

# Folsom School District



## *The Road Forward Plan- 2021-2022*

### **Maintaining Health and Safety**

#### **Masks**

On August 6, 2021, New Jersey Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 251, which states all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (collectively “school districts”), must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances:

- a. When doing so would inhibit the individual’s health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face masks without assistance;
- c. 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;
- d. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- e. 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;
- f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- g. 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
- h. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Furthermore, the federal executive order from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mandates students to wear masks on school buses.

Mask breaks will be implemented in all grades throughout the day. In addition, masks are not mandatory when eating, drinking, playing musical instruments, outside, and participating in physical activities.

### **Physical Distancing**

Appropriate physical distancing (e.g., 3 feet) between students and staff within buses, classrooms, and the cafeteria will be maintained to the maximum extent practicable.

#### ***Classrooms***

Grades 1 – 8 classrooms will continue to set-up desks in traditional rows facing the same direction as recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education. At least one small group instruction table will be added to each classroom to support student learning through collaboration, critical thinking, and guided learning activities.

The early elementary grade (PK and K) classrooms, art room, and science lab will use tables rather than desks. The child's age and/or the materials needed for learning factored in this decision.

#### ***Cafeteria***

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria at the regular lunch tables. Appropriate physical distancing between students will be maintained to the maximum extent practicable.

#### ***Arrival / Dismissal***

Student drop-off /pick-up will continue to be in designated areas by grade level. This will reduce the number of students congregating in one area during these times.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

All classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizing stations.

School personnel will continue to teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water throughout the school day (i.e.- arrival, before and after lunch, after sneezing or coughing).

### **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, including Improving Ventilation**

A cleaning facility checklist was established for scheduled cleaning and disinfecting protocols for classrooms, bathrooms, common areas, and water fountains. The custodial staff will clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, faucet handles, and phones.

The custodial staff will continue to clean/disinfect eating surfaces between lunch periods.

The district will continue to use the ActivePure air purifying units in all areas of the school where students are present. The Vollara Air & Surface Pro+ Air Purifiers is based on technology called ActivePure originally developed by NASA. It is proven to reduce over 99% of all surface and airborne contaminants including COVID-19.

The district will continue to use a Odorox Hydroxyl Generator Slim line in the nurse's office, 2 Odorox Boss XL3 Hydroxyl Generators and 2 HEPA 500 Air Scrubbers in the hallways, and 2 HEPA 2000 Air Scrubbers in the cafeteria and gymnasium.

In accordance with the CDC, plastic shields on desks will be removed as there is insignificant evidence of their effectiveness in preventing transmission.

### ***Busing***

Bus windows are to be kept down when the weather permits to allow for air circulation.

Transportation personnel will be responsible to clean high touch surfaces on school buses daily.

### **Parental Screening**

Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school.

Folsom School will educate parents about the importance of monitoring symptoms and keeping children home when ill. In addition, the school will provide clear and accessible directions to parents for reporting symptoms and reasons for absences.

### **Isolation Protocols**

An isolation area for symptomatic staff and students is located in the school nurse's office.

Students who are sick and not already wearing a mask will be provided one to wear. If a mask is not tolerated by the ill student or staff member, other staff should be masked and follow maximum physical distancing guidelines (at least 6 feet away).

### **Exclusion**

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- **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, no sense of smell or taste.

Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.

An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID 19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

### **Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts**

Excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission levels as follows:

High (orange) Community Transmission Rate - exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.

Moderate or Low (yellow or green) Community Transmission Rate - exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)

#### **Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms:**

Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.

If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

### **Contact Tracing**

The Folsom School Nurse will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the Atlantic County Department of Health.

Folsom School will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.

Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult

to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.

### **Remote Learning**

If Folsom School is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of the scenarios listed above, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, the district will be prepared to offer remote instruction.

### **Vaccinations**

Vaccination clinics were held in the Spring of 2021 for all staff interested in being vaccinated. The school continues to maintain a relationship with a local pharmacy to coordinate anyone that chooses to be vaccinated.

### **Testing**

In accordance with New Jersey Executive Order No. 253 which requires all preschool to Grade 12 school personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week.

Unvaccinated staff are tested once per week onsite by Rover Labs. Unvaccinated staff are tested using the saliva PCR test.

### **Ensuring Continuity of Services**

Folsom School District is prioritizing students' and staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs through the partnership with AtlantiCare Behavioral Health in the newly created position of a school wellness counselor (SWC). The counselor will serve the community in a number of areas ranging from employee wellness initiatives, leading school wellness committees, providing ongoing parental education and engagement, and providing referrals for students and families for appropriate mental health services.

In addition to the counselor, Folsom will continue with a 4-week summer learning program to address students' academic and SEL needs. Lastly, the district will offer academic support programming after-school for students to bridge the gap in learning.