



East Brunswick Public Schools

*The Road Forward
Health and Safety Guidance
for the
2021-2022 School Year*

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Summary of Guidance

East Brunswick Public Schools will provide full-day, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. In accordance with the [Governor's Executive Order 251](#), effective August 9, 2021, all students, staff and visitors are required to wear a mask while in the school buildings and while on the school bus.

As we move through the school year, we will assess our local conditions and make adjustments to our COVID response as soon as the Governor's Executive Order 251 is modified or lifted.

The district will be communicating COVID information, at least weekly, to the entire East Brunswick Schools community. This is intended as an information source for how we are trending as a district, week by week.

Families can be assured that if a COVID case results in a quarantine affecting their child, they will have already been called by their school's nurse with the details of their quarantine along with any associated information from our Academics department.



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Appendix A - Vaccination

- ❖ Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order No. 253](#), requiring all preschool to Grade 12 school personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week. This requirement will strengthen protections against the spread of COVID-19, including the highly transmissible Delta variant, to children in school settings, many of whom are under 12 years old and not yet eligible for vaccination.
- ❖ EBPS will not require the vaccine for students but encourages all eligible children, immediate and extended family members residing in the same household to get vaccinated.

Appendix B - Communication with the Local and Health Department

- ❖ East Brunswick Public Schools (EBPS) communicates routinely with the Middlesex Department of Health and East Brunswick Township Administration.



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Appendix C - Optional Mask Wearing Protocol

Following the recommendation from the [New Jersey Department of Health](#), EBPS will follow the below optional mask guidance for students, staff and visitors:

Masks

After evaluating the changes in mask wearing guidance recently released by the CDC and the State of New Jersey:

Beginning Monday, March 7, 2022, masks will be encouraged but optional in East Brunswick Public Schools. District staff and students, along with student's families will have the option to decide if they will wear masks on school buses or inside school properties.

East Brunswick Public School retains the right to reimpose a requirement to wear masks on buses or in schools, *including* while participating in sports or activities where increased exhalation occurs, to mitigate COVID transmissibility in the following circumstances:

- ❖ During periods of elevated community transmission
- ❖ During an active outbreak
- ❖ After returning from isolation or quarantine
- ❖ When illness occurs in school
 - Wearing masks is an important prevention strategy to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings.

East Brunswick: [Mask Directive for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.](#)



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Appendix D - Physical, Distancing and Cohorting Protocols

- ❖ EBPS will not mandate a minimum indoor physical distancing requirement as we begin the new school year. All indoor spaces will be utilized efficiently and students will be separated from each other to the greatest extent physically permissible within occupied spaces.

Appendix E - Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols

- ❖ Hand sanitizer is readily available in all classrooms and occupied offices.

Appendix F - Provision of Meals

- ❖ Breakfast, as well as hot and/or cold lunch options will be served in cafeterias and other appropriate spaces for all students.
- ❖ Breakfast and lunch meals meeting federal and State nutritional requirements will be available for free to all students. There will be an opportunity to purchase a la carte meal items. Please visit <https://www.ebnet.org/Domain/128> for additional information.



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- ❖ Students will have assigned seating for lunch. Seating may extend to spaces beyond the cafeteria.
- ❖ We cannot guarantee minimum physical distancing during lunch but we strive to separate students to the greatest extent possible, considering the physical limitations of each cafeteria or alternate lunch space. This is done to reduce the number of quarantine students should we have a positive COVID case with close contacts during our lunch periods.

Appendix G - Transportation Protocols

- ❖ Masks are optional while on the school bus by students and staff.
- ❖ There is no social distancing requirement on school buses.
- ❖ Assigned seating will be required while on our District owned or contracted buses.



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Appendix H - Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow

- ❖ We will continue to follow our established COVID-19 cleaning protocols.
 - Occupied spaces will be treated with a medical grade disinfectant utilizing an electrostatic sprayer at least once a week.
 - Common touch surfaces will be wiped down daily.
 - Individual disinfectant spray will be provided for each classroom and office.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and office.

Appendix I - Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Student and Staff Members

COVID Testing/Exclusion from Schools

Students and Staff should exclude themselves from our schools if:

1. They are symptomatic for COVID.
2. They are asymptomatic and have **NOT** been vaccinated and identified as a close contact.
3. A governmental entity has notified the individual that they may be at-risk of COVID.

They may not return to school until they share a lab-confirmed negative COVID PCR test result with their school's nurse or quarantine for a minimum of 5-days.



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If close contact or positive for Covid-19, contact your school nurse

- ❖ **Positive Case** - Minimum 5-day quarantine period. Positive can be determined by:
 - Onset of symptoms
 - Positive Rapid Test Date
 - Positive PCR Test Date

- ❖ **Unvaccinated Close contacts** need to quarantine for a minimum of 5-days.

Unvaccinated Siblings of positive person

- ❖ If a positive person is **able** to isolate themselves in the home, then the negative sibling would follow the above close contact guideline.

- ❖ If a positive person is **unable** to isolate, then siblings will have to quarantine for 20 days or get tested on days 15-17 from sibling positive test date and return no sooner than day 17.

- ❖ If a sibling becomes positive or has symptoms during this period, their 10 day quarantine period would start from that date.

Vaccinated Sibling of a positive person

- ❖ No quarantine unless the person becomes symptomatic.

- ❖ At this point, there is no requirement to quarantine or get tested after traveling domestically or internationally.

- ❖ Reasons for a student to stay home and be tested or quarantine for a minimum of 5 days:



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- **At least two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose or;**

- ❖ **At least one of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder**

- ❖ **If a child is excluded from school based on this criteria, and they are seen and treated by a medical professional who provides an alternate diagnosis:**
 - **Provide medical documentation of the diagnosis (strep, ear infection, etc.) and follow the regular exclusion for non Covid illness. For example, fever free 24 hours without medication or vomiting/ diarrhea free for 24 hours without medication. (Consult your school nurse for guidance).**
 - **SIBLINGS of an excluded ill child will also be excluded until the alternate diagnosis is provided, or a negative PCR is provided.**

- ❖ **For more information click on the link below**
 - https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

- ! **Parents should not send students to school when sick.**

- ❖ **Each school will continue to have an isolation room for students who become symptomatic at school. Parents/guardians should be prepared with a plan to pick up a symptomatic child within 30 minutes.**

- ❖ **EBPS will not be taking temperatures upon arrival to schools.**



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- ❖ There is no virtual option for instruction this year.

Academics

- ❖ All students will return to in-person learning following their full-day schedule. We are prepared when necessary to place certain students in quarantine based on Middlesex County Department of Health guidelines.

Educating Students During Quarantine [NJDOE Memo](#)

- ❖ If a student is **mandated by the district** to quarantine, he/she will be permitted to engage in learning via Google Classroom/Canvas. In addition, a classroom teacher may ask the student to join livestream instruction for a specific part of the class in order to provide direct instruction and check for understanding. The link to join the meeting will be provided by the teacher to the individual student/parent.
 - These days will be marked as “*Quarantined Instruction*” provided that the student completes the work that was required during this time.
 - Parents may be asked to come to the school to gather instructional materials for the quarantine period.
 - Live instruction will not be provided for other absences or illnesses that may require a student to miss school. [Board Policy 5200](#) will be in place for all absences not related to district-mandated quarantine.

Extended Absences to Due to Illness

- ❖ [Board Policy 2412](#) and [Board Regulation 2412](#) will be in place for all extended absences not related to district-mandated quarantine.



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Access to District Technology

- ❖ Students in grades 3-12 will travel to and from school with their technology device. They should charge their technology device nightly and bring their charger to school.
- ❖ Students in grades K-2 will keep their technology device at home and only bring it to school as needed.

Appendix J - Contact Tracing

- ❖ Children who are fully vaccinated are not “close contacts” and will not be required to quarantine unless they begin to exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms.
- ❖ Children who are unvaccinated and are a close contact to someone with COVID-19, will need to quarantine for 10 calendar days.

Appendix K - Testing

- ❖ EBPS will not be conducting on-site COVID-19 testing at this time, but EBPS has relationships with local urgent care centers who can perform the COVID-19 testing.



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Appendix L - Student and Staff Member Travel

- ❖ We will follow the NJDOH guidelines for travel.
- ❖ At this point, there is no requirement to quarantine or get tested after traveling domestically or internationally.

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If you have additional questions, please send an email to questions@ebnet.org.