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# PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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## Re-Entry Plan

**GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**



Dear Piscataway Families:

The Administration of Piscataway Township Schools has actively worked on the 2020-2021 Re-entry Plan for several months. Our plan follows five basic tenets:

- 1) Deliver high-quality instruction to all students
- 2) Prioritize the health and safety of students and staff
- 3) Follow State guidelines
- 4) Ensure all students have sufficient resources
- 5) Engage community stakeholders

Building this plan was challenging and complex. I offer my sincere thanks to our Board of Education for their insight and support, and to the administrators, teachers, staff, and community members who offered valuable input and assistance. We discussed and evaluated many problems and proposals, and considered the social and emotional growth of our students as well as their academic requirements. We listened to individual needs and weighed how plans impact working families. Most importantly, we considered our facilities, and how we could continue to best serve students while following State guidelines for social distancing and other mandates. Due to these guidelines and mandates, offering full-time, in-person instruction is not possible.

Our plan for 2020-2021 offers two options. Please review each plan to decide which works best for your family. We'll follow up with selecting your child's scheduling option soon.

#### Option 1: Hybrid In-School/Remote Instruction

Students will be broken into two groups and attend school on a full-day, rotating A/B schedule. Students will rotate every other day. When not in school, student learning will be remote. K-12 siblings will attend school on the same A/B day.

#### Option 2: All Remote Instruction

Families with elevated health risks or those who do not feel comfortable having their children participate in in-person instruction, will be offered fully remote instruction.

While this plan is based on the most recent data available, and is in its final stages of County approval, we may need to make adjustments as new data or guidelines are released. If there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in our schools, township, or state, we must be prepared to move to fully remote learning immediately. We are preparing for these scenarios, and we commit to keeping you informed every step of the way. We ask that our families make contingency plans should we need to move to a fully remote school environment.

Thank you for your continued support for Piscataway Schools. And please do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19, so our students and teachers can once again return to our schools full-time, and enjoy a safe and engaging learning environment

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Ranelli".

Dr. Frank Ranelli  
Superintendent of Schools

# STATE GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

**Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Education created the following guidelines for critical areas in reopening schools:**

1. Comply with Center for Disease Control (CDC), state, and local guidelines.
2. Allow for social distancing to the maximum extent possible. When social distancing is difficult or impossible, face coverings are required, and are always required for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health.
3. Minimize use of shared objects, ensure indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations, and ensure students wash hands frequently.
4. Maintain social distancing practices on buses to the maximum extent practicable and adopt best practices for cleaning and disinfecting all vehicles used for transporting students. If maintaining social distancing is not possible, all students who are able must wear face coverings while on busses.
5. Establish the process and location for student and staff health screenings and adopt a policy for safely and respectfully screening students and employees for symptoms of and history of exposure to COVID-19. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others, and district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
6. Collaborate with the local health department and engage school nurses to develop contact tracing policies and procedures, as well as educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.
7. Adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise, develop a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, and sanitize bathrooms daily and between use as much as possible.
8. Stagger eating times to allow for social distancing and disinfecting of the area between groups.
9. Complete an inventory of outdoor spaces and mark off areas to ensure separation between students. Recess must be staggered by groups and staff must disinfect playground equipment and other shared equipment between uses.
10. All extracurricular activities must comply with applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocol during all extracurricular activities.

**In addition to taking the above steps to protect students' and educators' physical health, leaders must also consider the impact of social isolation on both educators and students. Based on input from New Jersey stakeholders and educators from across the country, the NJDOE recommended school districts include the following elements in their reopening plans:**

1. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Climate and Culture.
2. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to identify students who need additional support.
3. Wraparound Supports to address the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students.
4. Food Service and Distribution for students who rely on schools for daily meals.
5. Child Care for families in need of these services

# SCHEDULE OPTIONS

## STUDENTS RETURN

Piscataway Schools welcomes back students in September 2020, offering full-day instruction, five days a week.

- All students will take part in Remote Instruction, either as a full time Remote Learner, or using the Hybrid In-School/Remote Option.
- All students will receive class assignments and all classes will include both students who select the Hybrid Option as well as students who opt for Remote Only instruction.

Parents/Guardians will be notified as to how to select their students learning option next week.

### HYBRID IN-SCHOOL/REMOTE INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Students following this option will attend school in person, every other day. They will follow a full in-person schedule on days they are in school, and follow a full live-streamed schedule on days they are at home. Students who opt for the Hybrid Schedule Option will enter classrooms with reduced class sizes and a reduced number of students in their buildings.

### REMOTE INSTRUCTION ONLY SCHEDULE

Students who opt for the Remote Instruction Only schedule will be assigned a class and will follow the class virtually live-streamed, full-time, five days each week, during the scheduled school hours.

### WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO SWITCH FROM REMOTE INSTRUCTION TO HYBRID INSTRUCTION AND VICE VERSA?

Yes, following protocol to be outlined by your building principal.

### PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

In order to ensure that PHS can offer a Hybrid Option and follow the same A/B schedule as our other schools, PHS students will follow a 4X4 semester block schedule, and take only four classes in the fall semester, and their other four classes in the spring semester.

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## TECHNOLOGY

**Technology will play an increasingly important role in our students education. Piscataway Schools invested heavily in technology this year, upgrading both hardware and software across the district.**

- Piscataway Schools is now a 1:1 district and will issue iPads to all students at the beginning of the school year. Each school will contact students, providing information about how to pick up iPads, and instructions for basic use.
- The district will continue to repair student iPads and provide loaners when necessary. To request an iPad repair, please first access the [ITHelpDesk](#) link found on the district website under the Remote/Virtual Instructional Plan tab to fill out a short questionnaire that details the problem. Our IT team will respond quickly to address all repair issues.
- Families who have difficulty with internet connections, please contact your building principal.
- Students in Grades K-2 will use Google Classroom as their technology platform. More parent directions will follow.
- Students in Grades 3-12 will use Schoology as the primary means of communication between teachers, students, and parents. Teachers will use this platform to post assignments and communicate to their entire class, as well as to individual students. Parents can create a Schoology account [here](#) to access information and contact teachers.
- The District will continue to use Zoom and Schoology video conferencing.
- The District will continue to use Genesis as its primary source for student data, including contact information and grades. All parents new to the district should log in [here](#) to create an account. Please check to make sure all your contact information is correct, and bear in mind that the parent or guardian listed as Contact 1 will be the contact to receive emergency notifications from the district.

## FACE COVERINGS

- All teachers and staff members, including bus aides and food service workers must wear face coverings. Exceptions are made for medical conditions.
- All students must wear face coverings with exceptions made for medical conditions.
- Face coverings should be labeled and meet school dress code requirements.
- Face covering “breaks” will be built into the school day

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## TRANSPORTATION

**Piscataway Schools will continue to provide busing to K-8 students living more than 2.0 miles from their school and to high school students living more than 2.5 miles from Piscataway High School, as well as offer Subscription Busing to students who don't meet the distance guidelines.**

- Bus seating will be at a reduced capacity.
- Students are to sit as socially distanced as possible from one another, unless riders are from the same household.
- Buses will be disinfected between each route with special attention paid to high touch areas.
- Students will only be allowed to ride their assigned bus.
- Weather permitting, windows will be open to facilitate airflow.
- Face coverings must be worn on buses and at bus stops.

## DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONES

- Parents will be directed by each school principal as to these procedures.
- If your student must leave early, please send a note to their teacher or attendance office. Parents are asked not to enter the building when picking up students. Parents will be directed by each school principal as to these procedures.

## ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

- Arrival and dismissal procedures with social distancing practices will be set at each school. Protocols will be developed for student entrance doors, temperature/screening checks, and staff response to symptoms. Dismissal protocols will include scheduling, staging areas, busing, late pick-up, and walkers. More information will come from your building principal before the start of the school year.

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## IN THE BUILDINGS AND CLASSROOMS

Piscataway Schools will open all 10 schools and two preschools for in-person instruction. We will take careful steps to follow all public health guidelines to keep students, teachers, staff, and the community at large safe. Following are safety protocols that will be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year.

### CLASSROOMS/TESTING/THERAPY ROOMS

- Classroom seating will allow maximum space between students and all desks will face the same direction.
- Elementary, intermediate, and middle school schedules will be developed to limit student movement throughout the day.
- Teachers will modify instructional plans to reduce student contact and maintain social distancing. Supplies will not be shared.

### HALLWAYS/RESTROOMS/WATER FOUNTAINS

- Principals will develop safe travel and hall passing directions for their buildings.
- We do not plan to use hallway lockers. Each school will have procedures for student belongings.
- Each school will establish restroom procedures to limit the number of students using the restrooms at one time.
- Water fountains can only be used to refill water bottles. Students are encouraged to bring labeled, refillable water bottles to school.

### SAFETY REMINDERS

- Hand sanitizer stations will be increased across the District.
- Hand washing procedures will be established.
- Safety signage will be strategically placed throughout the District.
- Plexiglas barriers will be installed in areas requiring frequent interaction with the public, including school offices, cafeterias, and school counseling offices.
- High traffic areas may include markings to indicate social distancing.
- Security Drills will follow State and County guidance while keeping socially distant.

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ART, MUSIC, AND OTHER ELECTIVES

- Locker rooms will be closed. Students should wear comfortable active clothes to school on days that they have PE.
- Indoor physical activities will be conducive to face coverings and outdoor activities will be carefully planned and may include face coverings.
- Piscataway Schools is developing plans for effective instruction for all elective areas by grade level. More information will come from your building principal .

## SPORTS/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- The District will follow NJSIAA regulations for high school sports; no middle school sports are planned at this time.
- Extracurricular activities to be decided based on health and safety regulations.

## FOOD SERVICES/LUNCH

- Food Services will continue to provide breakfast and lunch in the “Grab and Go” style.
- Students will be allowed to remove face coverings when eating or drinking.
- Lunch periods will be staggered and students will be socially distanced.
- Students receiving free/reduced meals will take home meals for remote learning days and will receive home delivery if quarantined.

## OUTDOOR RECESS

- Recess will be staggered with zones and boundaries developed between groups. Any equipment used will be sanitized regularly and all students will wash hands after recess.
- Face coverings will be required during recess.

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## SPECIAL SERVICES

- Students with Health Care Plans, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), 504 Plans or other documentation will be assessed for any additional needs.
- Staff working with students who require hands-on work or other intervention will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to keep them and their students safe.
- In-person testing and evaluations will be completed as quickly as possible when school resumes.
- IEP meetings may continue to be held virtually based on meeting social distancing requirements.
- Accommodations will be made for special education students' transportation needs.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings are not planned at this time.
- Back-to-school events, PTO meetings, and other parent activities will be virtual.
- Piscataway Schools will not rent indoor facilities to outside groups during the pandemic.
- Individual monthly school event calendars will be sent home by building principals.

## VISITORS

- Visitors will be admitted for emergency reasons only.
- Essential visitors will be restricted and will be required to wear face coverings.
- Visitor procedures considered include screenings, drop-off points, and deliveries.

## CLEANING

- Extensive deep cleaning of all schools and facilities will be completed during the summer.
- Increased cleaning protocols will be instituted in all buildings and classrooms, with an emphasis on high touch/high traffic areas.
- Disinfectant is readily available to all staff so cleaning can take place throughout the day.
- Equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before and after use.
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed for proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- Ventilation systems will be cleaned and serviced to ensure the cleanest air possible.

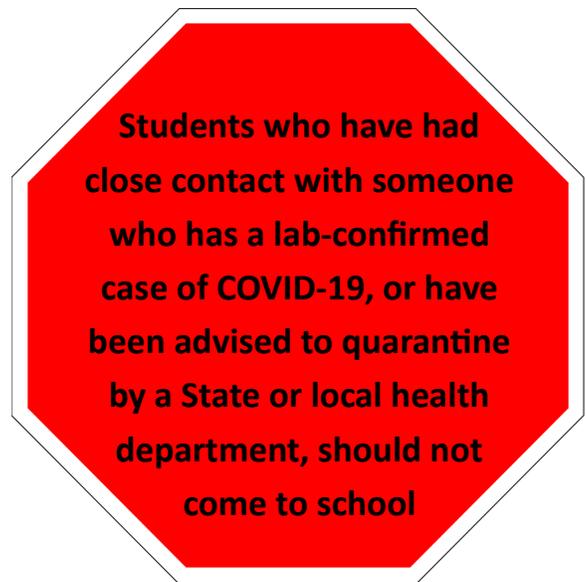
# GUIDE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

## STAYING HEALTHY

Don't place other students and staff at risk of becoming ill and increasing the likelihood that Piscataway Schools will need to close a classroom, wing, or building. Screen your child every morning to determine if any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 are present.

### STOP! DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE—

- Fever over 100.4 ° F
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



### IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK AT SCHOOL

- Students exhibiting any of the above symptoms during the school day will be moved to a health isolation room. Parents/Guardians will be notified to pick up their child. Please ensure all contact information in Genesis is correct and up to date.
- Parents/Guardians of any student who contacts COVID-19 or has been advised to quarantine should notify their school nurse.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the school if their child has come in close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 and given the next appropriate steps.
- The District will continue to inform parents of all emergency notification through phone, email, and the district website.

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## SICK STUDENTS SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL

We will immediately notify parents/guardians about any potential exposure to COVID-19 and conduct Contact Tracing. Students with confirmed exposure to, or testing positive for, COVID-19 may return to school buildings after the following protocols are met\*:

### POSITIVE TEST

- Remain home and away from others.
- 14 days have passed since initial symptoms.
- No fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 72 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- Cough or breathing problems resolve.
- Provide a doctor's note.

### CLOSE CONTACT WITH POSITIVE CASE

- Positive Symptomatic— follow positive test protocols.
- Positive Asymptomatic—stay home 14 days following test and keep away from others.
- Negative: Contact in Household—quarantine for 14 days after household individual's quarantine is complete and new symptoms have not appeared.
- Negative: Contact Out of Household—quarantine for 14 days from last contact and new symptoms have not appeared.

### NEGATIVE TEST—OTHER ILLNESS

- Stay home until feeling better.
- No fever (100.4°F or greater) for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.

### NO TEST OR WAITING FOR TEST RESULTS

- Remain home and away from others.
- 14 Days have passed since symptoms started.
- No fever (100.4°F or greater) in at least 72 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- Cough or breathing problems resolve.

\*Please note that we will follow CDC guidelines, as they continue to evolve and update.

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## CONTACT TRACING

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, your child may be asked questions about close contacts by a school administrator or local health official. This Contact Tracing helps contain and control the spread of the virus.

### WHAT IS CONTACT TRACING?

Contact tracing helps determine virus hotspots and prevents the further spread of infection. It identifies persons who may have been exposed to an infectious disease and alerts close contacts to their potential exposure.

### HOW IS CONTACT TRACING PRACTICED?

Contact Tracing is conducted by trained health professionals who work with exposed persons to help them recall everyone with whom they had close contact while infectious. Health department staff then notify persons who may have been exposed (contacts) as quickly as possible to prevent additional spread of the disease.

### WHAT ARE CLOSE CONTACTS TOLD ABOUT POTENTIAL EXPOSURE?

Identified contacts are told they were potentially exposed and are asked questions about any symptoms in relation to COVID-19. Contacts will receive information about monitoring for symptoms and what to do should they become ill.

### WHAT ARE CONTACTS ASKED TO DO?

Contacts must stay at home and maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) from others they live with, until 14 days after the last known exposure. Contacts should self-monitor for symptoms.

## ADDITIONAL FAQs

Additional questions and answers can be found at [PiscatawaySchools.org](https://www.piscatawayschools.org) under the “Parents Tab.” We will update this page frequently, as soon as additional information becomes available.

**Wash/Sanitize Hands Often ▪ Practice Social Distancing ▪ Wear Face Coverings ▪ Cover Cough**