



2020-2021 School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

Learning Model Options

What are my choices when sending my child back to school?

Hybrid Classroom Instruction: Students will physically see and interact with their teacher(s) and classmates and follow their class/course schedule each day at their school. This will include health and safety protocols to include social distancing, controlled movement and increased sanitation efforts.

Virtual: Remote learning students will maintain their enrollment status at their brick and mortar schools and will attend school online during regular school hours and follow a standard schedule. All students will be expected to adhere to daily attendance guidelines, log in and attend class during the designated times. Remote learning courses will be designed to ensure rigor matches the traditional classroom setting.

Homeschool: In New Jersey, the Legislature under the compulsory education law (N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25) has permitted children to receive “equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school,” including the home. Students must withdraw from the district for homeschooling.

If I sign up for one option – can I change my mind at any time, or does it have to be after the trimester?

When making a selection, parents are committing to at least the first trimester (through December 4, 2020). The district will work with families to make accommodations in extenuating circumstances.

School Procedures

What is the process if there is a positive COVID-19 case in my school?

Upon notification of a positive result, a parent or employee will notify their principal or supervisor, respectively. The principal or supervisor will notify the nurse and superintendent. Upon receipt, the superintendent or designee will notify the Atlantic County Department of Health. The district will follow the recommendations of the DOH.

Returning to campus: Staff and students will follow current Atlantic County Department of Health guidelines.

Contact Tracing: Mullica Township School District is collaborating with the Department of Health to conduct contact tracing. Upon notification of a positive case on campus, district personnel will contact the Department of Health and assist them as necessary.

My child cannot wear a mask – can I file for an exemption?

Students or staff must have a medical issue for which a face covering would cause an impairment. There is also an applicable exemption for students or staff who need to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired and needs to see the person's mouth to communicate.

If my child is quarantined for 14 days, can they easily transition into remote learning for that time so they don't miss instruction?

Our district will make necessary accommodations for students to continue learning in case of an illness or quarantine.

Health & Safety

Are face coverings required when entering school buildings?

Yes. Students, staff, vendors and visitors will be required to wear face coverings on campus at all times. Students shall wear these face coverings while riding on school buses. School administration and/or staff will be stationed at entry points to remind students to wear face coverings prior to entering school. In instances where reusable masks are left at home, a disposable mask will be provided for the day. Students who repeatedly do not wear a mask on school grounds will be educated on their importance while faculty will work to use restorative practices to encourage students to utilize a mask.

Can my child bring his or her own mask to school?

Yes, your child can wear a mask provided from home. They must be school appropriate and shall not interfere with the district's dress code policy.

How often will my school be cleaned?

Schools will be cleaned daily, focusing on major touch entry points in common areas such as doorknobs, handles, elevator buttons, stairwell railings, light switches and soap dispensers. Custodial staff will disinfect using proper cleaning products (ADQ, Avistat-D) with microfiber cloths to spray and wipe down objects. Custodial staff will create a schedule to clean cafeteria tables and classrooms throughout the day.

- **Routine cleaning:** Throughout the workday, the custodial staff will implement a routine of surface cleaning in the major touch point areas discussed such as restrooms. The staff will, in some cases, report at staggered times depending upon hours of operation to ensure consistent disinfection practices while primary building employees are present. Later custodial shifts will apply the full standard cleaning of all areas to be ready for the next day. Additional disinfecting will be performed prior to the arrival of district staff in high-traffic areas such as the front office. Custodial staff will wear face masks and gloves.

- **Deep cleaning:** If a positive COVID-19 case is determined within a school or building, district staff will use an approved chemical and fogging machine to disinfect any area deemed appropriate by contract tracing processes. The Vital Oxide sanitizer for spray or foam application is OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), WHMIS (Workplace hazardous Materials Information System) and GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals) compliant.

What precautions are you taking on school buses?

Students will be encouraged to stay socially distanced while at the bus stop. This must be a joint education effort between families and school personnel. Students will be socially distanced as much as the physical capacity of the bus allows. Students will load the bus from back to front in order to encourage social distancing throughout the bus ride. School administration, in conjunction with the driver, will establish seating charts with social distancing in mind to the best of their ability. Bus drivers will have disposable masks to hand out to students in the event a student does not have his or her mask. Buses will be cleaned as per the NJDOE guidance.

What is the district doing to ensure children and staff are mentally healthy?

Students, staff and families have encountered additional stress and anxiety over these past few months. Mullica Township School District has entered into an agreement with AtlantiCare for a district wellness counselor. This individual will work with staff, students, and families to address mental wellness.

Mental Wellness Support:

- Triage needs and provide supports to families and educators
- Modify schedules as needed for students and staff
- Ongoing consultation to school-based teams on mental health, threat assessments and suicide assessment
- Crisis Intervention Team ready for response when needed
- Enhance partnerships with network of mental health professionals to provide services
- Provide a blended model of support, inclusive of in-person and virtual deployment of mental health services

Operations

How will classrooms be modified to keep students safe?

- Student desks will be spaced as far apart as physically possible within each classroom. To the maximum extent possible, extraneous furniture will be removed from each classroom for proper social distancing practices. Administrators will review classroom designs prior to the start of the school year. Students will be required to wear face coverings. Each classroom will be outfitted with additional hand sanitizers, first aid kits, and additional supplies to encourage proper cleaning practices. Students and staff will work together to ensure everyone is contributing to a healthy environment by wiping surfaces after classroom instruction is complete.

How will students be social distanced during lunch?

A: Lunches will be served using Grab-and-Go boxed meals. Grab and Go meals will be eaten at home. Staff members will be assigned to meal distribution monitoring to ensure social distancing.

How will you maintain social distancing in hallways?

Staffmembers will escort students to common areas when possible, to ensure social distancing and prevent hallway gatherings. Students will be directed to walk on the right-hand side of the hallways at all times and enter and exit common areas through different doors where possible. Schools will also place signage where appropriate to encourage social distancing.

Does my child have to wear a face covering at their desk?

Students must wear face coverings/masks at all times. Students will be provided with mask breaks throughout the day. Such breaks will incorporate outdoor locations (when appropriate) and social distancing.

What does a remote learning day look like? How long will my student sit in front of a computer?

Remote learning students will receive instruction on a schedule that mirrors (as much as possible) with in-person learning. Sample schedules will be contained in the reopening plan.

Will remote learning provide textbooks and other necessary materials where possible?

Yes. Students will be issued any associated materials where possible.

Is there any flexibility with remote learning for parents who work? Can lessons or assignments be done in the evening?

Remote learning students will attend school online during regular school hours and follow an established school schedule. Typically assigned work will be due the next school day.

Will the district be providing devices for all children?

All students in grades 1-8 who are enrolled in the district will be issued a Chromebook.

Can my child still come to school for band/sports/extracurricular activities?

These activities may be restricted to students attending in-person instruction.

How involved do I need to be as a parent in remote learning?

Parents will likely need to provide daily guidance to their learner. Parents are expected to oversee their child's participation and provide guidance in completing assignments and seeking teacher feedback.

How are we going to put enough rigor into remote learning so that students are challenged?

Remote learning will be designed to ensure rigor matches the traditional classroom setting. Standards prioritized in the scope and sequence of instruction to support students as they enter the next grade and course level. High-quality curriculum and learning experiences are being designed that can be implemented in both the traditional and remote learning model. Students are expected to participate daily in the remote learning option; attendance will be recorded when a student logs in each day. The student will adhere to a schedule that resembles traditional school hours, and the program will mirror the content, rigor and daily expectations as if participating in classroom-based learning.

If I choose remote learning, will my student be learning with children who are also in a classroom? Will teachers provide instruction for students in both online and traditional classroom settings?

No. While the content that both groups of students will be learning is the same, the instructional delivery will be adapted for the remote learning group of students. There may be teachers dedicated to the remote learning platform and those dedicated to the traditional classroom model.

Will kids with an IEP be given special assistance with remote learning?

For families choosing remote learning, the IEP team will meet to ensure that the district's online program is individualized for each student in the remote learning environment. Special education and related services as identified in the IEP during remote learning may be provided in a variety of ways including the use of telephone calls, instructional support materials, internet based or virtual lessons and/or virtual therapies, and other available distance-based learning approaches.

My child has an IEP. Will a special education teacher provide remote instruction?

For families choosing remote learning, the IEP team will meet to ensure that the district's online program is individualized for each student in the remote learning environment. Special education and related services as identified in the IEP during remote learning may be provided in a variety of ways including the use of telephone calls, instructional support materials, internet based or virtual lessons and/or virtual therapies, and other available distance-based learning approaches.

Will visitors be permitted on campus?

Visitors will be strictly limited on school campuses. It is essential to create a healthy and safe environment by limiting potential COVID-19 exposure whenever possible. Our district will be limiting access to visitors and volunteers to appointment only.