



The Road Forward

Health and Safety Guidance
for the 2021-2022 School Year



**OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

2021-2022

SAFE RETURN PLAN

WHAT IS DETERMINED

State Mandate:

- Schools will operate **5 full days per week** unless an outbreak impacts the temporary closure of a school or district.
- According to **Executive Order 251**, all students, staff, and visitors will be required to **wear masks** at all times inside any buses and facilities. (Except when eating, drinking, playing musical instrument, participating in aerobic activity, impedes health or in extreme heat). Schools will schedule mask breaks as needed.
- There is no remote learning option aside from medically documented circumstances.
- **Executive Order 253** mandates all public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (“covered settings”), must maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof to the covered setting that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof that they are fully vaccinated must submit to a minimum of weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.

Local Decision:

- Visitors will be allowed in the buildings for preapproved school related business until further notice. Visitors will be asked to provide contact sheets and proof of vaccination.
 - * **No large indoor assemblies**
 - Visitors as being those representing businesses, affiliations, and service providers that would come in contact with significant numbers of staff or students.
 - The district would prefer those wanting to do business in our schools send vaccinated personnel. The knowledge of proof of vaccination would expedite contact tracing if unfortunately required.
 - Parents/guardians required to visit a school must have an appointment, follow all OBTPS board policy, and state requirements. Parents/Guardians do NOT need to provide proof of vaccination.
- Extracurricular activities will continue to operate at pre-pandemic protocol until further notice.
- Field Trips are limited to job coaching experiences only until further notice.
- **Home health screening is suspended.**
- Temperature taking is suspended.
- The use of isolation tents is suspended.

PROTOCOLS FOR 21-22 SCHOOL YEAR

Approximately 1000 plexiglass units are being made available to mitigate viral spread in areas where social distancing is less practical.

Social distancing at 3 feet between students and 6 feet between student and teacher will be the standard used to the greatest extent practicable.

Two washable face masks will be provided for every student and staff member.

Every school and bus has disposable face masks.

An abundance of hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and cleaning products are available at all facilities.

Signage promoting hand hygiene and respiratory responsibility is displayed at all school facilities.

CLEANING, MAINTENANCE & VENTILATION



Bathrooms cleaned and disinfected hourly.



Classrooms disinfected during the school day and nightly. All rooms will be set to the greatest outside air transition possible.



Regular sanitization and disinfecting (Virex) of all hard, nonporous surfaces and common touch points.



EnviroKlenz devices have been situated in every learning and common space to effectively clean the air of viruses, bacteria, debris, and mold with UV lights and MERV 15 HEPA Filtration.



STUDENT OR STAFF ILLNESS & QUARANTINE

- **Vaccinated** student and staff members who are exposed to a positive or probable case will not need to quarantine. The CDC recommends that vaccinated persons who were exposed to a COVID positive individual test between 3-5 days of exposure.
- **Unvaccinated** student and staff members who are exposed to a positive or probable case will need to quarantine. Quarantine period: 14 days symptom-free from date of exposure. This information could change based upon regional pandemic status.
- **Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.
- **Exception:** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

* This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.



Learning Options

- There is no option for parents to choose remote learning this year, per the state.
- Alternative learning options must be available this year only for students who are quarantined or have COVID-19.
- Home instruction plans for medical reasons, long term illnesses or that are necessitated by Individualized Education Plans are different and in these cases the district will follow Home Instruction protocols and procedures which include approval from the school physician.

STUDENTS



Quarantined students will have the option to **view** the classroom using a device. There will not be interaction with the classroom teacher as the teacher will be focusing their attention on the students in the classroom.

Parents who choose this option for their student waive privacy of quarantine status.

This student may receive home instruction for 2 hours per day during their quarantine and will be marked present.

Home instruction will be provided virtually, between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Home instruction links will be provided, and information communicated directly with individuals as needed.



If camera is on in a classroom for COVID reasons, then students who stay home for the day for other, non-COVID related reasons may also **view** the classroom via remote access.

This student will not be entitled to home instruction and will be marked absent.

A student who is home sick for non-COVID reasons will be marked absent even if they log in to view a classroom in session.

Cameras will not be on in classrooms where there are no COVID quarantines.



High School and Middle School students **may** be assigned to a large group area (cafeteria or auditorium) if an assigned teacher is quarantined and must provide instruction remotely. Substitutes will cover classes when available.

Teacher Responsibilities

Once a student in the classroom is quarantined you must turn the classroom camera on to allow the student to view/hear the instruction.

Utilize Teams and ensure the student(s) understand how to access the classroom resources.

Ensure that the students have access to instructional materials (post relevant materials in Teams).

Teachers will make their instructional portion of the lesson accessible but are not required to interact or teach fully hybrid-style like last year.

Students may participate in assessments while quarantine at the teacher's discretion. Alternative assessments may be assigned if appropriate.

Special Education

Special education programs and services will be provided during quarantine.

Some modifications may be needed to accommodate a virtual environment, individual needs and staffing.

STAFF

A vaccinated staff member who tests COVID positive must quarantine consistent with current Department of Health guidance.

A vaccinated or unvaccinated staff member who is symptomatic must remain home and quarantine for the required number of days (currently 14); or provide an alternative diagnosis and a negative COVID test.

Staff may be advised to work remotely if their position allows for this option. Human Resources will determine eligibility and confirm remote assignment if applicable.

Staff who are unable to work remotely as a result of the specific position they are assigned (i.e.; paraprofessional, maintenance, transportation, etc.) may use their sick time for themselves or to care for a quarantined dependent. Confirmation will be provided from Human Resources.

**The use of sick time for the purpose of caring for a COVID positive dependent is temporarily approved as a result of the Public Health Crisis and Executive Orders set by the Governor's office.*

VACCINATIONS & TESTING

- Vaccinations are widely available, free of charge, and (according to data) the best way to protect yourself and others from severe illness. At the present time, the State of New Jersey has not mandated students to be vaccinated. We encourage everyone eligible, to discuss vaccinations with their personal healthcare provider.
- **Executive Order 253** mandates all public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (“covered settings”), must maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof to the covered setting that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof that they are fully vaccinated must submit to a minimum of weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.
- ***** The district is partnering with Old Bridge Drugs & Surgical to provide an FDA approved Pfizer COVID clinic on September 2 & September 23.**
- The district is training medical staff to provide OPTIONAL COVID screening.
- We believe in giving our community **access** to medical tests and treatments to ease their mind's during this health crisis.



FOOD SERVICES

- Free Breakfast and Free Lunch for all students districtwide (including before and aftercare)
- All schools will use touchless scanners for processing food orders
- All Student ID Cards will be utilized for the processing of food orders (K-12)
 - OBHS will have an application for Food Service available
- Grab and Go Carts located throughout each of the buildings at the discretion of the Building Principal
- Students can remove masks to eat/drink with social distancing 3ft or to the greatest extent practicable including the use of outdoor tables





TRANSPORTATION

- According to federal and state requirements ALL occupants of a school bus or van must wear a mask while riding transportation.
- Social distancing will not be practicable during full service educational programming.
- Transportation will operate for approved extracurricular activities subject to change.
- Transportation will provide every regular route with a seating chart to assist in contact tracing.
- Transportation vehicles will be disinfected at student contact points after each run.

COMMUNICATION

- OBTPS leadership will maintain close communication with community stakeholders to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures and we will continue to maintain procedures for Local Health Department (LHD) notification and response to COVID-19 illness in school settings.
- Local notification will rely upon telecommunication for close contacts and email and/or the Thrillshare mass notification system.



LET'S WORK
TOWARDS A
SCHOOL YEAR
OF PROMISE FOR
OUR CHILDREN
AND NOT
AGAINST ONE
ANOTHER. STAY
SAFE AND BE
HEALTHY.

