

# Hanover Township Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe, healthy, and enjoying the last few weeks of the summer. The entire district staff and I are very excited to reopen our schools for full day in-person instruction on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Our goal this year is to provide as much normalcy as possible while focusing on meeting the academic, social and emotional needs of all of our students.

Included within this letter is the Hanover Township Public Schools 2020/2021 Reopening Comparison Chart. This will help students, staff, and families see how our reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year will differ from our reopening plan used during the previous school year. As you know, our district relies on public health metrics and guidance from agencies that make determinations for public schools in New Jersey, most particularly the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education. See below for additional information related to our District Reopening Comparison Chart:

- **Face Coverings:** As you may already know, on August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 251, which institutes mandatory masking indoors and on district transportation for all students, staff and visitors for the start of the 2021-2022 school year regardless of their vaccination status. Please note, the district has no discretion in following the mandatory mask requirement however, Executive Order 251 includes the following exemptions:
  - 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 mask 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 mask;
  - 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 mask;
  - 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 mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task

The district understands that students may have medical conditions that will preclude them from wearing a mask. If you feel that your child meets any of the exemptions listed above, please submit a letter from your healthcare provider to your building principal that documents the projected need for an exemption to the mask mandate. As always, our building administrators and teaching staff will take a child centered approach to ensure that mask breaks will be provided throughout the school day.

*"A Community That Inspires Excellence"*

- **Daily Health Screenings:** At this time, the district will not require students or staff to complete the daily health screening via the rSchool Today App. We ask that you perform a daily individual health screening and look for the following symptoms:
  - ✓ 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;
  - ✓ At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.As symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus, individuals with these symptoms listed above should be reported immediately to their respective school nurse and the individual should not come to school. In addition, if an individual is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, that individual should report their status to the their respective school nurse as well, and refrain from coming into school until a negative test result is received.
- **Remote/Virtual Instruction:** If a student or groups of students are excluded from school due to meeting the current NJDOH COVID-19 exclusion criteria, the district will provide remote/virtual instruction. Each student's respective building principal will assist families and students with this process on an as needed basis.

As is always the case, the health and safety of our students and staff is of paramount concern in making decisions regarding the district's re-opening plans. Throughout the course of the school year, the District Administrative Team and I will continue to coordinate our efforts with the members of the Regional School Districts and collaborate with the Hanover Township Department of Health to monitor statistics related to COVID-19 transmission rates from the local, county, and state levels. If there is a change to any of the topics listed on the District Reopening Comparison Chart, we will alert the school community accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, flexibility, and patience as we look forward to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's respective building principal and/or me.

Be Well, Be Strong, and Stay Safe.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Wasko*

Michael J. Wasko  
Superintendent of Schools

## Hanover Township Public Schools 2020/2021 Reopening Comparison Chart

The purpose of this chart is to help students, staff, and families prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. Our plans will rely on public health metrics and guidance from local and state officials, including the New Jersey Department of Health. As such, please note that all topics are subject to change.

Topic	September 2020 Opening	September 2021 Opening
Face Coverings	Required	Required
Face Coverings on School Bus	Required	Required
Social Distancing	6 Feet (Maximum Extent Practicable)	3 Feet (Maximum Extent Practicable)
Full Day w/Lunch	No	Yes
Field Trips	No	TBD
Assemblies	Virtual	Yes (Limited)
Cohorts	Yes	No
Full-Time Remote Option	Yes	No
Back-to-School Nights	Virtual	TBD
Parent Conferences	Virtual	Hybrid
IEP Parent Meetings	Virtual	Hybrid
504/I&RS Parent Meetings	Virtual	Hybrid
Lockers (MJS)	No	Yes
Locker Rooms (MJS)	No	Yes
Small Group Learning	Yes (Limited)	Yes (Limited)
Shared Supplies	No	Yes (Limited)
Extracurricular Activities (Clubs/Athletics)	No	In-Person
Emphasis on Ventilation & Air Purification	Yes	Yes
Focus on Handwashing & Hand Sanitizer Available	Yes	Yes
Electrostatic Cleaning	Yes	Yes
Use of Google Classroom/Digital Platform	Yes	Yes
Seating Charts (Classroom & Bus)	Yes	Yes
Staff/Student Daily Health Screening	Yes (Daily Mobile App)	Yes (At Home Daily Screening)
Contact Tracing	Yes	Yes
Nurse's Office Isolation Area	Yes	Yes
COVID-19 School Community Alerts	Yes	Yes (By School)
Community Use of Facilities	No	Yes (Limited)
HTSACC (Child Care Program)	After Care	Early Birds & After Care

Revised: August 17, 2021

### **Definitions:**

- Hybrid – combination of in-person and virtual to best accommodate participants' needs
- Electrostatic Cleaning – we will employ a botanical disinfectant
- Limited – modifications will be in place to maintain evolving health and safety measures