



Egg Harbor Township Schools

www.eht.k12.nj.us

Administration Offices

13 Swift Drive

Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Frequently Asked Questions

September 21, 2021

General Health & Safety:

1. Are masks required while indoors in schools and on a school bus for the 2021-2022 school year?

Yes. Masks are required by all students, teachers, staff, and administration while in a school building and on a school bus as per Executive Orders [251](#) & [253](#).

2. Are there mask exceptions?

Yes. Masks must be worn indoors except,

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- 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 an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the 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;
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

3. What should I do if I believe my child is exempt from the mask mandate?

[EO 251](#) and [EO 253](#) provide limited medical exceptions. You should submit a physician's note indicating the need for the exemption to your child's building principal. Upon receipt of proper documentation, your request will be reviewed by the school nurse in collaboration with the school doctor to determine if the request can be approved.

4. How will mask breaks be scheduled?

Building principals will develop consistent practices for breaks and review these with all staff. Also, as a reminder, masks will not be required outdoors, while eating, or during high-intensity activity.

5. What kind of masks are allowed?

According to the NJDOE's Road Forward Guidance, the most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers. Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and ones that do not fit properly are **not recommended**. Gaiters are not allowed. The District will have disposable masks, for students who forget to wear one or who need a replacement during the school day.

6. Will students be required to wear masks outside for recess, physical education, or athletics?

Students will not be required to wear masks outdoors. This includes outdoor time for class instruction, extended fire/safety drills, snack, meals, or mask breaks. The Physical Education teachers will determine whether masks can be removed during indoor Physical Education classes based on the level of physical activity.

7. What other mitigating protocols is the District taking to protect students and staff?

- Social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be an instructional focus.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout each building.
- Desk shields will be on classroom desks where 3 ft of social distancing cannot occur.
- Table shields will be on cafeteria tables.
- Cleaning protocols to disinfect frequently touched areas.
- Daily disinfecting and cleaning each day and night.
- HVAC with UV Light filtration- All classrooms are equipped with air conditioning.
- HVAC systems are monitored regularly and unit filters have been changed and will be on a quarterly basis as per manufacturer recommendations.

8. How will Social Distancing be enforced in school?

Each school has areas marked out with tape, desk shields where applicable and table shields for cafeteria tables. Teachers and staff will monitor students to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the building. Signage throughout the building emphasizes social distancing, hand washing, and mask-wearing.

9. How will classrooms be arranged?

Student desks will be arranged in rows to face in one direction. Classrooms with tables, will have students seated 3 feet apart and facing one direction.

10. How will young children be assisted with healthy behaviors such as hand washing, mask wearing, etc?

School nurses and guidance counselors will be visiting classrooms at the beginning of the school year to review healthy behaviors with students. Hand washing signs are posted throughout the schools and teachers will follow up with regular reminders.

11. Are meals free again this year?

Breakfast and lunch are again free for all students this year. Students may bring food from home or eat school meals. Please remember to fill out your free and reduced lunch form at the following [LINK](#).

Cleaning, Disinfection & Air Flow:

12. Will classroom resources be shared?

No, to the greatest extent possible, the district will be providing necessary materials to each student. When resources, manipulatives, or toys must be shared, a cleaning protocol will be in place to assure that these items are sanitized for the next use.

13. What will music and chorus classes be like?

Our music, chorus, and instrumental lessons will maintain 3 foot spaces to the greatest extent possible. Bell covers and key covers will be in place for instruments.

14. Is hand sanitizer available for student use?

Yes, every classroom has hand sanitizer stations, as well as the cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways and common areas.

15. Will windows in the classrooms be allowed to be opened/stay opened for fresh air flow at any time of the school year?

Yes.

Screening & Exclusion:

16. Will I be required to fill out the daily health screening form each morning?

No. You will need to fill out the health screening affirmation for the start of the school year for each student in the District. You must inform the District in the event that your child has COVID-19 like symptoms or has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person.

17. How do I determine when to keep my student home if they are not feeling well?

When your child is exhibiting symptoms as described in the health screening form, DO NOT send them to school. Please notify your child's school about your child's absence.

Specifically, students should not come to school with:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia(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, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

18. How do I contact my child's school nurse?

<u>Egg Harbor Township School District</u> <u>School Nurses</u>			
Jan Miller	High School	ext. 1611	millerj@eht.k12.nj.us
Maura Wren	High School	ext. 1634	wrenm@eht.k12.nj.us
Rebecca Camp	High School	ext. 1610	campre@eht.k12.nj.us

Carey Yakita	Fernwood	ext. 1510	yakitac@eht.k12.nj.us
Jeanne Roberts	Fernwood	ext. 1511	robertsj@eht.k12.nj.us
Christina Somers	Alder	ext. 1410	somersch@eht.k12.nj.us
Melanie Charlton	Alder	ext. 1411	charltom@eht.k12.nj.us
Michelle Korte	Miller	ext. 2310	kortem@eht.k12.nj.us
Sarah Lahey	Miller	ext. 2311	laheys@eht.k12.nj.us
Judith O'Rourke	Davenport Elementary	ext. 1310	orourkej@eht.k12.nj.us
Randi Moats	Davenport Primary	ext. 1312	moatsr@eht.k12.nj.us
MaryKay Nell	Swift	ext. 1110	nellm@eht.k12.nj.us
Ginger Palmero	Slaybaugh Elementary	ext. 1210	palmerog@eht.k12.nj.us
Elizabeth Derbyshire	Slaybaugh Primary	ext. 1214	derbyshe@eht.k12.nj.us

19. Are there travel restrictions?

At this time, there are no travel restrictions. However, the State is recommended all individuals follow the CDC guidance.

20. How will school nurses handle illness onset during the day?

Nurses will follow the protocol that includes a medical assessment of the child, parent contact, and using the isolation space for the student to await pick-up. Confirmed students will be asked to quarantine. The DOH is responsible for notification to anyone who has been exposed.

21. Is a 'close contact' quarantine considered an excused absence? What happens if my child exceeds the number of allowable absences?

If the district places your child on quarantine, the absence is excused. If your child is on quarantine because of a case outside of school, the day is not excused. Students who are absent for more than 10 days in a school year will have their attendance record reviewed at the end of the school year by the administrative team. Consideration for the absence being excused will be based upon a review of a medical note for this/these quarantine time(s). Our goal is to always have our students complete a school year successfully and be prepared for the next school year.

22. What is Quarantine Education?

Quarantine Education: Quarantine Education is for short-term learning based on the district putting a student on quarantine due to being positive for COVID-19 or a confirmed close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Any long-term instruction needs would go through the traditional Homebound Instruction process. Students placed on quarantine by the district will use Google Classroom. They will receive access to a certified teacher after school hours for instruction for a minimum of two hours per day of quarantine. The hours listed below may be either 1-1 or in a small group. Small groups will not exceed a ratio of 10:1. Teachers will make accommodations and modifications to assignments and assessments to meet the needs of students on quarantine by the district.

Times for Quarantine Education via Google Meet (Monday-Friday):

Swift-Slaybaugh Complex: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Davenport Complex: 4:00-6:00p.m.
Miller School: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Alder Avenue Middle School: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Fernwood Avenue Middle School: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
High School: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

23. How will my child receive an education if they are absent due to quarantine?

Students will receive a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction, including lessons through google classroom (see above).

Contact Tracing:

24. If vaccinated students come into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will they need to quarantine?

With proper mask wearing, they would only need to quarantine if they show symptoms of COVID-19.

25. If a student in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19 and my child is not vaccinated, will my child need to quarantine?

It depends; the most recent guidance provides that if two students are 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-fitting masks the entire time, they will not be considered a close contact and not need to quarantine. However, if at any time the student exhibits symptoms as listed above, the student may be required to quarantine.

26. Will my child's siblings need to quarantine if someone in our house has been in contact with someone COVID-19 positive?

Each case is unique, and you should contact your child's school nurse for clarification or anytime you have questions or concerns regarding quarantining.

General Questions:

27. What is the first day for students for the 2021-2022 school year?

All school buildings are open for in-person instruction beginning September 8, 2021.

28. Is there a virtual option for students for the 2021-2022 school year?

No. Students must come to school in-person, unless they are sick. The New Jersey Department of Education will not allow districts to provide virtual instruction for students except in the instance of a medical condition supported by a physician's note or if quarantine is needed and is affirmed by the school district and local health officials.

29. Does the District have contingency plans if in-person instruction is suddenly halted due to a COVID -19 outbreak?

Yes. If the NJDOE and the County Health Department closes a school/schools, the school district is prepared to revert to Hybrid Instruction or full Virtual Instruction.

30. What will clubs, activities and sports look like this year?

All extracurricular and co-curricular activities and sports will be in person.

31. Will Middle School and High School students change for physical education class this year?

Students will NOT change for physical education to begin the school year. Students will be required to wear sneakers on the days they have physical education and can keep their belongings in their hallway lockers.

32. Will students use lockers this year?

Yes. Our Middle and High School students will be issued lockers to store books and personal belongings.

33. What social and emotional resources are available for students and their families?

<u>Local & State Resources</u>
• EHT Crisis Resource Card • EHT Tarjeta De Recursos Para Crisis • E.H.T. Every Hand Together: Pursuing Public Health • Atlantic County Traumatic Loss Coalition: Covid-19 Resources • Atlantic County Division of Public Health: THE SOURCE • Food Pantries near you • NJ Department of Human Services: Resource Guide • NJ Departamento de Servicios Humanos: Guía de Recursos
<u>Other Resources</u>
• Covid-19 Mental Health Resource Hub Reducing Stress and Anxiety: • Six Breathing Techniques to Help You Relax in 10 Minutes or Less • Keeping Calm • Ten Relaxing Online Games to Help You De-Stress • Change to Chill • A Parent Resource for Understanding Covid-19 • Reach Out • Care For Your Coronavirus Anxiety

34. Who are the contacts for academic or social emotional support?

Your child's School Counselor is available to discuss any and all academic, social, and emotional issues that students may be experiencing. They are a critical first step in formulating a collaborative team response to ensure the wellness of all of our students. Please use the links below to make contact:

<u>Swift/Slaybaugh Complex</u>	<u>Davenport Complex</u>	
Melissa Feaster: feasterm@eht.k12.nj.us Lori Kauffman: kauffmal@eht.k12.nj.us Kasey Simone: simoneka@eht.k12.nj.us	Kristina Caruso: carusokr@eht.k12.nj.us Jennifer Errickson: erricksj@eht.k12.nj.us	
	<th><u>Miller School</u></th>	<u>Miller School</u>
	Julie Bruzzese: bruzzesj@eht.k12.nj.us Jena-Rose Commander: commandj@eht.k12.nj.us	

	Blake Rosetti: rosettib@eht.k12.nj.us	
<u>Alder Middle School</u>		<u>Fernwood Middle School</u>
Bruce Gitto: gittob@eht.k12.nj.us Lee Ann Dragovitz: dragovil@eht.k12.nj.us Kareem Spence: spencek@eht.k12.nj.us Stephanie Riis: riiss@eht.k12.nj.us		Jill Pappas: pappasj@eht.k12.nj.us Alysia Poupard: pouparda@eht.k12.nj.us Laschelle Mento: mentol@eht.k12.nj.us Andrea Peck: adamsan@eht.k12.nj.us
<u>High School</u>		
Jennifer Charlton: charltoj@eht.k12.nj.us Nicole Theophall: theophan@eht.k12.nj.us Jennifer Leonetti: leonettij@eht.k12.nj.us Nancy Musachio: musacchn@eht.k12.nj.us Casie Wexler: wexlerc@eht.k12.nj.us		Jessica Comunale: comunali@eht.k12.nj.us Melissa Duffy: duffym@eht.k12.nj.us Raymond Santiago: santiagr@eht.k12.nj.us Staci Di Mattia: dimattis@eht.k12.nj.us
	<u>Eagle Academy</u>	
	Marissa Russo: russom@eht.k12.nj.us	