

Farmingdale Public School

2020 Reopening Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

HEALTH and SAFETY

1. Are the children and staff going to be asked if anyone in the household has COVID-19 or pending COVID-19 testing?

All families and staff will be asked to complete a Symptom-Free Covid-19 Parent/Guardian Agreement before the start of the school year essentially stating that by arriving at school they agree they are not COVID-19 positive, do not have any pending testing, and are not exhibiting any symptoms. This will be a one-time form to complete prior to the start of the school year. Families may also be required to complete a daily screening tool. Additionally, students and staff will be temperature checked when they arrive at the building. If a student seems overheated from riding their bike and has a temperature higher than 100.4 they will be asked to sit for 10 minutes and have their temperature rechecked prior to calling their parents.

2. How will social distancing be maintained in the hallways and during arrival and dismissal?

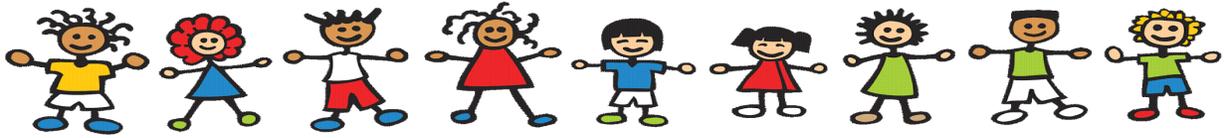
During arrival, students will no longer congregate in the gymnasium. Rather, at 8:25am students will enter through one of several entrances, have their temperature checked and proceed directly to their homerooms. The entrance will be determined by the student's homeroom and will be identified in our late August welcome back letter. Signage will be placed both on the walls and floors throughout the building reminding everyone to social distance. Face coverings will be worn at all times, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. During dismissal, all teachers will be walking students to an identified exit. This too, will be identified in our welcome back letter.

3. Will the bathroom be available for use and how will sanitary conditions be maintained?

Our custodial team will have an increased rotation to enable higher frequency cleaning of bathrooms during the day. Custodial schedules will be modified to enable more frequent cleaning routines. By limiting evening and after school activities, we will be able to implement increased cleaning routines after the school day has ended. Signage will be both in the bathrooms and throughout the building reminding all of proper handwashing procedures. Students will need to maintain good hygiene, hand washing, and the wearing of face coverings to maximize safety. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available in all rooms throughout the building. Hands-free automatic hand sanitizing stations have been ordered and will be placed at each entrance and outside each learning space.

4. Will grades 6-8 be using their lockers?

Students will only be using their lockers for their jackets/coats and will be spread out when they use their lockers. However, they will not be able to keep anything else in their locker at this time. We recommend that students only bring what they need for their classes and not a large amount of extra items. If students would like to bring a string bag to carry their items from one room to another, they are welcome to do so.



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5. Will lunch and breakfast still be provided for the students to take home?

Yes, students will be offered both breakfast and lunch to take home grab-and-go style.

6. Will students be able to have a snack?

K-5 students will be allowed to have a nut-free snack brought in from home.

7. Will students be required to provide their own face coverings and other PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)?

Yes. The school will have additional PPE to issue to students if they do not have an appropriate face covering, if their face covering gets wet or dirty, or if they do not have access to PPE. Students will be expected to wear a face covering at all times as directed by the Governor. It is recommended that students come to school with 2 face coverings in case something happens to one of them. If using disposable face coverings, they need to be replaced each day. If using washable/reusable face coverings, they should be washed after each school day. Currently, the CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for face coverings. If students want to wear a face shield, they are also required to wear a face covering. However, if a medical reason precludes them from wearing a face covering, please contact the nurse for more guidance. All face coverings must follow our student dress code policy.

8. Will students change classrooms throughout the day?

We are crafting a schedule so that students have limited changes/movement throughout their day based on the guidance from the NJDOE. There will be reduced movement between periods where we are able to have the teachers move instead of the students. At the elementary level, specials will be taught in the homerooms or virtually to allow for less movement throughout the building. Weather permitting, Physical Education (PE) classes will be taught outside (see further explanation below).

9. We are concerned about the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission during any activity that elevates breathing rates. If you will be holding PE classes, can we opt out of it if we choose? Are students required to wear face coverings during specials/electives such as music/choir or physical education?

PE class attendance will be required in all grades. Classes will be held in person and outdoors whenever possible. Students seeking a medical exclusion would be determined by a medical note. All PE classes will be conducted with social distancing requirements and students will be utilizing hand sanitizer/hand washing both before and after class. There will be limited sharing of equipment and any shared equipment will be disinfected after use. When classes cannot meet outside or in a larger classroom, the PE teacher will come to the homeroom and focus their instruction on health, both emotional and physical. As per DOE guidance in the [School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions](#), face coverings



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may be removed during physical education or music classes, provided individuals are in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart.

10. Kids being kids, it's difficult to maintain social distancing, enforce wearing face coverings, and hand sanitizing protocols, etc. How will these situations be handled?

We have a collective responsibility to one another to uphold and adhere to these requirements. How we handle this and prepare our children will determine how they handle it. We ask that all parents and guardians partner with us and begin, if you haven't already, normalizing the wearing of face coverings for extended periods of time. Child-friendly infographic visuals on how to properly wear a mask will be posted throughout the school as a reminder for our students. Additionally, teachers will consistently reinforce the importance of wearing a face covering and social distancing. If a particular student presents an issue with this requirement, the teacher and administration will work with the family to rectify it. If the student continues to refuse to follow the requirement, a parent meeting will be held to discuss options.

11. I submitted my choice for remote only by August 10th as indicated in the parent letter, but now I have changed my mind and would like my child(ren) to attend in person. Can I switch?

The choice you make on our form in August cannot be changed prior to the first day of school unless it is an extenuating circumstance that is discussed and approved by the administration. We intend for students to continue either the in-person or remote only model for the first marking period. As you can imagine, scheduling and logistics for this endeavor are a huge challenge. We **MUST** have a complete list of students in order to schedule classes, and we cannot do that if we are constantly altering our rosters. If your plans change and you would like your child to resume in-person instruction, please submit your request at least two weeks prior to the start of the next marking period so he/she may begin in coordination with the new marking period. Please refer to these dates:

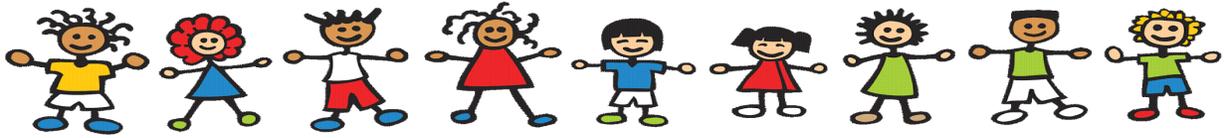
Start of 2nd Marking Period: November 16, 2020 (must request by **November 2, 2020**)

Start of 3rd Marking Period: February 2, 2021 (must request by **January 19, 2021**)

Start of 4th Marking Period: April 19, 2021 (must request by **April 5, 2021**)

12. If I send my child to school and then decide that I would like to switch to Remote Instruction, can I do so?

Our system does not support switching between our Shortened In-School Day Model and the Remote Instruction Model throughout the marking period and vice versa. This decision has to be made prior to the start of the school year. We do not have the ability to switch students mid-marking period as all of



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our scheduling and teaching assignments are currently being done for both models. However, students can move back into our In-School Day Model at the beginning of the next marking period or switch to Remote Instruction at that time provided you submit a written request at least two weeks prior to the start of the next marking period. If you would like to do Remote Instruction, **please make your decision by August 12th, at the latest.** Please use this [form](#) that **needs to be completed and submitted by August 12th, at the latest**, if you decide on Remote Instruction.

13. What safety protocols will be taken in the classrooms?

Based on State of New Jersey recommendations, seating arrangements in classrooms have been adjusted to adhere to proper indoor social distancing requirements as best as possible due to individual class enrollment. As per Governor Murphy's Executive Order, masks will be required to be worn at all times.

14. What type of cleaners will be used in the schools and will they be used while kids are present?

EPA registered Broad-Spectrum Disinfectant solution called Bioesque Botanical has:

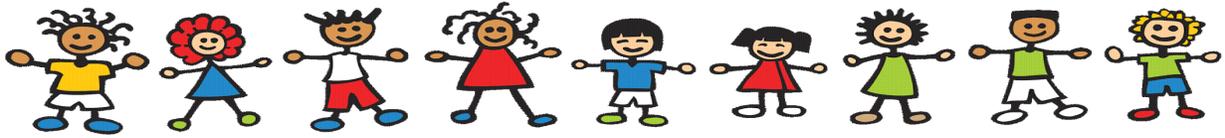
- Demonstrated effectiveness against viruses similar to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) on hard non-porous surfaces;
- Kills Norovirus in just 4 Minutes;
- Kills 99.9% of Bacteria, Viruses*, Fungi & Molds;
- Disinfect, Sanitize, Clean, and Deodorize in ONE STEP;
- No Rinse Required, even on food contact surfaces;
- Sanitizes Soft Surfaces in just 2 minutes;
- Eliminates 99.9% of most Allergens upon contact;
- Non-Abrasive and Non-Corrosive;
- Will be delivered via spray bottle and Protexus electrostatic sprayer

In addition each class will be supplied with Clorox wipes and lysol spray. Students will not be present when any aerosol sprays or the electrostatic sprayer is in use. As in the past, clorox wipes may be used in the classroom to disinfect when appropriate by the teacher.

LEARNING MODELS

1. What does a typical Shortened Day look like for my student?

Students will arrive at school at 8:25am and dismiss at 12:35pm. In the afternoon, all students (including REMOTE ONLY) will be required to continue learning via live virtual sessions at home. Students will



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be provided with required individualized/differentiated instruction and/or small group instruction during the afternoon remote instruction time when the in-person day is over. **Students will be required to ADHERE** to the schedule provided by his/her teacher regarding this instruction. Students will be socially distanced in school (spaced 6 feet apart) whenever the class enrollment and available space allows. Students will **NOT** eat lunch or have recess in school. However, outdoor learning/movement break opportunities will be incorporated into the students' schedules, weather permitting and when appropriate. Once students are dismissed at the end of each day, all classrooms and buildings will be deep cleaned and disinfected under the guidance of our regular custodial staff as outlined in the NJ DOE document [*The Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*](#).

2. What will REMOTE Instruction look like?

Our Remote Instruction Model will include both synchronous (Live Zoom meetings) and asynchronous (students will be working at their own pace on carefully constructed learning experiences). Remote learning students will have opportunities to interact with their classmates and teachers in the afternoon through regularly scheduled small and large group Zoom meetings.

3. If the school goes into a full closure, will distance learning look the same as last year?

No. Last spring, we were responding to emergency circumstances that occurred towards the end of the school year. We have been able to reflect on our time in extended closure and our experience with implementing virtual learning has grown. Our use of digital tools and live, interactive instruction has evolved as well. Through professional development and collaboration, we are confident in our ability to meet our students' learning needs virtually through daily, interactive lessons and assignments.

4. What online platform(s) will be used for Remote Instruction?

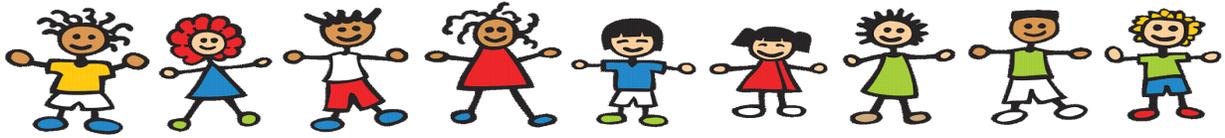
The district utilizes Google Classroom, Zoom, SeeSaw (for the younger grades), FlipGrid, Loom, and Screencastify. Teachers will be utilizing Zoom for interactive virtual lessons and other platforms listed above to manage assignments, lessons, and communication with students on Remote Instruction.

5. Will grading be different depending on the model we choose?

Learning expectations and student evaluations/grading will be the same for all students. We will continue to utilize OnCourse for grading and report cards.

6. What will student schedules look like?

With both the Shortened In-School Day Model and the Remote Instruction Model, students will receive a schedule that will look similar to a typical schedule. Teachers will fully explain the daily schedule to students in the first days of school. We realize this is new for everyone. We are committed to taking the



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time we need in the beginning of the school year to ensure all students understand their schedules and the expectations we have for learning in this new environment. We also recognize that flexibility will be necessary for the Remote Instruction Model based on numerous reasons, specifically, the teacher and parents' availability during the school day.

7. Will specials be taught virtually in the afternoon as to give priority to content area subjects during in-person instruction?

We are currently crafting our schedule and are working hard to provide the majority of core content area subjects in the morning while students are in school. Some specials will be provided in the morning (in person), however, we are doing our best to provide specials in the afternoon, virtually as well.

8. How will materials in classes be distributed to ensure safety amongst all students?

As stated on page 10 of [*The Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*](#), school districts should avoid or limit sharing objects and equipment. Every effort will be made to provide students with any materials needed for instruction ahead of the start of the day to assist in maintaining proper social distancing. Parents are encouraged to provide students with their own supplies as indicated on their supply lists found on the school website. Please remember to label all items with your student's name before sending them to school. When sharing is unavoidable, objects and equipment will be disinfected between uses.

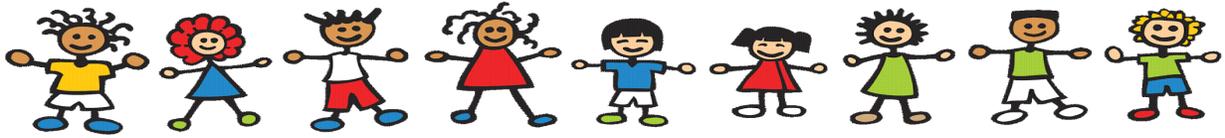
9. For the Remote Instruction Model, is it taught by the same teacher as the in-person class? Is the daily schedule the same as the in-person class?

We are currently crafting our schedules for both in person and remote learning models. We are hopeful that the same teacher will be able to meet the needs of the in-person and remote students, however this may not always be possible. We will be providing you with more information in the coming weeks.

POSITIVE COVID TEST/POSSIBLE EXPOSURE

1. What happens if a student in the class, or teacher, who has been in contact with our child, tests positive? Will the school close and/or are we instructed to quarantine?

We will be working closely with the Monmouth County Department of Health to determine what actions are necessary if a student or staff member becomes ill with COVID-19. Contact tracing and safety protocols will determine the extent of closure and notification. However, due to the close proximity of students and staff and the reality that siblings and families could be impacted, the chance of a quick



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closure of classrooms and/or school to ensure safety is possible. Parents need to be prepared to have their children home on remote learning in the event that a quarantine is advised.

2. What about asymptomatic students (students who do not have symptoms)? How will they be identified?

As per guidance from the Department of Education FAQs, contact tracing is designed to identify those individuals without symptoms who may have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 and who should quarantine. In collaboration with the Department of Health, the district will help to identify these students and their parents will be contacted.

3. If a student/staff member tests positive, how will I be notified?

If your student has been in close contact with a student who has tested positive, has a household contact who has tested positive, has been symptomatic or has had a possible exposure, you will receive an email and/or phone call from the nurse and administration.

4. What are the rules and procedures to clear an individual to return to school following a positive test result? Does a test need to come back negative?

As per DOE guidelines, a negative test is not necessary to return to school. The County District School Administration (CDS) follows CDC guidelines, which provide that people with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days* have passed since symptom onset, and
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and
- Other symptoms have improved.

See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>.

*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce a replication-competent virus beyond 10 days, that may warrant extending the duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset. This decision will be made in consultation with the Department of Health. In addition, persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 who never develop COVID-19 symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

5. What do all of those different terms mean regarding testing and household contact?

- **Quarantine** - *The purpose of quarantine is to keep people who might have been exposed (but not sick) to COVID-19 away from others*



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- **Isolation** - Isolation is to keep sick people and those infected with the COVID-19 virus away from those who are not infected
- **Household Contact** - Household contacts are individuals who live in the same house as a lab confirmed COVID-19 case
- **Close Contact** - Close contacts are individuals who were within 6 feet of a lab confirmed COVID-19 case for a prolonged period (about 10 minutes or more) or had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., were coughed on)
- **Possible Exposure** - A student/staff member who has been in close contact with someone who is being tested or is symptomatic

6. At what point would the school close due to positive cases?

The school will be in constant contact with the Monmouth County Board of Health and would make that decision in conjunction with the Superintendent and Board of Education.

7. If my student tests positive or is symptomatic how will they continue their education?

Students who need to quarantine or isolate will immediately be put on remote instruction until cleared by their health care provider under the guidance of our local health department and CDC recommendations. In addition, appropriate medical documentation must be provided to the school for review by our school nurse in conjunction with our school physician to return to in-person instruction.

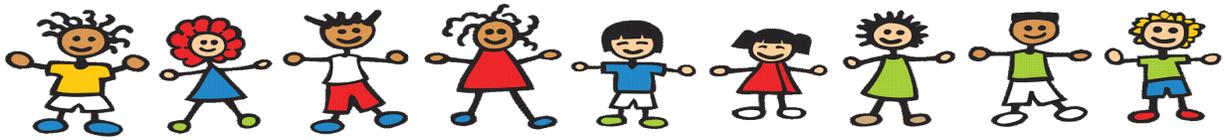
8. How will you handle students and staff who have recently traveled to states where NJ requires a 14 day quarantine?

We would hope that parents and staff would not take any trips to these states within 14 days prior to the start of school as well as during the school year. If they do, they would be required to self-quarantine for 14 days as recommended by the Governor. Please notify the district immediately if this applies.

OTHER QUESTIONS

1. If students walk or ride their bikes to school, are you worried about them being too close to each other?

As per the CDC guidance, proper social distancing guidelines apply at all times. Both the school and parents should be encouraging students to follow social distancing guidelines during these unsupervised times.



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2. At dismissal and arrival, will we be allowed to stand outside and wait for our child?

As per the CDC guidance, proper social distancing guidelines apply at all times. Parents are expected to be 6 feet apart. As per the Governor, if this cannot be maintained, proper face coverings are required.

3. What will after-school activities and field trips look like? Will they happen?

As of now, all before and after school activities and all field trips are suspended until further notice. In the event we feel it is safe to hold those activities during the year, they will begin at that time.

4. How will you conduct fire and emergency drills?

As of now, fire drills and security drills are still required. We will update our protocol to incorporate current health and safety guidance. According to guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education (July 16, 2020), drills normally requiring close contact can be conducted in later months of the school year. Additional guidance will be forthcoming.

5. How will substitutes be handled?

Like any visitor, substitutes will be screened prior to entering the building. All substitutes will be trained on our new procedures and expected to adhere to all protocols.

6. In the past, if my student forgot a book or other school item, I was able to drop it off without prior notification. Will this still be the case?

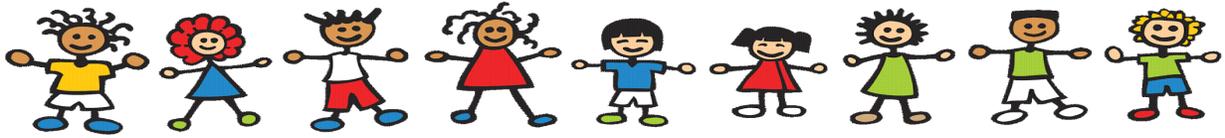
As per guidance in the [*The Road Back Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*](#), visitors are expected to be limited. Therefore, all visitors will be required to have an appointment and be screened before entering the school building.

7. Will the attendance policy be enforced/adjusted?

Attendance will be taken during both in-person and all remote learning times. All attendance policy requirements will be expected to be adhered to and will be enforced as outlined by: N.J.S.A. 18A:36-14; 18A:38-25; N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.1 et seq.; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6; 6A:32-8.3 (Refer to District Policy 5200).

8. How do we ensure that IEPs and 504s are being met for those students who are engaging in Remote Instruction?

IEPs and 504 plans will continue to be implemented.



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9. Will Howell PAL be providing before and after care for my child(ren)?

Howell PAL is willing to provide before school care and after school care for all grades at Farmingdale School if a minimum enrollment is met in each session. A commitment and registration fee are due to Howell PAL no later than **Friday, August 14th**, if you are interested. Please view this [letter](#) for more information.

10. What decides how we advance to the next stage of instruction?

The district is currently developing a protocol for this purpose. The protocol will be informed by:

- Reduction in local, county and state COVID-numbers
- Consultation with the District Board-Approved Physician
- Consultation with Executive County Superintendent of Schools
- Consultation with the local Health Department
- Review of current CDC recommendations