

NECSD ReOpening Plan - Addendum
April 20, 2021

The following amendments to our current reopening plan reflect the changes requested based on the April 9, 2021 changes to the Guidance for reopening schools received from the New York State Department of Health.

Soliciting School Community Input and a Public Meeting [4.20.21 - another opportunity to provide comments]

The district has an established communication process to inform the community regarding reopening progress. Each NECSD Board of Education Meeting includes an update from the Superintendent on district efforts and progress. The original Reopening Plan was developed through collaboration with a Task Force that represented internal and external stakeholders of the school district.

4.15.21 - 100+ taskforce members discussed the NYSDOH newest revisions [4.9.21]

Question posed: “Should the district continue with its Operation ReOpen Plan?” 85% of the taskforce members confirmed we should.

4.19.21 - the Superintendent will present the addendum to the Reopening Plan at the Board of Education Meeting. Community. In addition to providing an opportunity to comment on the plan as part of the Board of Education Agenda, the district will allow for comments through April 23, 2021. The final addendum will be posted on the district website on Monday, April 26, 2021.

Cohorting Defined

The Newburgh Enlarged City School District interprets a cohort to mean a group of students and staff within a school building who interact mostly only with each other. The District has endeavored to implement cohorts in its school programs since it instituted its hybrid instructional model this past fall. Public health officials have not specified how many people should be in a cohort; literature regarding cohorts and their implementation also fail to specify recommended or required sizes of cohorts. Rather, the number of individuals in a cohort and the manner in which cohorts are determined may vary from building-to-building based upon a number of factors, including but not limited to the grade level and/or subject areas of instruction. In order to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and school community at large, the District is making every effort to minimize the number of individuals to whom anyone is exposed during the course of a school day.

Exceptions Where A Minimum of Six Feet of Distance Must be Maintained

- Six feet is always the required distancing between adults (teachers, staff, visitors) and between students and adults.

- Six feet of distance is required when eating meals or snacks, or drinking, or other times masks must be removed. This may mean that meals cannot be eaten in classrooms that have been converted to three feet of physical distance during instruction time.

- Individuals participating in activities that require projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument must be six feet apart and there must be six feet of distance between the performers and the audience during performances and concerts.

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- Six feet of physical distance must be maintained in common areas and outside of classrooms (e.g. lobbies, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and hallways), where possible.

Responsible Parties should ensure that a distance of six feet in all directions is maintained between individuals while participating in activities requires projecting the voice (e.g., singing), playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (e.g., participating in gym classes).

Ventilation

The CDC no longer recommends physical barriers for mitigation where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

A preferred approach is enhanced ventilation and air filtration to dilute and remove any SARS-Cov-2 particles from the air as described below and in the CDC school guidance.

The district will assess the need for portable air cleaners for rooms without natural ventilation and will provide where deemed necessary. The district will continue to monitor the ventilation and air filtration in all classrooms.

Vaccinations

Opportunities to maximize opportunities for vaccination of all eligible school personnel, students, as eligible.

Continued attention to daily cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing

Custodial staff in schools will continue to address two scenarios that require cleaning and disinfecting multiple times per day:

- o High risk areas including health offices, classrooms, lunchrooms/dining rooms, athletic rooms, bathrooms, and high traffic areas. Responsible parties must establish procedures for surfaces that must be sanitized after use, such as gym mats, health office cots, and lunch/dining tables.
- o High touch surfaces including lunch tables, desks and chairs, light switches, handrails, door handles/push plates, faucets, equipment handles and buttons, shared equipment and electronics, bus seats, and handrails.

Health Screening Questionnaire

We will continue our process to screen all students, faculty, staff, and, where practicable, visitors, contractors, and vendors, must be completed using a questionnaire that determines whether the individual has:

- (a) knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 10 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
- (b) tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 10 days;
- (c) has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 10 days; and/or
- (d) has traveled internationally per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 10 days