



CLIFFSIDE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPENING GUIDELINES

SEPTEMBER 2021

The Cliffside Park School District will provide for a full-day, full-time, in-person instruction and operations program beginning September 2021, following the procedures and guidelines in “The Road Forward” issued by the NJ Department of Education (Aug 2021) and the New Jersey Department of Health.

STUDENT DAILY ENTRY PROCEDURES

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every morning. Students who are sick should not attend school. Parents should report, to the school nurse or building principal, symptoms and reasons for their child’s possible absence. Parents should not send their child(ren) to school with at least two of the following symptoms ; fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; or at least one of the following symptoms; cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, no sense of smell or taste.

VACCINATIONS

All PreK-12 staff MUST be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021 or undergo regular testing at a minimum of once to twice each week.

The Cliffside Park School District will have a system in place to determine the vaccination status of students and staff.

As a district we will actively promote vaccinations for all eligible students and staff. As vaccine eligibility expands, Cliffside Park Schools may consider school-wide vaccine coverage among students and staff.

MASKS

As per Governor Murphy’s directive, all staff and students MUST wear masks when in a school building or office. Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.

Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some individuals; however, mask use is **required** for **all** individuals in **indoor school settings** with the following exceptions:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual’s health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;



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- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

VISITORS

Visitors will enter a school building using the main door while satisfying all entry protocols with the school's security officer. In addition to providing valid identification, visitors must wear a mask. The school administration and guidance department will minimize the number of parents/guardians/visitors who request entry to a school building.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: CLASSROOM AND HALLWAY PROCEDURES

Within classrooms, maintain 3 feet of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students.

Outside, of classrooms, including in hallways, locker rooms, indoor and outdoor physical education settings, and school-sponsored transportation, maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

For the safety of all staff and students the following procedures are also recommended.

- Moving of desks and furniture (3ft apart), whenever possible.
- Physical distancing outside of classroom, whenever possible.
- Limit movement in classrooms, whenever possible.
- Limit use of shared objects.
- Provide adequate ventilation where appropriate.
- Hand sanitizing stations in each classroom and building entrances.
- When weather allows, windows should be opened to allow for greater air circulation.



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- Rooms that do not have adequate ventilation (without windows) will have a portable air purifying filter installed.
- Students in the MS and HS will move through the hallways on a scheduled basis following one-way directions provided by the administration, whenever possible.

HYGIENE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Schools will teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- Schools will maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, tissues, paper towels and no-touch trash cans.
- Students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask.

WHEN ILLNESS OCCURS IN SCHOOL

Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated away from others until they can be sent home.

- Ask ill student (or parent/guardian) and staff whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days meeting the definition of a close contact.
- Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider. Persons with COVID-19-compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing.
 - If [community transmission is low](#), ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the [NJDOH School Exclusion List](#) to determine when they may return to school. No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.
 - If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure OR if [community transmission is moderate or high](#), they should continue to be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.
- District will notify LHDs when students or staff:
 - Are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure;
 - When they see an increase in the number of persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms.
 - Test positive for COVID-19 (when in-school testing is performed).
- District will provide the following information when consulting with the LHD:
 - Contact information for the ill persons;
 - The date the ill person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building;
 - Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations;
 - Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the



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- school;
 - Vaccination status if known;
 - Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.
- Regardless of vaccination status, if a student or staff experiences COVID-compatible symptoms, they should [isolate themselves from others](#), be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2.

Additionally; Individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, will be sent home or denied entry to school, and;

- COVID-19 symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (100.4° F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or other signs of new illness that are not related to a preexisting condition (such as seasonal allergies).
- A suspected case is a person who shows symptoms of COVID-19 but has not yet been tested or is waiting for test results. A confirmed case is a person (with or without symptoms) who received a positive result from a COVID-19 laboratory test.
- If a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 infection occurs within the school, the ill person will be placed in quarantine until he/she can be sent home.
- Other staff and students in the class, who are not vaccinated, maybe considered close contacts of that case and will be quarantined in their homes until; test shows negative; or a determined number of days if a test shows positive, as per the local health official.
- Parents/guardians and staff school-wide will be informed of the situation but the name of person should be kept confidential.
- The CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection of classroom will be followed.
- If confirmed cases occur in multiple classes within the school, the district will be following the recommendation of the local health official regarding quarantining.
- Individuals who have recently had a close contact with a person with COVID-19 should stay home and monitor their health.

EXCLUSION OR QUARANTINE

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Persons Who Have COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms or Who Test Positive for COVID-19:

- Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 72 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a



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negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

- **Exception:** During periods of low community transmission, ill individuals excluded for COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested **and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure** may follow NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been [fully vaccinated](#) against the disease and show no symptoms. However, they must continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days following the exposure. If symptomatic they should isolate from others and be evaluated by a medically evaluated, including COVID testing.
- Unvaccinated staff or students must quarantine for 10 days without testing.
- Unvaccinated staff or students must quarantine for 7 days after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).
- Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated away from others until they can be sent home.
- The date the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 was last in the building.
- The date the person developed symptoms.
- Types of interactions the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations.
- How long their interactions were with other persons in the building.
- If other persons in the class/school have developed any symptoms; and
- Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.

The COVID-19 Exclusion List described in [NJDOH guidance for Local health departments](#) can be used to determine the need for and duration of school exclusion based on the level of COVID-19 community transmission in their region. In order to facilitate rapid diagnosis and limit unnecessary school exclusion, schools may consider implementing school-based diagnostic testing for students and staff.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

CDC released guidance with options to shorten the [quarantine](#) time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period and thus the preferred school exclusion period – regardless of the community transmission level, it is recognized that any quarantine



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shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in [NJDOH quarantine guidance](#).

To that end, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on [community transmission levels as follows](#):

High (orange) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.

Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)

Schools serving medically complex or other high-risk individuals should use a 14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts in all levels of [community transmission](#).

Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms:

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus. A contact tracing team from the Cliffside Park Local Health Department or the NJDOH will call anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. They ask the staff member or parent of student questions about his or her activities within a certain timeframe, to help identify anyone they have had close contact. Those contacts might include family members, caregivers, co-workers or other staff.

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) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-



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fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

MEALS

Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be sanitized before and after meals.

- **Grades PreK-6**

All students will eat in their classrooms, whenever possible, and will try to maintain physical distancing of 3ft, when possible.

- **Grades 7-12**

Middle and High School students will utilize the cafeteria and other school areas while eating to maintain physical distancing, when possible. Self-serving and sharing of food items will be discouraged.

TRANSPORTATION

Cliffside Park will maintain social distancing practices on buses to the maximum extent practicable and adopt best practices for cleaning and disinfecting. All students and staff **MUST** wear masks on buses regardless of their vaccination status.

Cliffside Park Transportation Department will implement the following protocols for the safety of our staff and students;

- All buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer for staff & students.
- There will be an established central disinfecting & cleaning area to allow for the daily disinfecting of buses after each run.

CLEANING OF FACILITIES

Routine cleaning and disinfecting are key to maintaining a safe environment for staff and students. Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is usually done with soap and water. Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical, and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label.

Clean and disinfecting will take place daily (or more, depending on use patterns) frequently touched surfaces and objects such as:



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- Door knobs and handles
- Stair rails
- Classroom desks and chairs
- Lunchroom tables and chairs as well as student desks used for lunch.
- Countertops
- Handrails
- Light switches
- Handles on equipment (e.g., athletic equipment)
- Shared toys
- Shared telephones
- Shared desktops
- Shared computer keyboards and mice
- Computer keyboards are difficult to clean. Shared computers should have signs posted instructing proper hand hygiene before and after using them to minimize disease transmission.
- It will not be necessary to routinely apply disinfectants to surfaces that are not high-touch or high-risk (e.g., floors, bookcases, tops of filing cabinets). Soft surfaces such as carpets, rugs, and drapes can be cleaned using soap and water or a cleaner appropriate for the material.
- Sanitize and clean bathrooms and hallways throughout the school day.
- Sanitize and clean elementary classrooms during lunch breaks.
- Sanitize and clean middle and high school classrooms during change of classes.
- Deep cleaning of classrooms, offices, bathrooms, all-purpose room and other areas of use will take place at night and weekends, whenever possible.
- If a sick child has been isolated in the school building, clean and disinfect surfaces in the isolation room or area after the sick child has gone home. If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member:
 - Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas with an EPA-registered product for use against SARS-CoV-2.
 - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - Facilities should work with the [local health officials](#) to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.



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REMOTE LEARNING

If a student or class must be quarantined, as per the local health official, as a precaution or as a result of a positive COVID case, those students will receive virtual instruction consistent with those students who are in-person.

Remote or virtual learning will not be available for any other reason, such as travel or other illness, etc.

TRAVEL



- Staff and students do NOT need to get tested or self-quarantine if they are **fully vaccinated** or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months.
- If a staff member or student are **not fully vaccinated** and must travel, they must:
 - Before you travel:
 - Get tested with a **viral test** 1-3 days before your trip.
 - While you are traveling:
 - **Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required** on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on a ferry or the top deck of a bus). CDC recommends that travelers who are not **fully vaccinated** continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when traveling.
 - Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you.
 - Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
 - After you travel and before you RETURN TO SCHOOL OR WORK:
 - Get tested with a **viral test** 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.



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- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
- If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)			CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)		
Domestic Travel			International Travel		
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS			RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS		
	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated		Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before travel	✓		Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	✓	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	✓		Mandatory test required before flying to US	✓	✓
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓	Get tested 3-5 days after travel	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓	Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	✓	
			Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
			Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓

 cdc.gov/coronavirus  cdc.gov/coronavirus