

Folsom School District



The Road Forward Plan- 2021-2022

BOE Approval on 2/22/22

Maintaining Health and Safety

Masks

Effective Monday, March 7, 2022, pursuant to Governor Murphy's announcement on February 7, 2022, the "Mask Mandate" for schools as stipulated in NJ Executive Order 251 will be lifted.

Consequently:

- Students, staff, parents, visitors, service providers, and contracted vendors will have the **option to wear/not wear masks** while inside the school and outside on school grounds;
- Students infected with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts will be required to wear masks inside school and outside on school grounds for Days 6-10 in accordance with the shortened isolation/quarantine timelines;
- On a case by case basis, students/staff/permitted visitors may be required to wear a mask upon entry into the nurse's office;
- Students, staff, and permitted visitors must continue to wear masks while riding on buses in accordance with federal mandates;
- Administration will not tolerate the shaming, teasing, harassing, or bullying of any student, teacher, faculty or staff member to wear or not wear a mask. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any individual who engages in such behavior

Physical Distancing

Classrooms

The district is pivoting from classroom desks being apart to now pulled together in pairs to support collaboration. Also, there is at least one small group instruction table in 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 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 is 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.

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.

Students, staff, and permitted visitors must continue to wear masks while riding on buses in accordance with federal mandates;

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 for 5 days 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 5 days from the positive test result.

Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts

Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and/or 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 10 days following an exposure.

If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and contact the school nurse.

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 six feet of an individual testing positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour time period (if unmasked), or within three feet if both individuals are fully and properly masked. Vaccination status will be considered in the determination of close contacts.

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.