



# **RETURN TO LEARN PLAN**

**Newport Public Schools**

***2021-2022***



# Superintendent's Message

## August 2021

### **Message to the Community:**

Newport Public Schools are focused on a safe reopening of schools for full in-person learning beginning on September 8<sup>th</sup>. You can view our [2021-2022 school calendar here](#). We can't wait to welcome everyone back to a full in-person school year, the environment where we know our students learn best!

In the pages ahead, we have outlined the plan for reopening schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Prioritizing health and safety and student learning is and always has been the main objective of the plan over the last two years. The plan took into account guidelines provided by the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). We are confident we have a safe and thoughtful plan that has taken into account the needs of our students, staff and community. We will continue to monitor guidance and make changes as appropriate. All students will be back in school, full time, Monday through Friday, in person to start the 2021-2022 school year. Any changes to that will be made on a case by case basis dependent upon the need for quarantine.

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### **Core Beliefs:**

- **HEALTH AND SAFETY:** All decisions will be made with the health and safety of students and staff first and foremost.
  - **EQUITY:** All students will get what they need to be successful.
  - **COLLABORATION:** Systems in place for all stakeholder groups to have a voice in the decision making process.
  - **INNOVATION:** Being able to eliminate traditional barriers and implement solutions that are student centered.
  - **RESILIENCE:** Keeping a growth mindset in order to support the successful return of all students and staff.
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### Return Scenarios:

The Newport School Department has carefully examined our ability to open schools safely. Pre-K-4 will attempt to maintain stable groups throughout the day to the extent possible. We will also ensure as best as possible that stable groups remain 3 feet apart throughout the day. Middle and High school will operate on a regular schedule while maintaining 3 feet of distance from each other as much as possible in classrooms.

Full in Person Return
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</u></b></p> <p><b>MONDAY- FRIDAY:</b> All students in school in stable groups of 30 (including adults) whenever possible.</p> <p>*School hours: 8:30 am- 3:00 pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL</u></b></p> <p><b>MONDAY-FRIDAY</b> All students in school in person</p> <p>*School hours: 8:00 am - 2:30pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL</u></b></p> <p><b>MONDAY - FRIDAY</b> All students in school in person</p> <p>*School hours: 7:30 am – 2:00 pm</p>

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### Distance Learning Alternate Option:

- The district has partnered with East Bay Educational Collaborative to offer alternate services for parents that are seeking distance learning/remote learning options for their children through Rhode Island Connections Academy this academic year. Registration is now open for a new fully online school program, serving students in grades K-12. Counselors at RI Connections Academy are ready to help register students or to answer any questions regarding this opportunity. They can be contacted at 1-800-382- 6010 or go online to [www.RhodeIslandConnectionsAcademy.com](http://www.RhodeIslandConnectionsAcademy.com)



- Quarantined students that are participating in Newport Public Schools will have access to work posted on Google Classroom

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## Health & Safety:

### Face Coverings:

- NPS will follow the executive order related to masks issued by Governor McKee. [Executive Order](#) In the event this is lifted, NPS will institute the following measures:
  - It is strongly recommended that students and staff wear masks while indoors.
  - Masks should be cleaned on a regular basis.
  - District Mask Policy\* \*This policy will have a second reading at our September 14th meeting. In the interim NPS will follow the Governor's mandate. For the NPS District Mask Policy: [click here](#)

### Vaccinations:

- It is strongly recommended that all staff and students 12 and older be vaccinated.
- Vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine in the case of exposure or close contact.
- Proof of student vaccination can be submitted to the school nurse.

### Quarantining:

- Vaccinated students and staff that are exposed to a positive COVID case will not be required to quarantine
- Unvaccinated students/staff will quarantine for seven days if exposed to a positive COVID case. The student will be asked to get a PCR test at day 5 to determine if they may return safely. If no documentation is available, students/staff will remain quarantined for 10 days.

### Dining in all schools:

HIGH SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL	ELEMENTARY
Dining in the cafeteria. It is recommended students sit with the same group of students to the extent possible.	Dining in the cafeteria. It is recommended students sit with the same group of students to the extent possible.	Students will sit with their stable pod and 6 feet of distance will be maintained between groups when possible in the cafeteria. Some groups will eat in their classrooms to ensure minimum distancing.



### **Classroom Layout/Spacing:**

- Assign classrooms in ways that minimize distance and traffic.
- Maintain 3 ft. distance whenever possible.
- Assigned seating in each classroom.
- Seating charts will be kept up to date at all times

### **Recess Procedure (Elementary and Middle Schools):**

- Stable groups remain consistent during recess/outdoor play.
- Handwashing is to be done before and after each outdoor play period.
- If more than one stable group is outdoors, 3 feet must be maintained between groups and the total number of people outdoors may not exceed the State maximum group size.

### **Community and Family Events:**

- In person community events will resume as much as possible. It is required that all visitors wear a mask in school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

### **Visitors:**

- Visitors to the building will be allowed at principal discretion. All visitors must wear a mask during school hours, regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors will only be allowed into the building by appointment.

### **Response to ill students:**

**Any students experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before the school day begins should stay home.** If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, the child should be taken to the school nurse and the isolation room immediately. Each school will have a designated isolation area. Parents/guardians should be notified to pick up the student within the hour. Parents/guardians should seek medical advice for the student within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed. If the test result is positive, individuals must complete a period of isolation as directed by RIDOH.

Symptomatic students will not be permitted to return to school until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious. Newport Public Schools will implement the COVID-19 quarantine procedures as outlined by the RIDOH.



### **Daily Covid Screening:**

Families will be provided with a copy of the symptoms and asked to keep children home if they have any symptoms and to get tested. No documentation will be required. The screening tool will be sent home periodically as a reminder.

### **Hygiene:**

- Hand washing opportunities will be provided for students at regular intervals
  - Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms
  - Desks will be wiped down if the group of students in a classroom changes
  - A regular cleaning schedule will be implemented and monitored in each building
  - Signs regarding health and safety will be posted throughout the building
  - Training on health and safety issues will be provided to all students and staff
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### **Teaching and Learning:**

#### **Instruction:**

- Teachers will maintain a Google Classroom site. If a student is quarantined, work will be available to them in Google Classroom. If an entire classroom is quarantined, live instruction will take place.
- Students will participate in a beginning, middle and end of year assessment using STAR to establish a baseline and assess progress. A variety of formative and summative assessments will be used throughout the year.

#### **Communication:**

- Regular communication with parents regarding both health and safety and academics will occur
  - Multiple ways of communicating with families will be encouraged
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### **Social Emotional Supports:**

#### **Focus on student and staff social emotional needs:**

- Focus on:
  - Establishing relationships with students
  - Establishing rituals and routines
  - Establishing relationships with parents
  - Completing daily check-ins
  - Embedding social emotional/wellness lessons into curriculum



- Additional Therapeutic support in collaboration with Newport County Mental Health
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### **Operations:**

#### **Busing:**

- At this time buses will be allowed to operate at full capacity. Windows will need to remain open, masks are to be worn at all times (excluding students with health related issues), and hand sanitizer will be given. Buses will be wiped down after each run with full sanitizing at the end of each day.
- Students will remain in stable pods. This will allow for seating charts and attendance to be enforced.
- Please review bussing eligibility through this link: [NPS Policy 8110](#)

#### **Technology:**

- All students will have a device that is taken home on a daily basis. For any student that does not have a device at home and is quarantined, parent/guardian may pick up a device, charger, and any teaching materials that the student may need. Dropoff to the home may also be arranged, if necessary.
  - Students must bring their device to school in provided sleeve and fully charged
  - District software will be maximized to support instruction
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This plan continues to be a work in progress and is subject to revisions and changes as needed. District and school officials continue to monitor the latest research and guidance from the Center for Disease Control, the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Rhode Island Department of Education and a variety of other sources.