally, each principal will make every effort to reach out to those students and help them stay in touch with the school community.
- K. Have our teachers received training or Professional Development on virtual teaching?
Yes, time has been devoted to meet staff needs, and offer multiple opportunities for differentiated PD, including virtual learning/teaching. Over the last several years, we have focused on professional development related to academics, social-emotional learning, technology and virtual learning/teaching. We continue to provide this professional support on an ongoing basis to equip our educators with the heightened skills to meet the social, emotional, health, and academic needs of all students. Additionally, Technology teachers in each of our schools are able to offer consistent, ongoing PD.
- L. If a class is sent home to quarantine, will they transition to remote learning for the quarantine period? Will students sent home with any illness transition to remote learning while they are out of school?
Yes, students in this situation would transition to remote learning for the quarantine period.

- M. I understand the state is requiring data from school districts relative to the percentage of students choosing remote learning. Will personal/identifying information be sent as well?
No.

SCHEDULE (Elementary)

- A. How will the elementary classrooms be set up?
Although room set up is still being finalized at the elementary level, plans are in place for students to be seated predominantly at desks instead of tables. The district is currently in the process of ordering desks and desk shields to meet this need. Desks will be arranged facing the same direction. Extra furniture in the classrooms may need to be removed to maximize space and promote social distancing. All students will be provided with a desk shield.
- B. Will the elementary students be going to the specials or remain in their classroom with specialists coming to them?
All efforts will be made to limit student movement to other classrooms within the school to minimize multiple cohorts of students using shared spaces during the school day. Special area teachers will make efforts to utilize outdoor spaces when feasible, or conduct special area classes within the homeroom classroom.
- C. Will the special areas be less than an hour at the elementary school?
The elementary schools will follow a minimum day schedule. The amount of time allocated for Specials may be reduced. We will be working over the next few weeks to finalize schedules.
- D. Why is middle school going to be full day and the elementary schools only a minimum day?
The scheduling models for each grade span were selected based on a logistical analysis of each school's facilities, enrollment, and operations, along with research-based data regarding the safe reopening of schools. The elementary schools will be operating at full capacity on a minimum day basis because large spaces throughout the elementary schools can be utilized for instruction, thereby lowering the number of people in each classroom, aiding in social distancing.
- E. With a reduction in learning time due to the minimum day schedule, will the elementary school students be given virtual learning in the afternoon or completing additional curriculum work at home?
The elementary school day will incorporate live, virtual, small group instruction to support student needs in the afternoon, as stated in the district's Reopening School Plan.
- F. Will the 4th and 5th grade teachers change classrooms for Reading and Math?
Elementary schedules are still being finalized and we are receiving feedback from our teaching staff regarding the format of instruction in 4th and 5th grade where students have typically switched classes for some of the core academic subjects.
- G. Will students have the opportunity to work in teams, small groups or partnerships?
Yes, students will have the opportunity to work in teams, small groups or partnerships with the use of masks and desk shields in a way that will maintain social distancing.
- H. Since there is no hybrid schedule available for Elementary students, can parents create their own hybrid schedule by sending their child to school for 2 of the days and do remote learning the other days?
No, this is not an option.
- I. Will the elementary school students have recess and snack time?

Yes, at the elementary level, students will be provided with breaks and opportunities to go outside for fresh air and movement. These breaks will take place in smaller classroom based groups, as opposed to the large recess period as it was once scheduled. We do believe it is important for students to have the opportunity to have a quick snack. School-based Pandemic Response Teams are meeting to develop safe protocols for this. Options include outdoor snacks or alternating by rows in the classroom. Hand-sanitizing and/or hand washing will take place before and after snack.

J. Will elementary school students be keeping their belongings (coats, backpacks, etc...) with them at their desk?

The logistics of items such as this are still being worked out by our School-Based Pandemic Response Teams. Procedures for this might very well vary from class to class or school to school, based on the class size, layout of the classroom, etc. More information about that will follow from your child's classroom teacher and/or principal. School nurses will be asked input on all such decisions. Students should not bring a backpack or other items from home to school other than a snack if desired.

K. Will the student's supplies be safely stored within the school, kept on their person or brought home between school days?

At the elementary level, each student will have his or her own desk. Student supplies will be stored in their desks. Many students will also be provided with "seat sacks" to store additional supplies. There will be minimal sharing of student supplies, manipulatives, etc.

UPDATE: Students can bring backpacks to and from school.

SCHEDULE (Middle School)

A. Will siblings in high school be on the same schedule with middle school students?

Yes. We are working closely with the regional, public high schools to develop a system whereby students are split into groups that keep families on the same schedule.

B. Will twins or siblings be able to attend in-school learning on the same scheduled days?

Yes. We will make every effort to keep students from the same family together at both the middle school and our regional, public high schools.

C. Will students move from class to class at EMS?

Yes. Students will follow our regular schedule, which limits student movement to one grade level at a time. Considering the hybrid scheduling approach, reducing daily capacity and the geographic placement of our teams within the building, we feel that students can change classes while meeting the safety requirements outlined in the NJDOE's guidance. Additionally, we will not be assigning lockers to start the school year to reduce the traffic flow in our hallways.

D. Will EMS run after school clubs?

This has not yet been determined, as after school clubs tend not to begin until October. If we determine that it is feasible and safe to run our club program we will certainly offer extra-curricular activities for all students.

E. Will cycle classes at EMS (home ec, STEM, ETV, etc) continue to be 6 week cycles?

Yes. We plan to run all of our normal cycle classes. Both every other day courses and 36 day cycle classes will be a part of our instructional program.

F. Will EMS still have TIEE time?

Yes

G. Will EMS students be using the Gym locker Rooms?

Lockers will not be used. Students will come to school in comfortable clothing and sneakers.

- H. Is sending students to EMS for a ½ day an option?
No, it is not.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- A. How will teachers of the younger grades address the physical contact that some need during the first several weeks of school?
Students and teachers will be required to wear face coverings, and will be encouraged to sanitize hands frequently.
- B. How will students be able to socially distance in the schools? How many students will be in each classroom? Will students be 6ft. apart?
Our elementary class sizes currently range from 15-22 students. Desks will all face the same direction, spaced with students generally sitting 4 to 6 feet apart with desk shields. Our standard sized classrooms can fit a class of 16 students at 6 feet apart, and a class of 20 students at 5 feet apart. Schools will use physical guides, such as tape on floors or walkways, one-way routes in hallways, and signs on walls to promote social distancing. We are still determining the number of students/families selecting the 100% remote learning option. For this reason, we are unable to know at this time exactly how many students will be in one class at a time.
Schools will also use outdoor spaces, weather-permitting, to enable social distancing.
- C. Have you determined the staggered pick up and drop off times and if so when are they?
At the elementary level, we anticipate staggering drop-off and pick-up times by about ten minutes to facilitate social distancing. These times are still being worked out as we look at instructional schedules and staffing.
- D. How can/will social distancing be maintained during outdoor learning and throughout the hallways for the Elementary School students?
In the elementary schools, our goal is to minimize traffic and movement through the hallway as much as possible. The school administration and Pandemic Response Teams will make recommendations for safe movement through the hallway perhaps utilizing floor decals, one way traffic, staggered classes, etc.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

- A. How will IEPs be fully satisfied given the elementary school schedule is 1/2 day?
Special education services, including replacement classes, self-contained classes and in-class support classes will function as they would on a minimum day schedule. Related services will be scheduled once the students attending in-person instruction and the students attending virtual instruction are known.
- B. Will children with an IEP still receive services if I choose the virtual option?
Yes. Case managers will contact families who select the virtual option to communicate how IEP services will be delivered.
- C. What will the accommodations be for special education students?
All IEP and 504 mandated accommodations will be in place for students.
- D. How will the EMS Special Ed students receive their services on their “home” days? Will they be allowed to attend school all 5 days?
Students will participate in live streamed classes, and are expected to attend and follow their AA, BB schedule.

- E. Will children receiving special services have enough classroom learning time if they are being pulled out to receive therapies during the shortened school day? Can therapies be done after the classroom dismissal time?
The district will look to schedule related services at times to minimize the impact on core academics.
- F. Will face coverings be removed during Speech sessions with proper distancing?
The speech language therapists will be given a variety of shields and masks which will be used along with social distancing to deliver services.

STAFFING

- A. What are the new policies on excused absences allotted for teachers and children?
The District is currently developing revised policies for staff and student attendance, which will be communicated prior to the start of school.
- B. Will the school still hire substitute teachers if a teacher is sick?
Yes. Substitute teachers, as well as leave replacement teachers, will be hired to meet the staffing needs of the district. The district is in the process of developing screening protocols for students and staff, including substitute teachers, per the *NJ Road Back* guidelines.
- A. With the ongoing shortage of substitute teachers, what is your plan to make sure we have an ample amount of substitute teachers during COVID?
In anticipation of a potential need and shortage of substitutes, we are reserving substitute teachers for the month of September to ensure that there are extra staff available at each building. Each substitute would follow standard screening protocols and would be assigned to the same school each day.
- C. Have you determined the number of teachers who will and will not be returning to ensure we will have an adequate number of teachers?
The Superintendent is in the process of determining if there are teachers who will request an accommodation to their teaching assignment.

TRANSPORTATION

- A. What are the procedures and safety measures for the bus?
Since social distancing is not possible on the school bus, face coverings will be required. We are working with Region One to develop cleaning and sanitizing procedures in accordance with the guidelines.

YMCA BEFORE/AFTERCARE

- A. How will before and aftercare work at the elementary schools? Will there be special procedures in place?
The only students that will be allowed in the building before and after school are registered YMCA students and students approved by an administrator or superintendent. It is our plan to keep students for YMCA before and after care predominantly in the MPR and gym, as well as outdoors. The designated areas in each school for before/after care will be disinfected before and after use. Depending on YMCA enrollment, students may need to be co-mingled from the cohort groups they were in during the school day. All group and class rosters will be vigilantly maintained to track student contacts during school and

YMCA care hours. The YMCA is governed by the health and safety guidelines for child care providers, and will provide their protocols to parents in the coming days.

OTHER

A. Are parents allowed in the school buildings during the school year?

All parents and other visitors will be required to have an appointment to enter school. Screening will take place prior to entry. Anyone who arrives at the school without an appointment will be denied entry (except for emergencies and a district Nurse) and will be directed to make an appointment. We will make every effort to hold parent teacher conferences, PTO Meetings, and child study team meetings virtually whenever possible to reduce the number of visitors in each building.

B. Can you arrange follow-up forums specific to Elementary School and Middle School so that parents can attend an updated and relevant discussion?

As plans evolve and begin to further materialize, it is our hope to plan follow-up forums to answer questions more specific to elementary or middle school.

C. Are snow days still built into the calendar when we have a virtual learning option and if so, why?

The NJDOE has granted permission to allow for virtual days during the Pandemic only thus far.