

2021-2022 Cresskill School District Covid-Related Procedures

Updated January 12, 2022

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District Procedures

What are the quarantine procedures for different Covid-related situations?

- Please refer to the two tables below for the quarantine procedures for different Covid-related situations. These tables outline the differences in procedures based on an individual's vaccination status.
- Please note for timing purposes that in the event of an individual being Covid positive, the quarantine period begins on the date of the positive test. This date will be considered day 0 in the quarantine period. If you are experiencing Covid symptoms (see below the tables for a list of Covid symptoms), we encourage you to get a test as soon as possible.
- **Due to the current testing shortage and long wait time for PCR test results, the district will be accepting rapid tests in addition to PCR tests for any testing requirement. Please note that these rapid tests must come from a medical facility and the shared results must have the individual's name on it. At home rapid tests will not be accepted.**

COVID PROCEDURES FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS <i>Individuals over 18 who are boosted are considered fully vaccinated.</i> <i>School-age children who received their two doses are considered fully vaccinated.</i> <i>Individuals who have recently had a documented case of Covid are considered fully vaccinated for a 90 day period.</i>	
If you are Covid positive	<p>You must quarantine for 5 days and can return to in-person instruction on day 6 provided that you are symptom free. Individuals must be fever free for 48 hours without the aid of medication. All positive Covid tests results should be shared with the school nurse.</p> <p>Upon return to school, individuals must eat separately until day 11.</p>
If you are a close contact	<p>No quarantine period is required, but individuals must take a test on day 5-7 and share their results with the school nurse. Individuals should monitor for symptoms after their exposure and quarantine immediately if they display any symptoms.</p>
If you are a household close contact	<p>You must quarantine for at least 5 days. If you take a test on day 5-7, you can return to in-person instruction as early as day 6 provided that your test is negative, shared with the school nurse, and that you are symptom free.</p> <p>If you choose to not take a test, you can return to in-person instruction on day 11.</p>
If you travel domestically*	<p>No quarantine period is required. Individuals should monitor for symptoms after their exposure and quarantine immediately if they display any symptoms.</p> <p>Please note that travel to Hawaii or Alaska is not considered domestic travel.</p>
If you travel internationally*	<p>No quarantine period is required, but individuals must take a test on day 5-7 and share their results with the school nurse. Individuals should monitor for symptoms after their exposure and quarantine immediately if they display any symptoms.</p>
If you travel on a cruise*	<p>You must quarantine for 10 days and can return to school on day 11 provided that you are symptom free.</p>

*If you are not fully vaccinated by the time you leave for your trip, you must follow the guidelines for not yet fully vaccinated individuals below.

COVID PROCEDURES FOR UNVACCINATED OR NOT YET FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

Individuals who have received their full vaccination regimen but are not yet at the two week point following their final shot are considered not yet fully vaccinated.

If you are Covid positive	<p>You must quarantine for 5 days and can return to in-person instruction on day 6 provided that you are symptom free. Individuals must be fever free for 48 hours without the aid of medication. All positive Covid tests results should be shared with the school nurse.</p> <p>Upon return to school, individuals must eat separately until day 11.</p>
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If you travel domestically	<p>No quarantine period is required. Individuals should monitor for symptoms after their exposure and quarantine immediately if they display any symptoms.</p> <p>Please note that travel to Hawaii or Alaska is not considered domestic travel.</p>
If you travel internationally	<p>You must quarantine for at least 5 days. If you take a test on day 5-7, you can return to in-person instruction as early as day 6 provided that your test is negative, shared with the school nurse, and that you are symptom free.</p> <p>If you choose to not take a test, you can return to in-person instruction on day 11.</p>
If you travel on a cruise	<p>You must quarantine for 10 days and can return to school on day 11 provided that you are symptom free.</p>

Is my child permitted to stream into the classroom while quarantined?

- Students are permitted to stream into the classroom when quarantined in the following circumstances:
 - The student is Covid positive.
 - The student is determined to be a close contact from a school interaction.
 - A member of the student's immediate household is Covid positive and proof of the positive test has been shared with the school nurse.
- In all other situations, including when students must quarantine due to travel, students are not permitted to stream into the classroom while quarantined.

What is considered a Covid symptom?

- Covid symptoms include:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Changes in the skin, such as discolored areas on the feet and hands
 - Sore throat
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, belly pain or diarrhea
 - Chills

- Muscle aches and pain
- Extreme fatigue
- New severe headache
- New nasal congestion
- Your child may be required to take a Covid test before returning to school if they display one or more of the symptoms listed above. An alternate diagnosis without a negative Covid test is not acceptable for individuals who meet Covid-19 quarantine criteria to return to school during periods of moderate, high, or very high community transmission.

What are the rules regarding masks?

- Inside all district buildings all students and staff must wear masks at all times regardless of vaccination status.
- At the elementary schools, all students and staff must also wear masks during arrival and dismissal.
- Outside the building (recess, phys ed, etc.), masks are optional yet recommended for students and staff regardless of vaccination status.

Is there a vaccine mandate for students?

- There is no requirement for vaccination by either the State of New Jersey or the Cresskill School District. However it is highly encouraged for all eligible students to receive the vaccine.
- Schools are permitted to request the health information of its students and staff. This includes vaccination status for all manner of childhood diseases, not just for COVID.

Is there a vaccine mandate for staff?

- As per the recent state announcement, all employees must provide proof of vaccination by October 18th or provide proof of bi-weekly Covid testing.
- Please be advised that as per the Governor's recent executive order, this vaccine mandate also applies to any regular volunteers inside of schools, including, but not limited to, elementary school parent lunch volunteers and elementary school class facilitators.

Will a daily Covid screening form need to be submitted each day this year?

- No, a daily Covid form will not be required this year for admittance into each building.
- Families will be required prior to the start of the school year to sign off in the Genesis Parent Portal that they understand the student illness procedures for this year and will not send their child to school if they are sick or displaying Covid-like symptoms.

How will the bathrooms and traffic through the buildings be monitored?

- Procedures regarding movement in the halls will be put in place to ensure proper social distancing throughout the day when students are in the hallways.
- Access to bathrooms will be monitored but there is no limit for usage. Teachers will review social distancing and other safety guidelines with students regarding bathroom usage at the beginning of the year.
- Custodial staff will service bathrooms more frequently according to our enhanced cleaning protocols.

How will classrooms be set up?

- As was done last year, the default classroom setup will have student desks placed in rows and columns with all desks facing the same direction.
- Additional furniture in the classroom is allowed if social distancing between desks can be maintained.
- Due to physical constraints and in order to facilitate active social learning, there may be times where social distancing protocols cannot be observed or the above default setup is adjusted.

Will desk shields be used inside of classrooms this year?

- No, desk shields will not be used inside of classrooms this year.

Will windows be required to remain open inside of classrooms this year?

- When outdoor temperatures are moderate and will not adversely impact the temperature inside of the classroom, windows will be required to remain open.

- When outdoor temperatures are more extreme and would adversely impact the temperature inside of the classroom, windows will be closed.
- The HVAC units in each classroom will remain on at all times regardless of whether windows are open or closed in order to effectively circulate air between the classroom and outside.

How will the community receive notification?

- Close contacts will be notified of their potential exposure in every situation.
- A general email will be sent to the school community each time an individual within the school tests positive for Covid.
- School officials must notify the New Jersey Department of Education and provide information that is more specific.
- School officials must notify local health officials and provide information that is more specific.

Who performs contact tracing?

- School administration and nurses conduct local contact tracing and then notify the local health department.

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EHB & MMS Specific Procedures

What are the lunch procedures for this year?

- Students must either bring a bagged lunch with them to school in the morning or order school lunch. Hot lunch should not be dropped off at the school during the day.
- At both elementary schools, students will eat outside “picnic style” whenever the weather allows for it. Students should bring a towel each week to school on Monday to use to sit on when outside and take the towel home each Friday to be washed.
- **EHB Specific Procedures**
 - When inclement or cold weather does not allow for eating outside, students at Bryan will eat at lunch tables inside of the multi-purpose room.
 - Students will be seated approximately 3 feet away from one another at all tables.
 - When inside, students will have assigned seats.
 - Students must remain seated for the duration of the entire lunch period except in emergencies.
 - Students in grades 3 & 5 will eat together from 11:20 - 11:40 each day. Recess will take place after their lunch period.
 - Students in grade 4 will eat together from 11:45 - 12:05 each day. Recess will take place before their lunch period.
 - Students in grade 1 will eat together from 12:10 - 12:30 each day. Recess will take place after their lunch period.
 - Students in grade 2 will eat together from 12:35 - 12:55 each day. Recess will take place before their lunch period.
 - Students in Kindergarten with Ms. Park, Mrs. Connolly, & Mrs. Maza will eat together from 11:20 - 11:40 each day. Recess will take place after their lunch period.
 - Students in Kindergarten with Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Rooney, & Ms. Setka will eat together from 12:10 - 12:30 each day. Recess will take place after their lunch period.
- **MMS Specific Procedures**
 - When inclement or cold weather does not allow for eating outside, students at Merritt will eat at lunch tables and folding tables set up inside of the gymnasium.
 - Students will be seated approximately 3 feet away from one another at all tables.
 - When inside, students will have assigned seats.
 - Students must remain seated for the duration of the entire lunch period except in emergencies.
 - Students in grades 1-3 will eat together from 12:00 - 12:25 each day. Recess will take place after their lunch period.
 - Students in grades 4-5 will eat together from 12:25 - 12:50 each day. Recess will take place before their lunch period.

Will there be field trips and assemblies?

- While we are planning on field trips and assemblies returning in the spring, it will be dependent upon the overall conditions at that time and current safety procedures. No field trips or assemblies will take place during the fall or winter.

Will rugs be used as a gathering space in elementary school classrooms this year?

- In classrooms where space allows for the desks to be spaced out properly and space still remains for rugs to be placed in the classrooms, rugs can be placed inside of classrooms.
- In classrooms that do have rugs, any time students spend on the rugs as a gathering area will be limited and students will still be socially distanced from one another in this space.

What are the procedures for morning arrival this year?

- While the areas will not be roped off as they were last year, each homeroom will have a designated space outside the building to line up at each morning beginning at 8:15 AM.
- Only students are permitted on the lawn area of each school. Parents should remain on the sidewalk and not enter the lawn area when dropping off students.
- Classes will stagger inside using entrances throughout the building in order to control the flow of traffic inside the building during arrival.

- In the event of inclement weather, students may enter the building at any open entrance beginning at 8:20 AM and should proceed directly into their classroom.

Will there be snack time?

- There will be snack time in kindergarten, which will be done at the discretion of the individual teacher. There will be no snack for grades 1-5 in order to minimize the amount of time during the day that students are without masks.

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CMS & CHS Specific Procedures

What are the procedures for morning arrival this year?

- A daily Covid screening form will not be required this year for admittance into the building.
- All students will enter the building through the main entrance
- Students will be allowed into the building beginning at 7:15am
- Middle School students who arrive prior to period 2 class will report to the supervised cafeteria.

Will the cafeteria be open for purchase of breakfast items?

- Yes, the cafeteria will be open for HS students to purchase breakfast items prior to period 1. MS students will be allowed to purchase during period 1.
- Students are permitted to eat inside the cafeteria. Eating in the hallways or classrooms will be prohibited.
- Middle school students are permitted to eat in the upper cafeteria section. Students who are not eating will gather in the main cafeteria area.
- UV air purifier units are installed in multiple locations in the cafeteria seating areas.

What are the lunch procedures for this year?

- No lunch deliveries or drop-offs are allowed - students are permitted to bring a brown-bag lunch with them each morning or purchase lunch from the full-service cafeteria.
- Students will have the option to dine outside in the courtyard when the weather permits.
- UV air purifier units are installed in multiple locations in the cafeteria seating areas.
- The scheduling of lunch periods has been expanded to best accommodate a reasonable number of students eating together at a given time in the cafeteria. (See this [link](#) for the full CMS/CHS bell schedule)
 - Period 5- 8th & 9th grades
 - Period 6- 10th, 11th, & 12th grades
 - Period 7- 6th & 7th grades
- Students in 8th & 9th grades have the option to use the gymnasium for open gym activities when they are finished eating lunch.
- Students in 10th, 11th, & 12th grades are eligible for open campus and may leave school grounds during their lunch period.
- Students in 6th & 7th grades will have both lunch and recess. 6th graders will eat lunch first and 7th graders participate in recess first. The grades will switch halfway through the period.
- Seating capacity will be reduced per table. Tables will be labeled with numbers to assist during any needed student contact tracing procedures.

Can I drop off other school materials or personal items for my child during the school day?

- No lunch deliveries or drop-offs are allowed - students are permitted to bring a brown-bag lunch with them each morning or purchase lunch from the full-service cafeteria.
- Occasional emergency drop-off of essential items may be accommodated by the main office staff.
- Excessive use of the emergency drop-off procedures will be addressed by administration if necessary.

Will students be assigned lockers?

- Yes, all students will be assigned lockers. Students can find their locker assignment and combination in Genesis.

Can my child bring their own laptop or Chromebook to use in school?

- Yes, your child may bring their own laptop or Chromebook to school to use for any activities done on a computer. Students will be able to access the building's guest wifi for any online activities they use their own devices for.

Will water fountains be accessible for student use?

- Only bottle refilling stations will be accessible for student use; students are encouraged to come to school with a refillable bottle. Students will not be permitted to drink directly from the water fountains.

What are the expectations for physical education?

- Students will have the option to change for physical education class in the locker rooms or simply participate in class with their school attire if criteria is already met (sneakers, appropriate clothing?, no jewelry).
- Mask requirements will be activity-dependent.

Will there be field trips?

- While we are open to evaluating field trips this school year, individual trips will be dependent upon the overall conditions at that time and current safety procedures.

Will there be assembly programs during the school day?

- Assembly programs will be considered based upon overall conditions at that time and current safety procedures.

Will there be extracurricular activities offered?

- Yes, extracurricular activities will continue to be offered to the fullest extent to which they are permissible within current safety guidelines.

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Updates

1/12/22

- Revised quarantine and other policies based on updated NJDOH guidance.

12/9/21

- Revised close contact policy to differentiate for vaccination status and household exposure.
- Revised streaming quarantine policies.

11/19/21

- Revised close contact policy for staff to clarify that vaccination status does not impact close contact considerations at this time.
- Updated travel quarantine policy to reflect current health and safety recommendations.
- Updated community notification policy.

10/26/21

- Updated the elementary school rug policy for rooms with space to safely use the rugs and still follow social distancing protocols.

9/17/21

- Updated the close contact protocols to account for staff vaccination status.

9/7/21

- Clarified the vaccine mandate's applicability to regular volunteers.
- Adjusted the elementary morning drop-off time in the event of inclement weather.

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