



May 21, 2021

Dear Collingswood School Community,

Please take a moment to review key updates and critical information related to the pandemic and school re-opening.

School Reopening

District Goal: Safe Return to Full-time In-Person Instruction in September (NEW)

On [Monday, May 17th](#), Governor Murphy announced that schools will be required to provide full-time, in-person instruction beginning Fall 2021. Remote learning will only be permitted in the event there is a localized outbreak or other emergency. Families will not be able to opt-out of in-person instruction.

Our district will safely return to full-time in-person instruction in September. The planning for September is a fluid situation and we will continue sharing information with the school community along the way as progress is made. The majority of the summer will be dedicated to ensuring we achieve this goal with major events taking place in August.

Wednesday Schedule: Preschool and Elementary

We have adjusted the Wednesday schedule so that it is an academic day consistent with the regular schedule. The new Wednesday Schedule is as follows:

- Blue Hybrid: April 28, May 12, May 26
 - Elementary: 9am - 1pm
 - Preschool: 9:15am - 1:15pm
- Gold Hybrid: May 5, May 19, June 9
 - Elementary: 9am - 1pm;
 - Preschool: 9:15am - 1:15pm

Vaccine Update: FDA Authorizes COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents (NEW)

On May 10, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus to include adolescents [12 through 15 years of age](#). The FDA amended the EUA originally issued on Dec. 11, 2020 for administration in individuals 16 years of age and older.



The FDA has also updated [Fact Sheets](#) for Families and Caregivers with information to reflect the use of the vaccine in the adolescent population, including the benefits and risks. COVID-19 vaccine information from the NJ Department of Health can be found [here](#).

Getting to our “Next Normal” is going to take all of our tools. If we use all of the tools we have, we stand the best chance of getting our families, communities, schools, and workplaces back to normal sooner. Please also refer to the CDC website for details [here](#). Continued discussion and planning are needed to determine the impact this public health update plays on the District’s plan to return to full-time in-person instruction in September. Ongoing reopening updates will be forthcoming.

Vaccine Survey: Collingswood to host Vaccine Clinic (NEW)

Collingswood and Oaklyn Public Schools cares deeply about our communities and seeks to assist in its vaccination efforts in preparation for the safe return to full-time in-person instruction in September.



Our districts are currently working with the Camden County Department of Health to host a Pop-up Vaccination Site at the Middle School/High School campus for Collingswood, Oaklyn, and Woodlynne residents and students age 12 & older. Our mission is to facilitate coordinated public health services for families and community members.

The first step in the process is to collect data to determine the level of demand and resources needed to accommodate vaccines for all interested Collingswood, Oaklyn, and Woodlynne students, families, and staff.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) download, print, and complete the COVID Vaccine Attestation Form. You must bring the form on the day of the clinic. The attached authorization form must be completed and signed by each parent/caregiver for every student under the age of 18. Every other eligible participant must also download and complete the following form. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your primary care physician. If you need direct assistance, please reach out to one of the school nurses below for more information.

Zane North Elementary School
Patti Butler, MSN, BSBA, RN, NCSN, J&J Fellow
(856) 962-5703 x1117
pbutler@collsk12.org

Collingswood Middle School
Marty Casey, BSN, RN, NJ-CSN
(856) 962-5742
mcasey@collsk12.org

Collingswood High School
Sarah Mervine, BSN, RN, NJ-CSN
(856) 962-5742
smervine@collsk12.org

The vaccination site will be located at the Collingswood Middle School/High School Campus with key dates to follow.

Please complete the SURVEY by Wednesday, May 26th at 12 noon.

COVID Update: Transmission Rates are Moving in the Right Direction (NEW)

The NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Activity Level ([CALI](#)) Report for the Week ending May 15 indicates that our State and Region (Southwest) continue to move in a positive direction reporting Moderate. (YELLOW)

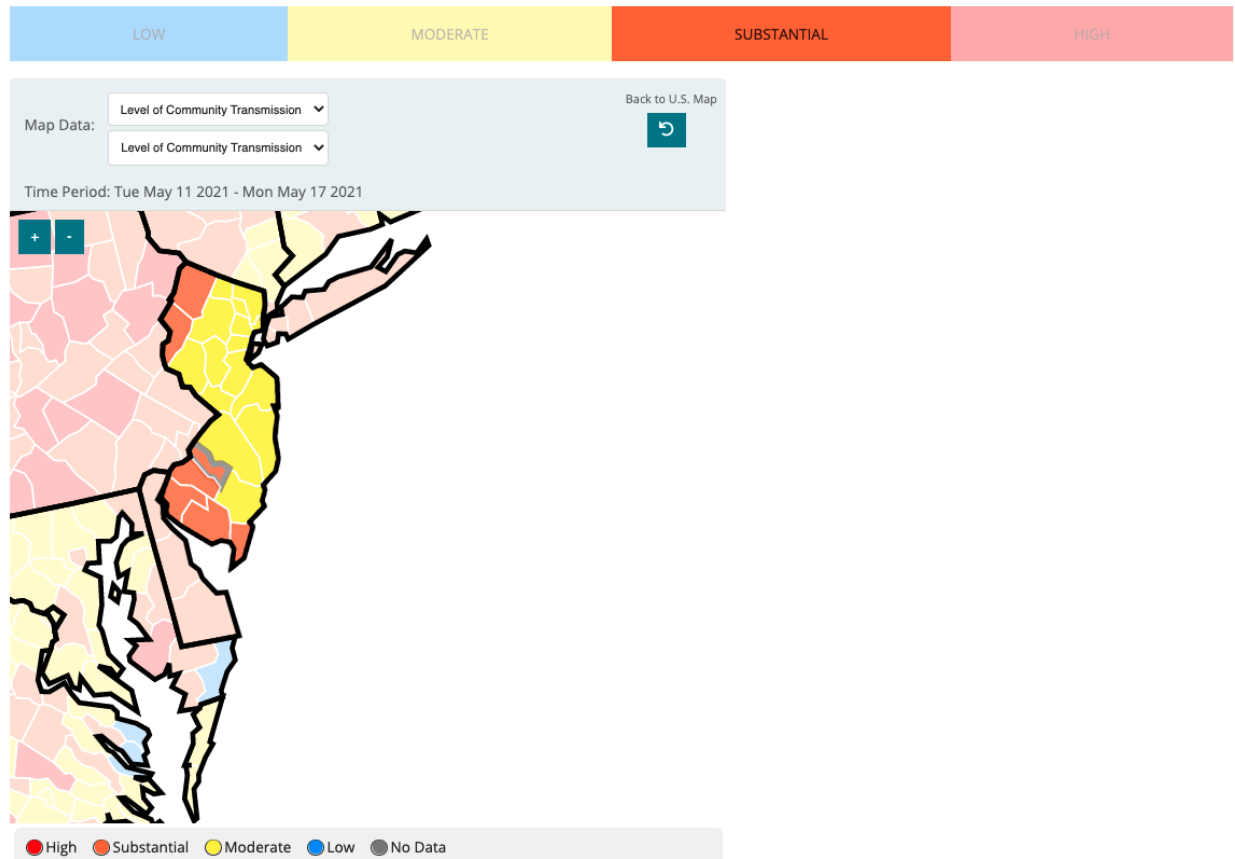
Low Moderate High Very High



Region ²	Current Activity Level
Northwest	MODERATE
Northeast	MODERATE
Central West	MODERATE
Central East	MODERATE
Southwest	MODERATE
Southeast	LOW
STATEWIDE	MODERATE

The [CDC COVID Tracker](#) for Camden County indicates that for the time period of May 11 – 17, the level of community transmission has also lowered to Substantial Status (ORANGE).

Level of Community Transmission in Camden County, New Jersey



Current 7-days is Tue May 11 2021 - Mon May 17 2021 for case rate and Mon May 10 2021 - Sun May 16 2021 for percent positivity. The percent change in counties at each level of transmission is the absolute change compared to the previous 7-day period.

[CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools](#) was updated on May 15th. The CDC recommends that schools continue to use the current COVID-19 prevention strategies for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. However, physical distancing guidance has been updated to reflect positive changes in local community transmission.

- Between students in classrooms (**NEW**)
 - In elementary schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart.¹
 - In middle schools and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart in areas of low, moderate, or substantial community transmission.
- Maintain 6 feet of distance in the following settings:
 - Between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, at all times in the school building. Several studies have found that transmission between staff is more common than transmission between students and staff, and among students, in schools.¹
 - When masks cannot be worn, such as when eating.
 - During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible.
 - In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums.

What does this mean for my child's school?

All schools in Collingswood and Oaklyn are now able to physically distance students 3 feet apart. Middle and High School students seeking to shift from remote or hybrid to more in-person learning should contact their Principal for available seats based on the updated guidance for secondary schools to move from 6 feet to 3 feet.

COVID Update: Travel Restrictions Lifted (NEW)

On Monday, May 17th, NJ's travel advisory was lifted. New Jersey residents returning home and travelers visiting New Jersey do not need to quarantine, but should follow travel guidance from the CDC, the [NJ Department of Health](#), and all local health and safety protocols of their travel destination. At this time, the CDC recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated.

On Thursday, May 20th, the NJ Department of Health released [updated travel guidance](#). While the NJ Travel Advisory is no longer in effect individuals should follow [CDC guidance regarding domestic and international travel](#). For the purpose of this guidance, domestic travel is defined as travel lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than contiguous states (i.e., Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware). The CDC currently also recommends that unvaccinated individuals get tested 1-3 days before their trip, 3-5 days after travel, and stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel.

What does this mean for schools?

Schools will have a policy for exclusion of unvaccinated students and staff who are recommended to quarantine as per the [NJDOH Recommended Minimum Quarantine Timeframes](#) and CDC guidelines.

COVID Update: Masking Clarifications for K-12 Schools (NEW)

On Wednesday, May 19th, the NJ Department of Health released [masking clarification for K-12 schools](#). Updated guidance includes the following:

- [NJDOH Guidance for Sports Activities](#) does not apply to sports-related activities during school hours, such as physical education classes, and outdoor recess, which continue to be guided by [Executive Order No. 175](#).
- Regardless of vaccination status, social distancing should be followed by all athletes (when not actively participating in activity), coaches, referees, trainers, and spectators, in both indoor and outdoor settings.
- Minimum masking and social distancing standards for outdoor extracurricular activities and outdoor events on school property ([including outdoor graduation ceremonies and other end of year school events held outdoors](#)) are governed by [Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 241](#). Schools may implement more restrictive precautions if they desire to do so.

What does this mean for schools?

In cooperation with the District Nursing Team and guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, Collingswood Elementary Schools will be using a "feels like" temperature of 80 degrees to determine if/when children can take masks off outside as long as they can remain socially distant of 6 feet or more. If children cannot maintain the recommended physical distance, masks will remain on. Principals will calibrate on such days that heat is a factor and make a decision in the best interest of our students.

The updated guidance also means that no changes will be made to the current safety protocols and procedures in health and physical education classes on campus. School sports will continue to operate using existing NJ Interscholastic Athletic Association ([NJSIAA](#)) social distancing and mask guidance; regardless of vaccination status. Details regarding elementary school track and field day, elementary promotion ceremonies, and high school graduation will be released prior to the event.

Superintendent's Note



I HAVE A QUESTION, WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

In an effort to be responsive to the needs of students and their families, we wanted to provide contact information to the community. Please refer to the list below to address all questions or concerns to the appropriate staff member or administrator.

Teachers: The primary point of contact for questions or concerns related to your child's school is their classroom teacher. Our educators are standing by to address the ongoing learning needs of all students.

Principals/ Building Leaders: Please direct unresolved questions or concerns related to your child's school to the appropriate Building Leader.

School	Building Leader	Email	Phone
Collingswood High School	Mr. Matt Genna	mgenna@collsk12.org	856.962.5701
Collingswood Middle School	Dr. Jack McMullin	jmcmullin@collsk12.org	856.962.5702
Garfield Elementary	Mr. Mark Wiltsey	mwiltsey@collsk12.org	856.962.5705
Newbie Elementary	Mr. Steve Smith	ssmith@collsk12.org	856.962.5706
Sharp Elementary	Mr. Doug Newman	dnewman@collsk12.org	856.962.5707
Tatem Elementary	Mr. Brian Kulak	bkulak@collsk12.org	856.962.5704
Zane North Elementary	Mr. Tom Santo	tsanto@collsk12.org	856.962.5703
Oaklyn School	Ms. Jennifer Boulden	jboulden@oaklynschool.org	856.858.0335
Collingswood Preschool/ Early Childhood Center	Ms. Jennifer McPartland	jmcpartland@collsk12.org	856.833.5291

Special Education Services: If your child already has an IEP, please contact your child's Child Study Team Case Manager. If you have questions regarding special education services in the district, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Whitehouse, Supervisor of Special Services - ewhitehouse@collks12.org.

District Data/ Secondary Curriculum & Instruction: If you have questions regarding the district's data collection practices or Collingswood Middle School and High School curriculum, please contact Mr. Winsor Yamamoto, Chief Performance Officer - wyamamoto@collsk12.org.

Preschool/ Elementary Curriculum & Instruction: If you have questions regarding curriculum and instruction offered at the preschool or elementary level, please contact Ms. Jen McPartland, Supervisor of Preschool and Chief Academic Officer - jmcpartland@collsk12.org.