

FAQ's – GENERAL REOPENING QUESTIONS 2021-22

What should my role be as a parent?

All of us play a role in preventing the spread of COVID. Remember to:

- Conduct daily temperature checks of your child(ren) each morning.
- Keep your child home from school when he or she is sick. Follow up with a doctor's visit, as needed.
- Get your child acclimated with wearing a mask prior to the school year.
- Teach your child how to properly wash hands (at least 20 seconds).
- Encourage your child to social distance, especially with friends and in various situations.
- Set an example for your child in modeling safe behaviors.

How will the district ensure physical distancing takes place in school buildings?

All classrooms and other areas will have students separated to maintain a minimum of 3 feet social distancing between all students.

How will students walk through the hallways?

Students will be required to remain to the right side of the hallway. There will be signs and staff members present to remind students of social distancing protocols.

Will there be any extracurricular activities?

Yes, clubs and after-school activities will be held in the school building. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required indoors.

Will there be early morning drop-off?

We will not be able to accommodate early morning drop-off until further notice.

Will my child have use of playground equipment during recess?

Yes, playground equipment will be available for students on a schedule developed by the building administration.

Will visitors be allowed in the schools?

Only essential visitors with an appointment will be permitted to visit our schools. We encourage parents to phone or email their child's teachers or building administrators instead.

Will my child have access to a locker or cubby during the school day?

In the elementary buildings, cubbies may be utilized if space is permitted.

High School and Middle School students will be permitted to use their lockers, and will be asked not to congregate in the hallways.

What type of assistance/support will be provided for any nervous, anxious or overwhelmed child returning to school and during the course of the day?

Our team of mental health professionals are available to assist. Any parent or child who needs support should reach out to any of our mental health staff, teachers, guidance counselors, or school administrators. We are here to assist in any way.

FAQ's – HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health Screening

Will parents/guardians be responsible for reporting their child's temperature prior to entering the school building?

Parents are encouraged to conduct daily temperature checks of your child(ren) each morning. The schools will conduct random temperature checks of students and staff.

Will I need to complete a daily survey screening for my child?

No, this is no longer recommended.

PPE Requirements

Will my child be required to wear a mask?

Yes, all students and staff members will be required to wear a mask during the school day while indoors and on school buses. Facemasks will be optional outdoors.

Will children be provided facemask breaks throughout the day?

Yes, according to the CDC guidelines, the school is required to provide students opportunities to remove their masks. Teachers will give students periodic mask breaks throughout the day.

Are masks with a valve an acceptable face covering for my child in school?

No, the valves expel exhaled air and therefore could potentially spread virus particles into the classroom if the person was unknowingly infectious.

How can masks be safely taken off while students are in the classroom?

Masks breaks may occur during snack time, when direct instruction is being given, transition among subjects and at any time the teachers deem appropriate.

Will the school provide my child with a mask, if they forget one?

We encourage students and staff to bring a mask from home. The school district will provide masks for those who do not have one.

My child is unable to wear a mask, what do I do?

The District will provide accommodations to students who are medically unable to wear a mask by implementing our 504 process. Please contact your school administration. Those students may be required to wear a face shield instead.

Will student desks have a Plexiglas or plastic desk shield?

Desk shields are not recommended by the CDC as an effective virus protection measure.

FAQ's – SOCIAL DISTANCING

Will students and staff be required to maintain social distancing?

Yes, whenever possible, a 6 ft. distance between students and staff will be maintained. All classrooms will be set up so that students are at least 3 feet apart.

Will visitors be allowed in the schools?

The District highly discourages non-essential visitors to enter the school facilities when school is in session. If unavoidable, essential visitors, guests, contractors, and vendors will be required to complete the health screening survey, have their temperature taken and sign in. All other appointments must be scheduled prior to arrival.

Will field trips be planned for the 2021-22 school districts?

Field trips will be limited and will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Virtual and in-school field trips will continue to take place.

Will the classroom have shared classroom supplies?

No.

FAQ's - COVID-19

What are the most common symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms are cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; and/or diarrhea. Students exhibiting these signs with no other explanation should remain home.

What will the school do if a child displays symptoms of COVID-19?

A student showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be assessed by the school nurse. The student will be sent home for follow up with a healthcare provider. While waiting for the parent to arrive, the child will be kept in an isolation room, under the supervision of a school nurse. A COVID-19 test will be recommended, in consultation with the child's physician.

What will the school do if a staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19?

The staff member will be immediately sent home, and be guided to follow up with a healthcare provider for possible COVID-19 testing.

What will the school do if they receive confirmation that a child or staff member has tested positive for Covid-19?

In coordination with the Nassau County Department of Health, the school nurse and school Covid Response Team will follow team protocols. They will conduct a contact tracing investigation and determine if any student or staff member is considered a close contact to the positive case.

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (*for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

- **Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically

compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

After consulting with the Department of Health, individuals who are deemed close contacts must be quarantined for 10 days. Students and staff who are quarantined may not attend school or any activities for 10 days. According to the Department of Health and CDC quarantine is excluded for:

- People who have been fully vaccinated.
- People who were previously diagnosed with Covid-19 within the last three months.

How will the District respond to a high number of Covid-19 cases?

In response to some sort of Covid-19 outbreak, if it is recommended by the Department of Health based on the circumstances, we would switch over to remote instruction for a period of time. Depending on the circumstances and Department of Health recommendations, this would be done for a particular class, a school, or the entire District. The District has the flexibility to move students from live instruction to remote learning at any time, as necessary to ensure everyone's safety.

Are COVID home tests acceptable for students to return to school?

No, COVID home test results will not be accepted for students to return to school. The District will follow the Nassau County DOH guidance and require a PCR test from a facility such as ProHealth, Urgent Care, doctor's office etc.

FAQ's – CONTINUATION OF INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS ON QUARANTINE

Will my child receive remote instruction if he/she is quarantined?

If your child attends the Middle School or High School and your child is quarantined due to testing positive for COVID -19 or required to quarantine, he/she will be able to remote into their classes. Elementary classroom teachers will provide work for your child.

If my child is home due to a medical condition, will he/she be able to remote into class?

No, the remote option will only be available for quarantine situations. Please contact your building administration or guidance counselor for further guidance.

FAQ's - MUSIC CLASSES

How will my child's music class be set up for social distancing?

All general music and orchestra will follow the guideline of 3 feet apart. Chorus and band will be a minimum of 3 feet apart.

Teachers in the MS and HS will be able to utilize the regular rehearsal spaces, (Auditorium, band room, orchestra room, etc.) where students can be appropriately spread apart. Elementary music classes and rehearsals will be spaced similarly while in music classrooms and large rehearsal areas. Classes will also be held outdoors when appropriate.

How will we ensure the safety of our students in their music classes?

All students and teachers will be wearing masks while playing an instrument or singing. Items will be properly cleaned after each class/rehearsal. All Band students will continue to use Bell covers and instrument masks similarly to last year.

Will my child have band or orchestra lessons/sectionals?

Yes, in small groups.

Will there be concerts/performances?

Yes. At this time, we have scheduled both Winter and Spring Concerts. Any changes will be determined based on the situation while applying all safety measures established by the guidelines.

Will All State, All Eastern, LISFA and All County and NYSSMA take place this school year?

All State 2021 is scheduled to take place in person in Rochester, NY. All County (NMEA) and LISFA are also currently scheduled to move forward in person. If there are any changes, the community will be notified immediately.

Can I still be in Tri-M Music Honor Society?

Yes! Both Middle School and High School Tri-M Chapters will continue to actively share music in our community. New initiates will receive an invitation by the early fall. All current memberships are active and students will be contacted by their board or advisor. (Ms. Arnold for HS and Mrs. Brown for MS).

FAQ's – FACILITIES

What measures will you take to socially distance students while at school?

Every classroom will be set up to ensure at least three feet social distancing between each student. We will utilize outdoor spaces when possible, limit large gatherings, and control student movement.

How often will our schools be cleaned?

Schools will be cleaned daily, focusing on major touch entry points in common areas such as doorknobs, handles, elevator buttons, stairwell railings, light switches and soap dispensers. Custodial staff will disinfect using proper cleaning products. Custodial staff will create a schedule to clean cafeteria tables and classrooms throughout the day.

After school, custodial shifts will apply the full standard cleaning of all areas to be ready for the next day. Custodial staff will wear face masks and gloves. In addition, every Wednesday, all occupied interior areas and classrooms will be disinfected each evening.

What other steps are being taken to ensure a healthy environment?

In conjunction with the Nassau County Department of Health, schools will educate students on the importance of handwashing, hygiene and social distancing. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and workplaces. Additional custodial equipment has been purchased to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Classrooms will be set-up to allow for maximum distance between student stations as physical space allows. Shared items will be discouraged.

Will students and staff have access to water fountains?

Drinking fountains will not be available for use. Students and staff may bring their own water bottles to school. Bottle filling stations will be available in each school.

What is being done to ensure proper ventilation and fresh air intake in the buildings?

The District’s air handling and ventilation units in every classroom have been reconditioned this summer. Filters have been changed. Classroom windows will be kept open whenever possible.

What is the process to ensure the HVAC units are processing clean air through the buildings?

Our custodial and maintenance staff members follow a replacement schedule for filters. They also follow a schedule for the maintenance of our District's HVAC units. All of our District’s HVAC units have been cleaned, filters are being upgraded to recommended MERV-13, and controls have been set to maximum outside airflow.

FAQ’S – TRANSPORTATION

Will you allow my child to be seated with his/her sibling(s)?

Students will be expected to wear masks at all times. Siblings will be expected to sit together and should board the bus at the same time.

What precautions are you taking on school buses?

Bus drivers will have disposable masks to hand out to students in the event a student does not have his or her mask. Fresh air intake, i.e. open windows will be necessary, weather permitting (air temperature is above 45 degrees). High touch areas such as handrails, seat buckles, and seat tops will be sanitized after each AM and PM run. All buses will be deep cleaned once a week, on Wednesday, and/or if there is a positive case on the bus.

FAQ’S – SCHOOL LUNCH

Where will my child eat lunch? What are the social distancing practices?

Elementary students will be eating lunch in their classroom or in the cafeteria on a rotating basis to maintain six feet of physical distance. Students can bring lunch daily or order lunch from the cafeteria. Middle School and High School students will pick up meals from the cafeteria serving line and eat in designated areas created to socially distance.

Can I drop off lunch for my child if he or she does not bring it to school?

No, visitors or third parties will not be allowed in schools for any reason without an appointment, including food deliveries and lunch drop offs.

What happens if my child forgets their lunch or did not pre order?

If elementary students do not have lunch the teacher will place an order in the morning if needed. If middle school students have not preordered, lunch can still be purchased from a limited menu on the service line. High school students will be able to use the app on a mobile device during the school day.

Students will be encouraged to order lunch 1 hour before pick up. If a student forgets to pre-order, lunch can still be purchased from a limited menu on the service line.

How will my child make a choice for the lunch of the day for lunch?

Meals Plus/Linq Solutions will assist parents in ordering their child's lunch. The digital menu will allow parents to not only view the monthly menu, but also check all nutritional values and allergens in multiple languages. Parents will be encouraged to place lunch orders online by 10 p.m. the day before service. Lunch orders can be placed by parents the day before and up to a week in advance online. In the event a student does not have an order placed and has not brought lunch to school, pre-order rosters will be available to teachers in the morning to place last minute orders.

Will snacks be available for purchase?

A limited a'la Carte menu will be available daily at the Middle School and High School. The food service department will offer a catering option for classroom celebrations at the **ELEMENTARY** school. Orders will be placed online via google form; the form can be found on the Herricks School Lunch Website. herrickschoollunch.org

How can I add money to my child's account? Is there a user fee for my school bucks?

All payments will be collected via the online payment portal, MySchoolBucks, which parents can access from the new online ordering system. The two systems are linked. Due to COVID-19 and to encourage use of online payments. MySchoolBucks can be accessed via the following link <https://www.herricks.org/Domain/1041>.

If lunch is at no cost, can I request a refund from my child's account?

If you would like to request a refund of available funds in MySchoolBucks please email Kwarren@herricks.org. Please include your name, students first and last name, grade, and home address. Once the email is received the request will be processed and completed in 3-4 weeks, and a check will be mailed to the home address. Any questions please call (516)305-8708.

What steps will be taken to keep students safe in the school cafeterias?

Every effort will be made to provide for social distancing across all school settings, throughout the school day. For example, we will encourage use of outdoor areas, hand sanitizer will be available in all dining areas, meals will be unitized and include necessary utensils and condiments. Food Service staff will receive additional training on safety precautions. All staff will wear masks and gloves with frequent, required handwashing.

How are in-classroom lunches going to be handled, keeping the safety of children with severe nut and peanut allergies in mind?

As always, safety plans for allergies will be in place. The district does not serve nut products. The school nurses send reminders home not to send in nut products. In addition, students desks will be social distanced and proper handwashing will be encouraged.

If our child(ren) are required to quarantine, will they still be permitted to receive their free or reduced price meals?

All meals will be available to enrolled students (free, reduced and paid meal status) as part of the National School Lunch Program. To-go meals will be available for students on quarantine at the High School at the back of the delivery/loading dock for curbside pickup. Students are encouraged to pre-order.

TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY

What are the procedures for my child to return to school upon return from traveling internationally?

According to CDC guidance, all vaccinated and unvaccinated students will be recommended to:

- Get tested with a COVID-19 [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel.
- Monitor for [COVID-19 symptoms](#). If your child has symptoms, [isolate](#) and get your child.

If a student is **not fully vaccinated**, in addition to the testing recommendations above:

- The student will be expected to stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if he/sh test negative at 3-5 days.
- If the student does not get tested, the student will be required to stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

CDC Guidance: International Travel

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html#anchor_1634925927097