

Reopening Hackensack Schools

Restart & Recovery

7/30/20



**HACKENSACK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Welcome

The events of the past several months have had a dramatic impact on education as we know it. There has never been such uncertainty.

As we prepare for school reopening in the fall, we acknowledge that the conditions for learning involve social, emotional, and environmental factors that can impact educator capacity to teach and student capacity to learn, including standards for maintaining healthy and safe school conditions. We also recognize the impact that social isolation has had on both educators and students alike.

It is my hope that today's presentation will begin to answer some of your questions and concerns.



Notes for Today

- Use the chat box to ask questions.
 - Type your questions in English or Spanish.
 - We will do our best to answer all of your questions but with 500 participants it just may not be possible.
 - Questions will be answered once to maximize the number of questions we answer. Please try to not ask questions that were already asked or repeat questions that were already addressed in the presentation.
 - This meeting is being recorded and will be made available for review.
- All questions are good questions. Be respectful of others.
- Today's meeting will focus on the September reopening and phase 1 at the District level.
 - Schools will hold their own parent meetings to discuss building based matters.



Reopening Plan

Nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of our students and staff. To that end, we are committed to taking all necessary health and safety precautions to make sure that students and staff are safe during instruction.

Please note the following:

- Schools will open in September for in-person instruction in some capacity as required by Governor Murphy.
- Parents have the option of choosing a full remote option.
- The district does not have the authority to keep schools closed.
- All plans are subject to revision based on public health trends and guidelines from the Governor and the NJDOE.



Restart Committee

- A Restart Committee has been established to develop the Board's Restart and Recovery Plan. The Restart Committee, which reflects the diversity of the school community, includes school district and school-level administrators, members of the Board of Education, the President and officers of the local education association, a diverse set of content experts, educators, parents, students, the Local Health Department, and others in municipal and county government.
- One of the main goals of the Restart Committee is to ensure that the provisions marked "anticipated minimum standards" as outlined in the Guidance have been incorporated into the Board's Plan and corresponding protocols, as applicable. The Restart Committee developed subcommittees to focus on Student Learning and Logistics.



Pandemic Response Team

The Restart Committee works closely with the School Pandemic Response Teams to help address policies and procedures of the Board's Plan. Each School-based Pandemic Response Team (PRT) has been established to centralize, expedite, and implement COVID-19 related decision-making. Each school team's Principal will serve as the liaison that reports to district-level administrators to ensure coordinated actions across the district. Each PRT includes a cross section of administrators, teachers, staff, and parents that is reflective of the community's racial diversity.



The Road Back: Restart and Recovery

Timeline:

- NJDOE releases guidance on reopening on June 26th
- NJDOE releases guidance on July 24th allowing parents to choose an all remote model option
- Hackensack Public Schools Reopening Parent Forum - July 30th
- Reopening Plans due to the NJDOE on July 31st



Reopening in Phases

- The Hackensack Public Schools Reopening will take place in phases.
 - Phase 1: September 1-October 16th
 - Phase 2: October 19-November 27th
 - Phase 3: November 30-January 15th

Using phases will help us gradually return and assess each phase as we one day return to normal in the future. 77% of Bergen County Districts are utilizing Phase-In approach. The phase-out component will help us in the event that we need to scale back our plan due to positive COVID-19 cases within our district or a county and/or state-wide order. Our current plans include being ready to implement full remote learning upon a health department initiated closing.



Prevention Measures

According to www.cdc.gov, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Preventative measures include washing your hands often and covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover. The below actions are being taken to help with preventative measures.

- **Face coverings are among the most important measures available to contain the spread of COVID-19. We require all students and staff to wear face coverings that adequately cover both their nose and mouth, with accommodations made for those who cannot due to certain medical and/or instructional needs in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.**
- **Staff and students are expected to provide their own face coverings. In the event of an emergency or hardship, face coverings can be provided by the school.**
- **There will be signs to alert personnel, students, and all visitors to wear face coverings upon entering.**



Face Coverings

MASK UP!

Reduce Risk of Transmission

COVID-19 Carrier		Others		COVID-19 Carrier		Others
	HIGHEST RISK				LOWER RISK	
	HIGHER RISK				LOWEST RISK	

 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Prevention Measures

- **Visitors will only be allowed when deemed necessary by building principal and all visitors will be screened before entering the building.**
- **Signage will be placed throughout the buildings to remind individuals to sanitize and hand wash.**
- **Staff and students will be trained on proper hand washing techniques. Students and staff shall wash their hands frequently: upon entering the building, after they utilize the restroom, blow their nose, cough or sneeze, before and after eating, prior to dismissal, and every time they enter a different classroom/workspace.**
- **If hand washing cannot be accomplished, all staff and students shall utilize the district provided hand sanitizing stations that contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol that have been placed strategically in all classrooms, high population areas to prevent congregating such as, offices, entrances/exits, restrooms, and cafeteria.**



Non-Compliance

Students who refuse to comply with established face covering and hand washing guidelines will be educated by teachers about the importance of face coverings and proper hand washing in limiting the spread of COVID-19. If refusal continues, the student shall be addressed by school monitors, social workers, counselors, and/or administrators with interventions to obtain compliance. Continued non-compliance may subject a student to follow a full-remote instructional model.



Health & Safety Expectations

- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings, wash hands with frequency, and practice social distancing.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in all classrooms and common areas in each school for use when hand washing is not possible.
- Social distancing footprints and signage will be installed on hallway floors.
- Create one-way hallways and stairwells to the extent possible.
- Install “sneeze guards” (plastic barriers where appropriate).
- Air filters with Merv Rating between 11-13 for all ventilation equipment will be checked monthly and replaced as required.



Health & Safety Expectations

- After students arrive all interior/exterior door handles will be sanitized, as well as frequently touched areas such as light switches, stair rails, doorknobs, computer monitors, keyboards and mice, whiteboards, water fountains. Bathrooms will be periodically closed and sinks, faucets, dispensers, related surfaces, all bathroom commodes will be sanitized.
- If classrooms are empty during the instructional day, custodians will enter and wipe down surfaces/desks with disposable towels. All student and staff desks/tables will be sprayed with disinfectant at once, then wiped down with disposable paper towels, and then disposed of. After the building is completed, the cycle will be repeated on an ongoing basis.



Screening Procedures

- Students, staff and any visitors that are entering the building will be screened prior to entry using both an online self-screening tool and at verification stations at designated entrances strategically chosen to limit large group gatherings and the amount of interaction between students and cohorts.
- The district is purchasing a computer software program which will be used for daily screening of students, with parents being asked to answer the screening questions about their child(ren) and certify that their child(ren) is/are symptom free.
- In order to limit students waiting outside upon entry, we are asking each parent to ensure that the screening is completed prior to the child coming to school.
- After consulting with our local health department and school physician, it was determined that temperature checks are not an effective screening tool and hence will not be part of our screening protocol at the school.



Phase 1 Summary

- September 1-October 16th
 - **Proposed:** Staff Professional Days will be held on September 2-September 4 (SEL, Review procedures and other safety protocols.)
 - **Proposed:** School will start for students the week of September 8, 2020.
 - During the first several days of school, we plan to review safety routines and protocols with staff and students.
- Schedule for all schools will be as follows during Phase 1:
 - Students will follow a hybrid A/B rotating day. “A” days are Monday and Thursday while “B” days are Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday will be designated as an A or B day.
 - In person instruction will be from 8:30am-12:30pm, with virtual instruction being held in the afternoons.
- Reduced Capacity - A maximum of 50% of students in school each day
- Meals: Breakfast and lunch will be provided to students on in-person days and on virtual days for those families who qualify for assistance. Breakfast will be pre-packaged and eaten in the classroom while pre-packaged lunches will be delivered to the classroom for grab and go.



Phase 1 Schedule Details

Our current plans include children attending school following a hybrid A/B rotating schedule that includes in-person and virtual instruction days to reduce the number of students in school each day to maintain social distancing. The current plan will split class rosters into two groups “A” and “B” to ensure social distancing rules are followed. For example:

- A class roster of 20 students may be split into two cohorts. Cohort A (10 students) who would attend school on “A days” for in-person instruction, while Cohort B (10 students) students will attend virtually.
- On “B days”, Cohort A students would participate virtually, while Cohort B students would attend in-person.



Phase 1 Details

- All efforts will be made to ensure that siblings attending in-person classes in multiple buildings will be assigned to the same cohort rotation.
- Special Education programming will be based on each child's IEP.
- Meal service will continue for families that qualify for assistance on virtual days.
- Classrooms will be set up with desks 6 feet apart or seats 6 feet apart, if this is not possible students will be wearing masks which is the recommendation if social distancing can not be achieved.
- Desks will all face the same way as recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education.
- Students will not have access to lockers in the hallway.



Learning Model Options

1. In-Person/Virtual Instruction - Our current plans include children attending school following a hybrid A/B rotating schedule that includes in-person and remote instruction days to reduce the number of students in school each day to maintain social distancing. The current plan will split class rosters into two groups “A” and “B” to ensure social distancing rules are followed.
2. Full-time Remote Option - A student participating in the board’s full-time remote learning option will be afforded the same quality and scope of instruction and other educational services as any other student otherwise participating in district programs (e.g. students participating in a hybrid model).



FERPA Consent Form

Both learning model options will utilize video conferencing to enhance the quality of instruction by allowing for real-time discussion/feedback from classroom teachers and students as well as to meet students' social emotional needs while remote.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- This act protects the privacy of student education records.
- Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. part 99, the written consent of a parent or eligible student is required before the education records of a student, or personally identifiable information contained therein, may be disclosed to a third party.



FERPA continued

Since the use of video conferencing may disclose personally identifiable information or other education records that may be created, either intentionally or unintentionally, while your child participates in virtual instruction, we ask that you sign the consent form. We will not intentionally disclose any student information.

Here is an example of an unintentional violation: a student responds to a question while on a video conference and an external member of the classroom community such as a parent or a caretaker hears the class discussion. Since personally identifiable information may have been disclosed, this could be considered a violation of FERPA.



FERPA/In-Person/Full Remote Learning Model Form

We understand that that neither of these learning models are ideal as there is no substitute for full time in-person instruction.

However, you do need to choose.

In order to create the most efficient schedule for our students and staff, it is important for us to know the exact number of students that will attend schools in September for in-person instruction as soon as possible.



As a parent, what are my next steps/options?

1. You can opt to send your child to school during Phase 1 or select the all remote option.
2. Please complete the form that was sent home (or on Genesis), this is necessary in order for us to plan for a successful reopening.

If you opt to attend in person, you can opt to go full time remote at any time.

If you opt to go full time remote for Phase 1, you will only be allowed to opt in for in-person instruction beginning on October 19, 2020. However, your building principal needs to be notified in writing by September 30, 2020.



FAQ

The next few slides contain some frequently asked questions.



What happens if my child falls into a high risk category?

For our High Risk students, we are offering a Virtual Learning Program. This virtual learning option is designed for families that are unable to send their children into school buildings due to family health concerns. This could include medically fragile or vulnerable children, medically fragile or vulnerable family members at home, related mental health conditions, or other medical issues.



What about transportation safety protocols?

All students riding on buses, whether contracted or district-owned, shall be required to observe the district's bus face coverings and social distance guidelines, and conduct regulations or risk loss of the privilege of such transportation.

The district or contracted transportation vendors shall properly clean and sanitize buses between runs. A daily operations guideline includes:

- A wipe down routine prior to and following each route
- Screening of students
- Verifying student are wearing masks
- Observing perceptible signs of illness
- Plexiglass, or other Department of Transportation-approved barriers, shall be installed to separate the driver from persons entering or exiting the bus.



What happens if a student or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while on school property?

If a student exhibits symptoms while on school property, the student should remain masked and adhere to strict physical distancing. Students will be respectfully escorted to the designated isolation space until his/her parent or guardian can pick him/her up to go home. Face coverings will be required while in the isolation space as well as while traveling in and exiting the building, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. Cleaning procedures will be followed as appropriate.

If an employee becomes symptomatic while at work, the employee should promptly inform the school nurse and await guidance.



What happens with a positive or presumptive COVID-19 case?

When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 the local health department will be notified as they are responsible for contact tracing. The school does not have to close unless instructed to do so by the local health department. The NJDOE recommends closing off area(s) used by an infected person before cleaning and disinfection. The NJDOE also recommends that a 24-hour waiting period should be implemented before cleaning and disinfecting. If it is not feasible to wait 24 hours, then it is recommended that outside doors and windows are opened to increase air circulation in the area. Cleaning staff shall clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

As additional guidance becomes available, we will follow all NJDOE, NJDOH, and CDC guidelines to ensure the health/safety of our staff/students.



What about meals?

Meals will be delivered to classrooms.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to students on days when they are in school as well as virtual days. Breakfast will be pre-packaged and eaten in the classroom while pre-packaged lunches will be delivered to the classroom for grab and go during Phase 1. When full day instruction resumes, breakfast will continue to be pre-packaged and eaten in the classroom while lunches will still be pre-packaged and eaten at school in the classroom, cafeteria, gymnasium, outdoor space (weather permitting), and/or other large space as determined by the school administration in order to maintain social distancing.



Meals Service - Staff

For the serving staff, the district's contracted vendor, Maschio's, shall provide: isolated workspaces for each employee to prepare meals; an isolated personal storage area for each employee; PPE for each employee including PPE recommended by the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or any other governmental agency including but not limited to shoe and hair coverings; plexiglass dividers when serving students and staff; Right-to-Know training on all cleaning and disinfecting chemicals required pertaining to, but not limited to, sanitization of food packing, serving stations, and the cleaning of any utensils/plates/cookware; processes in place to receive touchless shipments from outside vendors; and proper ventilation of kitchen areas to maintain proper air flow and safe temperatures when wearing masks.



What about Recess and Phys Ed.?

The district is beginning the school year with an abbreviated schedule, and no recess. When schools are open for in-person full day instruction, recess will be staggered in all four of our elementary schools as well as the middle school to allow for disinfecting any equipment that is in use.

Preschool students will participate in gross motor activities daily. Equipment will be cleaned between uses and stations will be utilized to ensure that students do not touch equipment prior to it being cleaned. Tricycles will not be utilized during an abbreviated schedule, and students will be assigned a personal helmet that will not be used by other students.

During abbreviated schedule days, locker rooms in the middle and high school will be closed and physical education will be held virtually. The district will evaluate when it is safe to begin in person physical education classes, with a plan to begin when full day instruction starts. These classes will take place outside when possible and students will be required to socially distance. Activities will be modified so as not to include contact sports, and equipment will be sanitized between groups.



What about Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours?

- Until further notice, field trips outside of school will not be allowed; however, virtual field trips that are properly planned and integrated with the curriculum will be approved. Virtual field trips may play an important role to supplement and enrich classroom instruction.
- Extra-Curricular Activities shall adhere to all applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocols that occur during the regular school day.
- All requests for use of facilities by external community organizations will be subject to follow district guidance on health and safety protocols and adhere to the demands in District Policy 7510- USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES. With the exception of After Care Services, most requests for access to indoor facilities will be denied during the health emergency.



What about Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports?

- The district will continue to provide multi-tiered systems of support to students, which include intervention, enrichment, and additional support during the school day, before, or after school.
- Students are identified and contacted by teachers, school nurses, school counselors and other staff members to provide resources and referrals to students, parents and families based on their needs. This outreach includes zoom calls, telephone contact and sometimes socially distant home visits by our school resource officers. Check-ins for our vulnerable students and families will continue. To ensure access to food, health care and mental health support including grief counseling.



What about athletics?

Hackensack Public Schools will continue to monitor and follow the guidance provided by the NJSIAA with regards to interscholastic sports. NJSIAA Real Time Updates:

<https://www.njsiaa.org/events-news-media/news/njsiaa-builds-return-play-plan-provides-updates-fall-sports-season>

<https://www.njsiaa.org/covid-19-resources>



What does Full-Time Remote Learning look like?

At both the middle and high school, current plans include students being able to attend class via live streaming on a daily basis. At the elementary level, virtual academy instructors will be assigned to a grade level to instruct the students whose parents have chosen the all virtual option. In order to better support staff and students additional online resources were purchased to ensure that students receive engaging instruction and have access to a variety of resources. To ensure collaboration, teachers will be provided with a common planning time so that constant communication is occurring and that any transitions from virtual to in person or vice versa would be smooth. Students will see a “live” teacher virtually each day, the time of each live session will vary.



When will parents be notified of their designated day and classroom teacher?

This will occur in two stages. Your designated group (A or B) will be relayed to you by your building principal as soon as possible but no later than August 14, 2020.

You will be notified of your classroom teacher/s by the end of August.



How will attendance be taken?

Whether you choose an all remote option or a hybrid option, attendance will be taken on a daily basis.

According to the New Jersey Department of Education, all students can be recorded as present for applicable days unless the district knowingly determines a student was not participating in any such instruction, in which case they must be recorded as absent.



Contact Information

If you have any questions, please email Melissa Sanzari-Stevens at msanzari@hackensackschools.org to ensure that your questions is directed to the appropriate person.

