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**Nyack Public Schools
Reentry Plan
July 31, 2020**

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FOREWARD by Superintendent of Schools

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge our school community as well as societal changes to our everyday way of life. Since Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order to close schools on March 16, 2020, there has been monumental changes to our K-12 education system. Beginning on that date, our school district was forced into remote learning, placing an extraordinary burden to the households of our school community. My personal admiration is extended to our students, parents and staff members who worked together to overcome unparalleled challenges. As we look to the next school year it is evident that the impact of COVID-19 will continue into the foreseeable future. To that end, I am pleased to present to you our Nyack Schools Reentry Plan that places the health and safety of everyone in our schools as its uppermost priority. Our Reentry Plan addresses many different important areas including health and safety, transportation, facilities and operations, teaching and learning, social emotional needs, and food services. We believe that it is imperative that we plan for high quality learning experiences that students may access whether from home, their physical classroom or moving between the two venues. Our plan is designed with flexibility to meet the unique needs of our students. The Nyack Schools Reentry Plan is aligned to our District racial equity vision that demands equity access to high quality learning experiences for each and every student. Our plan reflects a student-centered approach to ensure access, equity and flexibility for each student in critical areas of instruction, technology, child nutrition, school attendance and social emotional support.

This will include opportunities for remote learning for students at increased risk for COVID-19 illness –or- who may not feel comfortable returning to an in-person educational environment. We recognize that our parents will be in the best position to make decisions for their children and we intend to work with them in an effort to meet those needs. It is important to note that decisions regarding in-person education will be made by the NYS Department of Health along with our County Health Department. Schools have been advised by the NYS Department of Education to develop plans that can quickly shift to remote learning for all students depending on the current level of COVID-19 infection rates.

I am greatly appreciative of the efforts of administration, staff members and parents who have assisted in the development of our Reentry Plan. On behalf of all of us in the Nyack Schools, I wish you continued good health and stay Nyack Strong!



James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The chief goal of Nyack Public Schools District Reentry Plan is to provide guidelines for the reopening of Nyack schools and offices into safe environments by working collaboratively with the state and local health departments, the NYS Department of Education, and Nyack Public School's staff, students, and families. This document uses the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) and local and national resources to provide a plan for transportation and on-site safety precautions that adhere to the most current information available with safety being regularly monitored (based on current recommendations at time of publication). The document will be updated as new information becomes available. The safety of students and staff is a primary consideration for making flexible arrangements in the areas of instructional scheduling, telecommuting, virtual learning, and transportation. Reviewing, practicing, and updating the plan on a regular basis is essential to ensuring the highest level of success in responding to any event. The intent is to reopen Nyack Public Schools with the health and social-emotional wellbeing of our students, parents, and staff as our number one priority.

Nyack Public Schools understands that over the last few months, many in our community have experienced physical, emotional, health, and financial strains. In the face of stressful and traumatic experiences over the past months, administrators, teachers, support staff, students, and parents continue to exhibit resilience and strength. It is important that we make students and staff feel comfortable and safe when returning to school environments.

To ensure decisions are being carefully considered and recommendations are well vetted, Nyack Public Schools relied on current best practices and guidance, collaborative efforts of stakeholders throughout the agency, and will modify plans as information evolves. Nyack Public Schools Reentry Plan is designed to help individuals easily navigate the contents and is divided into chapters that covers nine main topics: Health, Safety, and Facilities, Instructional Programs, Social and Emotional, Nursing, Transportation, Professional Development, Communications, Technology, Business Operations, and Human Resources. It should be noted that there is tremendous cross-over throughout the sections of the document and content is cross-referenced. Also note that the plan is specific to Nyack Public Schools operated facilities and operations.

Nyack Public Schools would like to express its deepest thanks to its dedicated staff and parents who worked hard on this plan to ensure that students come back to a school environment that is prioritizing health and safety, both in the physical space as well as the social and emotional environment that is most conducive to learning.

REENTRY PLAN CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to the members of the Nyack Public Schools Re-Entry Leadership Team, Staff and Community Members for your collaborative work and contributions:

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Gessie Paul, Parent
James J. Montesano, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

GOVERNANCE AND ACTION ITEMS

Nyack Public School Administration will work with appropriate stakeholders to focus on the immediate need to open schools but also provide long-term planning in case it needs to adjust its methods of instruction due to COVID-19. Possible action items include:

	Draft the Nyack Public School Reentry Plan and submit to stakeholders for review and comments
	Align plan with recommendations issued by the NYS Department of Education and review for updated federal, state, and local guidance
	Submit for approval to NYS Department of Education
	Review and revise the facilities plan based on recommendations
	Revise the 20-21 school calendar and build in contingencies considering an alternative calendar in the case the start date is delayed
	Review and select instructional strategy and plan for modifying instruction as needed
	Review and revise technology plan and examine what steps are needed to ensure that students have access to technology at home
	Review and revise professional development plan based on recommendations from this document and guidance from local, state, and federal agencies
	Ensure that all facilities are prepared for reopening
	Review and revise Human Resource policies for clarity and to minimize absenteeism while still encouraging employees to remain at home if they are ill
	Communicate with school constituents and stakeholders regarding plans for reopening
	Ensure that an emergency planning team is in place and update the emergency operations plan after a thorough and ongoing evaluation of the response to the 2020 pandemic closure

COVID-19 Safety Coordinator

Nyack Public Schools has designated Leo Macias as the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the school’s reopening plan as well as any phased in reopening activities necessary to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities return to normal or “new normal” levels.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND FACILITIES

The health and safety of students and staff is the top priority when making the decision to reopen school campuses. Nyack Public Schools will work in collaboration with NYSED, the NYS Department of Health, and the Rockland County Department of Health to safely reopen. When schools do reopen, Nyack Public Schools will continue this collaborative effort to monitor current disease levels and the capacities of local health providers and health care systems. This checklist will support the building leaders in their ongoing collaboration with their school communities and health professionals about reopening strategies. Current recommendations provide guidance on the conditions that need to be in place in order to reopen schools safely and effectively.¹ These include:

Local Conditions

Nyack Public Schools will ensure that the following local conditions are in place to ensure a safe reopening process:

1. Flexibility or Lifting of State Stay-At-Home Order
 - a. The state has lifted the stay-at-home order to allow schools to physically reopen.
2. Flexibility or Lifting of County Stay-At-Home Order
 - a. The county has lifted the stay-at-home or shelter-in-place order to allow schools to physically reopen.
3. Local public health officials have made determinations, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Ensure that adequate tests and tracking/tracing resources are available for schools to reopen and employees have access to COVID-19 testing at regular and ongoing intervals.
 - b. Sufficient duration of decline or stability of confirmed cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.
 - c. Sufficient surge capacity exists in local hospitals.
4. Equipment Availability
 - a. Sufficient protective equipment to comply with NYS Department of Health guidance for students and staff appropriate for each classification or duty.
 - b. Established plan for an ongoing supply of protective equipment.
 - c. Purchase a sufficient number of no-touch thermal scan thermometers or kiosks for symptom screenings.
 - d. Consider the differing requirements of PPE for populations of students with disabilities (i.e., for those requiring medical procedures, toileting, lifting and mobility assistance).
 - e. Installation of signage throughout buildings to provide individuals with appropriate COVID-19 related information.
5. Cleaning Supply Availability
 - a. Have enough school-appropriate, NYS approved cleaning supplies to continuously disinfect the school site in accordance with NYS Department of

¹ Special note* Some items addressed in this document will overlap with other areas of concern and are being addressed separately, e.g. transportation, technology, instructional practice, etc.

- Public Health guidance.
- b. Ensure sufficient supplies of hand sanitizers, soap, handwashing stations, tissues, and paper towels.
- 6. Availability of Safe Transportation
- 7. Developed Protocol for:
 - a. [Hygiene](#)
 - b. [Cleaning and disinfecting](#)
 - c. [Ventilation/ Water System Maintenance](#)
 - d. [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
 - i. Appropriate use
 - ii. Type of PPE by staff
 - iii. Management of Inventory and ordering of supplies
 - e. [Physical distancing for staff and students, while in class, hallways, the nurse's office, and Nyack Public Schools' offices](#)
 - f. [Addressing visitors, guests, contractors, and vendors](#)
 - g. [School Safety Drills](#)- Fire and lockdown drills
- 8. [Monitoring of the signs of illness of students and staff](#) with plans for response.
 - i. Daily temperature screening of all students and staff, along with daily screening questionnaires for faculty and staff and periodic use of the questionnaire for students.
 - ii. This includes actions for if a student or staff has symptoms with a designated isolation room and follow-up.
 - iii. Assessment by the school nurse.
 - iv. This also includes instructions for parents/guardians to observe for signs of illness in their child that require them to stay home from school.
- 9. [Management of Ill Persons](#) and [Addressing Active Cases](#)
 - a. Ill staff/students will be handled initially at the building level by the school nurse. Active cases will involve coordination between the school and the RCDoH
- 10. [Vulnerable populations](#)
- 11. [Signage](#)
- 12. [School Safety Drills](#)
- 13. [Nyack Public Schools COVID-19 Safety Coordinator](#) - Leo Macias

In alignment with the CDC and NYSDOH, Nyack Public Schools COVID-19 surveillance objectives are to monitor the spread and intensity of the pandemic, to enable contact tracing to slow transmission, and to identify disease clusters requiring special intervention. Nyack Public Schools will also seek guidance to understand the severity and spectrum of the disease and to identify risk factors for and methods of preventing infection. Monitoring healthcare capacity and essential supplies through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) is critical to ensure adequacy of care.

Hygiene Protocol

1. Hand Washing- In accordance with the [CDC guidance on when and how to wash your hands](#) and NYS Department of Health guidance and in consultation with local public health officials, Nyack Public School's plan for handwashing includes:

- a. Opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing frequency guidelines.
 - i. Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not accessible. Staff and students should use paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly.
 - ii. Wash hands when arriving and leaving home; arriving at and leaving school; after playing outside; after having close contact with others; after using shared surfaces or tools; before and after using restroom; after blowing your nose, coughing, and sneezing; before and after eating and preparing foods; and anytime hands are visibly soiled.
 - b. Sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations.
 - i. Fragrance-free and approved hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol) will be available and supervised at or near all workstations.
 - ii. No child under the age of three years old should be permitted to use hand sanitizer. No child of any age should be permitted to use hand sanitizer without supervision.
 - iii. Hand sanitizer is not effective on visibly soiled hands. It is recommended to wash with soap and water first.
 - c. Students will be supported to do these tasks where they may need assistance.
2. Respiratory Hygiene- it is important that students and staff cover their mouths or noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue appropriately.
- a. A supply of tissues and no touch/floor pedal trash cans will be available in each room when feasible.
 - b. If no tissue is available, using the inside of the elbow (or shirtsleeve) to cover the mouth or nose is preferable to using the hands.
 - c. Students and staff will be instructed to perform hand hygiene after sneezing, coughing and handling dirty tissues or other soiled material.

All Nyack Public School buildings will be inspected to determine readiness for re-entry and have updated legal and safety inspections necessary for occupancy. The following protocols will be implemented below:

Signage Protocol

Nyack Public Schools will use signage developed by the CDC, NYSDOH, other public health outlets, the NYS Department of Education, and create new signs where appropriate. [Appropriate signage and markings](#) will be placed throughout Nyack Public Schools' offices and buildings to remind staff, students, families, and visitors (when permitted) to maintain physical distancing, wash hands adequately, wear masks, etc. Specifically signage will be posted at all building entrances, restrooms, cafeterias, classrooms, administrative offices, auditoriums, and janitorial staff areas. Signage will also be installed to mark the direction of flow in hallways to limit exposure.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocol

Nyack Public Schools will meet cleanliness standards prior to reopening and maintain a consistent level of cleanliness during the school year. Cleaning protocols will follow the

[NYSDOH Interim Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance for Primary and Secondary Schools for COVID-19.](#)

1. Only those disinfecting products that are approved for use against COVID-19 listed on the [Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\) list of products registered in New York State](#) and identified by the EPA as effective against COVID-19 will be used. All products will be kept out of children's reach and stored in a space with restricted access.
2. When cleaning, the space will be aired out before children arrive and a thorough cleaning will be done when children are not present.
3. A schedule for cleaning will be developed and input will be sought from each school to determine areas of special interest and need for additional cleaning.
 - a. Regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities and more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk areas used by many individuals and for frequently touched surfaces, including desks and cafeteria tables which should be cleaned and disinfected between each individual's use, if shared.
 - b. Where cohorts are used, cleaning and disinfection may take place between each cohort's use rather than each individual. Cleaning and disinfection must be rigorous and ongoing and should occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed.
4. Disinfecting surfaces will occur between uses, such as:
 - i. Desks and tables
 - ii. Chairs
 - iii. Seats on bus
 - iv. Technology sanitization will be performed by the individual instructional staff
 - v. Phones
5. Disinfecting will be performed frequently, for high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, light switches, sink handles, restroom surfaces, toys, games, art supplies, instructional materials, and playground equipment.
6. Soft and porous materials such as rugs and chairs will be removed to the greatest extent possible.
7. Limit sharing of personal items, objects, and electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids as much as possible. Student's belongings will be separated from others' and in individually labeled containers or areas and ensure they are taken home and cleaned and disinfected regularly. Stuffed animals and any other toys that are difficult to clean and sanitize will not be allowed unless in accordance with special accommodations.
 - a. Where appropriate, schools are ordering supplies such as those used in art and PE for each individual student
8. Employees will be encouraged to self-clean individual workstations and shared spaces before and after use. Sanitization stations will be provided that will include disinfectant spray, wipes, and hand sanitizer to encourage new cleaning guidelines.
9. Receptacles will be placed around the school for disposal of soiled items, including PPE.
10. Areas that were used by any sick person will be closed off and not used before cleaning and disinfection. To reduce risk of exposure, Nyack Public Schools will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, Nyack Public

Schools will wait as long as possible.

11. If a facility has been unoccupied for seven days or more, it will only require normal routine cleaning to reopen the area. This is based on the current CDC recommendations.
12. Nyack Public Schools will maintain cleaning and disinfection logs as required by the NYSDOH.

Ventilation/Water System Protocol

1. Ventilation systems and fans will operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible through open windows and doors and other methods. Central air filtration for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems will be maximized.
2. Airflow within classrooms and office spaces flows properly to lessen the exposure to COVID-19.
3. Monitor all water systems and features for safety after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.
4. A schedule for changing the heat system filters will be maintained.
5. Nyack Public Schools will supply other PPE appropriate for work assignments (complying with OSHA requirements).
 - a. Face masks, face shields, and disposable gloves will be provided.
 - b. Nurses will have access to a higher degree of PPE due to the nature of their work. Fit testing will be conducted to ensure appropriate fitting of N-95 face masks.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Protocol

Nyack School District reviewed the [OSHA COVID-19 guidance](#) on how to protect staff from potential exposures as well as [CDC guidance on proper PPE use](#).

Training will be provided on proper PPE use including:

1. The proper way to wear face coverings;
2. Washing hands before putting on and after removing their face covering;
3. Proper way to discard disposable face coverings;
4. The importance of routine cleaning of reusable face coverings; and
5. Face coverings are for individual use only and should not be shared.

Staff PPE

1. All staff should wear face coverings as required. Nyack Public Schools will provide masks if the employee does not have a face covering.
2. Teaching staff can use face shields, in addition to clear facemasks, which enable students to see their faces and to avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction. These will be provided by Nyack Public Schools as needed.
3. For any staff wearing a face shield it is required that they also wear a surgical mask.
4. Nyack Public Schools will supply other PPE appropriate for work assignments (complying with OSHA requirements).
 - a. Employees engaging in symptom screening: surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves will be provided.
 - b. Nurses will have access to a higher degree of PPE due to the nature of their work.

- Fit testing will be conducted to ensure appropriate fitting of N-95 face masks.
- c. Front office and food service employees: face coverings, and disposable gloves will be provided.
 - d. Custodial staff: equipment and PPE for cleaning and disinfecting (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator in addition to PPE as required by product instructions) will be provided for the following:
 1. Regular surface cleaning
 2. Deep cleaning and disinfecting
 3. Protect employees from the hazards of cleaning products used

Student PPE Protocol

1. The NYSDOH states that an acceptable face covering, which is strongly recommended to be worn by all individuals at all times but is required to be worn any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing, in hallways, in restrooms, and in other congregate settings including buses.
 - a. However, if face coverings are to be worn by all individuals at all times, Nyack Public Schools will permit students to remove their face covering during meals, instruction, and for short breaks so long as they maintain appropriate social distance.
 - b. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth based face coverings (e.homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.
 - c. Exceptions include children under the age of two, or for anyone who is unable to medically tolerate such covering. This includes students for whom such covering would impair their physical health or mental health, or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction, and anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
 - d. Nyack Public School's Instructional Plans have built in time for face covering breaks for students when they can maintain social distance.
2. Training on appropriate use of face coverings will be provided to students via video prior to the first day of in-person instruction. This will be followed up with regular reminders and training while attending school.

*A daily checklist will be used by school personnel to inspect their areas and ensure that they have sufficient supplies each day. Inventory checklists will be monitored by the Facilities Department.

Physical Distancing Protocol

Nyack Public Schools will review all spaces and facilities to be utilized in order to maintain the health and safety of students and staff, especially when tending to individual student medical or personal needs. Specifically:

1. Appropriate physical distancing will be maintained in all directions between individuals or use of appropriate physical barriers between individuals that do not adversely affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation, or otherwise present a health or safety risk.

- a. If used, physical barriers will be in place in accordance with United States Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines and may include strip curtains, cubicle walls, plexiglass or similar materials, or other impermeable divider or partition.
2. Nyack Public Schools will ensure that appropriate social distancing is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds, inclusive of students, faculty, and staff, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., instruction, moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household.
3. The number of people in all campus spaces will be limited to the number that can be reasonably accommodated while maintaining a minimum of a six foot distance between individuals in all directions. Six feet is the current minimum recommendation for physical distancing from the NYSDOH, but Nyack Public Schools will pay attention to future modifications in public health recommendations as information evolves.
 - a. A distance of twelve feet in all directions will be maintained between individuals while participating in activities requires projecting the voice (e.g., singing), playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (e.g., participating in gym classes).
2. To the extent possible, and as recommended by the NYSDOH, Nyack Public Schools will attempt to create smaller student/educator cohorts to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day. Nyack Public Schools will minimize the movement of students, educators, and staff as much as possible.
3. Outdoor spaces will be used at the greatest extent possible.
4. In a circumstance where sufficient physical distancing is difficult or impossible, such as when students enter or exit a school bus in proximity to the bus driver, all individuals, including staff and students, should wear face coverings that cover the mouth and nose consistent with CDC guidelines.

For Student Physical Distancing Nyack Public Schools will:

1. Review the student and staff capacity of each school to meet the six foot physical distancing objectives.
2. Post social distancing markings using tape or signs that denote six feet of spacing in commonly used and other applicable areas.
3. Limit the number of students physically reporting to school, in order to maintain physical distancing. Various strategies have been outlined in the Instructional Program Models section of this document and include blended learning models.
4. Classrooms
 - a. Determine maximum capacity for students of each classroom to meet the six- foot physical distancing objectives.
 - b. Desks will be a minimum of six feet apart and arranged in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
 - c. Physical distancing objectives will be addressed as students move between classrooms. Floor decals will guide the direction of traffic in the hallways.
 - d. Other campus spaces will be utilized for instructional activities (e.g., lecture halls, gyms, auditoriums, cafeterias, outdoors).

- e. Broadcast instruction to other classrooms and students distance learning at home.
 - f. Developmentally appropriate activities will be arranged for smaller groups and furniture and play spaces will be rearranged to maintain separation, when possible.
 - g. Physical barriers will be used where possible but in compliance with OSHA regulations.
5. Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of students with the same staff.
 6. Schedule virtual activities in lieu of field trips and intergroup events.
 7. Install barriers/signage to direct traffic around campus.
 8. Buses (see [Transportation](#))
 - a. Staggered drop off and pick up times are currently being considered.
 9. Playgrounds/Outside Spaces/Athletics
 - a. Increase supervision to ensure physical distancing.
 - b. Physical education and intramural/interscholastic athletics should be limited to activities that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
 10. Food Service/ Nutrition

The food service for Nyack Public Schools is contracted through Aramark Corporation. The Nyack Public Schools' plan for food services can be found in the [Child Nutrition](#) section of this document. Food service will be provided for students both on-site and learning from home.

- a. Nyack Public Schools expects that food service will be provided in the cafeteria. Students or teacher assistants at the elementary level by cohort will pick up lunch from the cafeteria and will be brought back to the classroom to eat. This will help limit physical interaction during meal service. Secondary students will pick up meals in the cafeteria. Eating in the cafeteria or other specified areas is permitted at the secondary level if physical distancing is maintained.
 - b. Students can remove face covering when seated and eating as long as they are appropriately physically distanced.
 - c. With an approved National School Lunch Program waiver, meal access for students quarantined or in a home-based cohort will be provided.
 - d. Students will perform hand hygiene before and after eating.
 - e. Food sharing will be discouraged.
11. Restrooms
 - a. Students and staff will enter the restrooms one at a time.
 - b. Where possible, use bathrooms in the classroom.
 - c. Everyone is expected to thoroughly wash their hands using the 20 second guidelines.

12. Nurse's Office- this section is addressed in the [Nursing section](#) of the Nyack Plan.

For staff physical distancing, the Nyack Public Schools will:

1. Evaluate workplaces to ensure that employees can maintain physical distancing to the extent possible.
 - a. Workspaces will be rearranged to incorporate a minimum of six feet between employees and students.
 - b. If physical distancing between workspaces or between employees and students and visitors is not possible, physical barriers that cannot be moved will be added to separate workspaces.
2. The use of small spaces such as elevators, supply rooms, personal offices, and vehicles should be limited to use by not more than one individual at a time, unless all individuals in such space at the same time are wearing acceptable face coverings. However, even when face coverings in use, occupancy must never exceed 50% of the maximum capacity of the space or vehicle, unless it is designed for use by a single occupant.
3. Adjust staff schedules to accommodate new student schedules and physical distancing strategies.
4. Avoid staff congregation in work environments, break rooms, staff rooms, and bathrooms. The teacher's lounge may be closed temporarily.
5. Avoid grouping staff together for training or staff development. Virtual training will be conducted, or, if in-person, distancing will be maintained.

Outside Visitor Protocol

- Limit access to campus for parents and other visitors.
- All buildings will require visitors to sign in and a log will be maintained with the date, time, and places visited to assist with contact tracing efforts, if necessary.
- All contractors coming onto Nyack Public Schools property to perform work will complete the [COVID-19 questionnaire for contractors](#) and provide to the facilities department before coming to work each morning.
- Evaluate whether and to what extent external community organizations can safely utilize the site and campus resources.
- Ensure external community organizations that use the facilities also follow the school district's health and safety plans and NYS Department of Health guidance.
- Review facility use agreements and establish common facility protocols for all users of the facility.
- Establish protocol for accepting deliveries safely.

Fire and Lock Down Drills

1. Fire and lock down drills will be conducted as per the regular schedule. The class line up map will be reviewed to ensure that physical distancing is maintained between students and classes.
2. Nyack Public Schools will ensure that all students are receiving instruction in emergency procedures, and participating in drills while they are in attendance in-person.
3. Modifications to Lockdown Drills may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Conducting lockdown drill in classroom setting while maintaining social distancing and using masks;
 - b. Conducting lockdown drills on a “staggered” schedule with smaller numbers of students present to maintain social distancing
 - c. Conduct lockdown drills in the classroom without “hiding”/ “sheltering” but provide an overview of how to shelter or hide in the classroom.
4. Students will be instructed that if it was an actual emergency that required evacuation or lockdown, the most imminent concern is to get to safety; maintaining social distancing in an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown may not be possible and should not be the first priority.

Screening and Monitoring

Staff members and parents/guardians will be provided with resources to educate them regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screenings that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. Any student or staff member with a fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection should not be present in school. An updated list of symptoms is maintained by the CDC and can be found [here](#). All Nyack Public School employees will receive training on recognizing symptoms of COVID-19. Nyack Public Schools will not keep any records of students, faculty, staff, and/or visitor health data. Rather, Nyack Public Schools will maintain records that confirm individuals were screened and the result of such screening (pass/fail, cleared/not cleared. Incoming screening questionnaires will be reviewed daily by the Nurse and attest to their completion.

Students—Screening and Entering Campuses

1. Nyack Public Schools will instruct parents to screen their child before leaving for school, check the temperature to ensure that it is below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms outlined by public health officials. Parents should complete the [Student COVID-19 Questionnaire](#).
2. Nyack Public Schools will ensure that parents have multiple avenues of completion of the questionnaire. Students who require screening to be completed at school will be treated in a confidential manner and will be screened before entering the school.
3. Parents/Guardians should keep their child home if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or if they have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
4. Nyack Public Schools will engage in symptom screening as students enter campus consistent with public health guidance.
 - a. Staff conducting symptom screening will receive training on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 as well as procedures on next steps if symptoms are observed.
 - b. Staff conducting symptom screening will stand behind a barrier where appropriate. Where this is not possible, staff will have appropriate PPE including a face shield, mask, and gloves.
 - c. This will include visual wellness checks and temperature checks with no-touch thermometers, question students about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours, and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive.
 - d. If a student presents a temperature of greater than 100.0 F or presents with any

other symptoms, the student must be denied entry into the facility or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home (see also plan for Addressing Positive Cases and Management of Ill Persons)

- e. Gastrointestinal tract symptoms will be taken into consideration during the screening process.
 - f. Students will be supervised during temperature screenings and will be physically distanced while waiting their turn.
 - g. Contact tracing will be enacted in the case of a positive case in any school or office building. In the case that a student or staff person is positive, the school administrator should immediately contact Leo Macias at ext. 1300 who will schedule appropriate cleaning and disinfecting.
 - h. All students must sanitize their hands as they enter campuses.
5. All students must wash and sanitize their hands after going to the lavatory. Sanitizing stations will be placed at various locations on campus.
 6. Students who are symptomatic when boarding the bus will not be denied transportation and escorted to the nurses office when they report to school.

Staff—Screening and Entering Campuses

1. Nyack Public Schools will instruct staff to self-screen by taking the [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) before leaving for work daily and to stay home if they have answered yes to one or more of those questions (excluding the “I will go to work” question).
2. Nyack Public Schools will engage in symptom screening as staff enter worksites, consistent with public health guidance.
3. All staff must wash or sanitize hands as they enter worksites or after visiting the restroom.

Management of Ill Persons

1. Any person exhibiting symptoms should be required to immediately wear a face covering.
2. Staff and/or students who are symptomatic while entering campus or develop symptoms during the school day should be separated from others right away to a designated area that is isolated where others do not enter or pass.
 - a. This person will be assessed by the school nurse who will ensure that he/she is wearing appropriate PPE.
 - i. The school nurse will assess the possibility of other chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions that may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat.
 - ii. The school nurse will assess for symptoms of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19, a serious condition associated with COVID-19 in children and youth. Nyack Public Schools will notify the parent/guardian if their child shows any of the following symptoms: fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, and/or bloodshot eyes feeling extra tired.

- iii. Schools must call for emergency transport (911) following district policies, for any student showing any of these emergency warning signs of MIS-C or other concerning signs.
3. If more than one person is in an isolation area, ensure physical distancing.
4. Individuals should remain in an isolation area with continued supervision and care until picked up by a parent/guardian or authorized adult.
 - a. Staff members who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during operation hours should leave the campus and seek medical attention from their own medical provider.
 - b. Students should wait in the designated isolation area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility. Students should be escorted from the isolation area to the parent/guardian with instructions that will include seeking medical attention, [NYSDOH resources for identifying testing sites](#), and the protocol for returning to school.
 - c. Awareness information of the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children associated with COVID-19 should also be provided.
5. If a person believes they have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, the person should self-quarantine even if they are not sick. Individuals should watch for signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and other COVID-19 symptoms during the 14 days of quarantine, beginning with the last day they were in close contact with the person sick with COVID-19. They should not go to work, child care, school, or public places for 14 days.
6. Nyack Public Schools will notify the NYSDOH and RCDOH immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual in school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
7. Nyack Public Schools staff will notify their building principal or designee if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms outside of the work day.

Returning to School Protocol

Nyack Public Schools returning to school/work protocol is in accordance with [NYSDOH's Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID 19 Infection or Exposure](#) which includes:

1. At minimum documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID 19 diagnostic test result and symptom resolution, or if they have been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.
2. If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:
 - a. It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
 - b. It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); and
 - c. It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

This will be coordinated with Nyack Public Schools' Human Resources Department, the individual staff member, and the supervising administrator.

Addressing Positive COVID-19 Cases or Community Surges Protocol

1. Nyack Public Schools will work closely with the RCDOH in the event that large scale testing at Nyack Public Schools is needed.
2. Nyack Public Schools has a plan to close schools based on guidance from the NYSDOH formula for closing schools and in coordination with local public health officials.
3. When a student, teacher, or staff member or a member of their household tests positive for COVID-19, and has exposed others at school, Nyack Public Schools will implement the following steps:
 - a. Students whose parents/guardian test positive for COVID-19 are not permitted to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.
 - b. In consultation with the local public health officials, the appropriate Nyack Public Schools district official may consider whether school closure is warranted and the length of time, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
 - c. Closing off area where the COVID-19-positive individual was based;
 - d. Areas of the school visited by the COVID-19-positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection. Appropriate notification will be made to the occupants of such areas.
 - e. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - f. Waiting at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection. If waiting 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible;
 - g. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
 - h. Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected it can be reopened for use.
 - i. Individuals without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
 - j. Additional close contacts such as teachers, direct aides, classmates, and others should also quarantine at home.
 - k. Implement the plan for continuity of education, medical and social services, and meal programs for individuals in isolation.
 - l. Additionally, please see the [Nursing](#) section of this document.

Contact Tracing

1. The Nyack Public Schools will make every effort to assist the local health department and contract tracers to trace all persons who had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. To do this, Nyack Public Schools will ensure that it:
 - a. will keep accurate attendance records of students and staff members
 - b. ensure student schedules are up to date

- c. keep a log of any visitors which includes dates, time, and where in the school they visited.
- 2. Contact Tracing Responsible Parties will be the nurse at each school in coordination with the COVID-19 Coordinator.
- 3. The nurse will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID 19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
 - a. This is in accordance with Education Law § 906
- 4. The Nyack Public Schools will support RCDOH's efforts in tracing all contacts of the individual, in accordance with the protocols, training, and tools provided through the [New York State Contact Tracing Program](#).
- 5. Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state law and regulations. Responsible Parties must cooperate with all state and local health department contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine efforts.

School Closing Protocol

Similar to closures due to COVID-19 in March 2020, if any of the Nyack Public Schools is mandated to close by NYS's closure formula, schools and office operations will go remote. Details for how schools will operate remotely are included in the [Instructional Programs](#) section below. Parents have been notified that this is a possibility and all students have been provided with the technology to support remote learning.

CHILD NUTRITION

The Nyack School District recognizes the importance of good nutrition and the opportunity to provide nourishing meals to all students in a safe manner. The District will ensure that all nutrition programs follow the requirements set forth by the NYSED child nutrition unit and will:

- 1. Provide access to school meals for all students enrolled in the Nyack School District while in school and while learning remotely.
- 2. Address all applicable health and safety guidelines.
- 3. Consider safety measures for students with food allergies.
- 4. Instruct students on how to appropriately wash hands, and have students perform hand hygiene before and after eating.
- 5. Comply with all Child Nutrition Program requirements.
- 6. Communicate all protocol and procedures with parents in multiple languages as well as policies about meal service, eligibility, options, and changes in operations.

A. Communications will include program-specific information that details program activities that affect families such as:

- 1. availability of meals
- 2. payment methods
- 3. use of vending machines

4. a la carte sales
 5. outside food brought into the building, and
 6. restrictions on visitors during the meal service.
7. The District will work with Aramark Food Services to ensure that food preparation and services including staffing are in compliance with the safety and sanitation standards developed by the NYSED child nutrition unit.
8. Adequate supplies of face masks, soap, hand sanitizer, and tissues will be available in the food service areas.
9. Routinely clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces including tables, chairs, carts used in food transportation, and point-of-service touch pads. The custodial staff will perform frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the school day.
10. Minimize students congregating in common areas and use outside space as feasible.
11. In the case of a hybrid model or fully remote, Nyack Public Schools will assess service methods that are most appropriate to the school site and consider equitable access of food to eligible students in the community.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS/ SCHOOL SCHEDULES

The Nyack School District is comprised of five schools. Three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Consistent throughout is the flexible approach that programs are taken so that the educational needs of its students are met to the greatest extent possible while understanding that it may start the school year with one instructional schedule model and, as new information becomes available about health and safety and other related developments, there is a continuity of learning as the program may transition to a different model.

Each school and/or district reopening plan describes the school schedule planned for implementation at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year and to the extent practicable any contingent scheduling models it may consider if the situation warrants. Nyack Public School will provide either online-only “distance learning”, or a hybrid model “learning both on and off campus”.

1. **Elementary School** - Elementary Schools will run a hybrid model. The students will be assigned a cohort and go to school on an every other day schedule. The students will attend remotely and in person depending on their assigned blended learning group. This schedule will be sent home as part of summer communication to families. As a result the school will only have half of the student body in on a given day.

Elementary School Schedule
Five Day Week Showing Which Day It is For Specials

Example

Upper Nyack	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort	A	B	A	B	A
Day for Specials	1	2	3	4	5
Valley Cottage and Liberty	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort	A (in) B (out)	B(in) A (out)	A (in) B (out)	B(in) A (out)	A (in) B (out)
Day for Specials	1	2	3	4	2

Example of Following Week

Upper Nyack	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort	B	A	B	A	B
Day for Specials	1	2	3	4	5
Valley Cottage and Liberty	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cohort	B(in) A (out)	A (in) B (out)	B(in) A (out)	A (in) B (out)	B(in) A (out)
Day for Specials	3	4	1	3	4

- 2. Middle School-**Nyack Middle School will run a normal school schedule in a hybrid model. The students will attend remotely and in person depending on their assigned blended learning group. This schedule will be sent home as part of summer communication to families.

Nyack Middle School Hybrid Model:

Students would report on alternate days via two cohorts. This would reduce class size by half, allowing us to achieve social distancing in our classrooms. The total number of students in the building would be 340 per day(12-14 students per class).

NMS Two Week Hybrid Rotation

Cohort-Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blue	A-Day In School	A-Day Remotel	B-Day In School	B-Day Remote	A-Day In School
Red	A-Day Remote	A-Day In School	B-Day Remote	B-Day In School	A-Day Remote
Cohort-Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blue	A-Day Remote	B-Day In School	B-Day Remote	A-Day In school	A-Day Remote
Red	A-Day In School	B-Day Remote	B Day In School	A-Day Remote	A-Day In School

- 3. High School-** Nyack High School will run a normal rotating block schedule in the form of a hybrid model of students learning both on and off campus. The students will attend remotely and in person based on their assigned blended learning group. This schedule will be sent home as part of summer communication to families and available on the school's [home page](#).

Nyack High School's Sample Hybrid Schedule of One Full Rotation

Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blue	In School	Remote	In School	Remote	In School	Remote	In School	Remote	In School	Remote
Red	Remote	In School	Remote	In School	Remote	In School	Remote	In School	Remote	In School
	A	A	B	B	C	C	D	D	E	E

Options for Vulnerable Populations

IEP Implementation

Whether services are provided in-person, remote, and/or through a hybrid model, Nyack Public Schools will provide students with disabilities a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Special education and related services will be provided to students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible, as identified in each student's IEP. In order to protect students with disabilities, and those providing special education and services, the mode and manner in which services are provided will be consistent with district decisions on necessary health and safety measures. There may be a need for flexibility with respect to IEP implementation for the delivery of services to be delivered in person or remotely. Where possible and consistent with the public health and safety requirements, in-person programming will prioritize students who require the most learning support.

Provision of Special Education Services

The Nyack Public School District is committed to implementing IEP and 504 plans for the 2020-2021 school year. All special education services listed below include multiple options for instructional modality. To prepare a seamless transition between models, Special Education administrators and staff have established best-practices and examined lessons learned to improve outcomes using a variety of platforms, including but not limited to face to face instruction, online instruction and/or a hybrid model.

Resource Room	The Special Education teacher will provide regular academic support either in-person, remotely, or a combination of both, to students who have Resource Room listed as a Program on their IEP. Content area material will be reinforced and IEP goals will be addressed during both in school and distance learning. Suggestions may be offered for how to complete activities/assignments for content area classes. Students may communicate with their teacher via Google Suite, Gmail, video/audio conferencing or by phone.
Consultant Teacher Direct	Consultant teachers will provide specialized instruction and supplemental materials in a variety of ways both in school and remotely through the Google classroom to complement classroom assignments. The materials will support and enhance student learning. The materials will help students learn through all modalities, visual, auditory and kinesthetic. Teachers will provide contact through email or phone conversations to their case manager families/students.

Special Class	Special class teachers will provide differentiated activities and modified content during both in person and distance learning. The activities will be provided through a variety of platforms, which may include video conferencing or telephonically. Online interactive resources will be used to provide quality instruction, as appropriate. Case managers and classroom teachers will maintain regular communication with parents.
Speech and Language	<p>Speech therapists will provide in person and/or distance learning activities and opportunities to engage students in a variety of ways to target and enhance their language and communication skills relating to their IEP goals and overall functioning.</p> <p>Specifically, student needs will be addressed through multiple modalities. In a remote setting this may be provided through various platforms. Providers will maintain regular communication with parents/guardians.</p>
Occupational Therapy	Occupational therapy will be provided either in person, remotely, or a combination of both, for all students currently receiving OT. Ways to reach students will be provided in a variety of ways to target their goals. Various platforms may be used to provide services per students' IEPs. Providers will maintain regular communication with parents/guardians.
Physical Therapy	Physical therapy will be provided either in person, remotely, or a combination of both, for all students currently receiving Physical Therapy services. As needed, distance learning activities/materials will be posted through multiple platforms. Opportunities will be made available to engage students in a variety of ways to target and enhance their gross motor skills relating to their IEP goals. Providers will maintain regular communication with parents/guardians.
Counseling	Counselors will provide in-person and/or distance learning activities, resources, or strategies to engage and promote skills in the areas of social, emotional, and behavioral development. Therapy and resources are related to developing students' skills according to their IEP goals as well as their current needs. This may be provided through a variety of platforms including phone conversations, video conferences and email as well as in-person therapy sessions.
Parent Training and Consultation	Parent communication to support social/emotional functioning will be maintained and available through direct consultation and resources. Providers will maintain regular communication with parents/guardians.

Vision Services	Vision Services will be provided either in person, remotely, or a combination of both, for all students who currently receive Vision Services. Vision Services will be conducted in-person and/or through a variety of platforms. Providers will maintain regular communication with parents/guardians.
Hearing Services	Hearing Services will be provided either in person, remotely, or a combination of both, for all students that currently receive hearing support through various platforms. Hearing Services will address students' unique needs to address clarification, breakdown and revision of assignments, vocabulary preview and review and continued support of self advocacy skills. Consultation with classroom teachers will continue to be ongoing and parents/guardians can continue to communicate with providers on a regular basis.

Parent Engagement

The district will ensure clear, ongoing shared communication and collaboration with parents. This can take the form of communication (to the greatest extent possible this will take place in the parent/guardian's language of choice) through email, zoom, and phone calls. The district will also continue to provide progress monitoring information toward IEP goals and, where applicable, Prior Written Notices (PWN). Nyack schools will utilize support staff (school counselors, nurses, social workers, teaching assistants, related service providers, psychologists, Family Resource Center, etc.) for communication and collaboration purposes.

Case managers/teachers will directly outreach to parents and guardians to ensure understanding of the schools' efforts to provide services consistent with IEP's and discuss progress monitoring.

The district has, and will continue to illicit parent feedback regarding special education related issues through district and building wide parent surveys. Additional information will also be attained through continued parent/guardian participation in re-entry committee meetings.

Communication and Coordination

The district will provide frequent opportunities for communication between casemangers/service providers and CSE/CPSE chair people and other committee team members to ensure an understanding of the provisions of services.

In addition, the Nyack Public Schools will continue to inform parents of students with disabilities regarding their legal rights in terms of identification, evaluation, educational placement, and the provision of FAPE to their child. Whether special education programs and services are provided in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model, effective communication between school personnel and parents includes the following:

- Working collaboratively and creatively to help ensure there is an understanding of the school's efforts to provide services consistent with the recommendations on the IEP and monitor student progress.
- Communicating with parents in their preferred language or mode of communication and documenting outreach efforts.

IEP- Evaluation/Reevaluation and Annual Meetings

The Nyack Public School District will continue to conduct special education evaluations in whatever format (in-person or remote) that is allowable at that point in time and will utilize technology when necessary to meet the timelines.

CPSE/CSE meetings will be conducted in-person and remotely as well to ensure the safety of all participants.

The Nyack office of Student Support Services will continue to provide Procedural Safeguards and Prior Written notices to parents/guardians through mail and email.

Progress Monitoring

The Nyack Public Schools Special Education teachers and service providers will continue to collect data, whether in-person or remotely, and use this data to monitor each student's progress toward the annual goals and to evaluate the effectiveness of the student's special education services. Case managers will maintain regular communication with parents on progression toward annual goals.

Accommodations, Modifications, Aids Services and Technology

In order to ensure equity and access to the general education curriculum, case managers/mentor teachers, CSE chairpersons, and other support staff will collaborate with their general education colleagues and administration regarding student accommodations and modifications. Each student's unique disability related needs will be considered, whether instruction is provided in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid model.

Nyack Public Schools will also ensure students with disabilities have access to supplementary aids, services, and technology that meet students' individual instructional and social emotional needs. Support staff will work in collaboration with the Nyack technology department in order to ensure students have access to working technology.

Models

All Nyack Public Schools programs identified a cohort-based or blended model as an option in their Instructional Plan. To the greatest extent possible, cohorts will be self-contained, pre-assigned groups of students with appropriate group sizes. These groups will be fixed for the duration of the COVID- 19 public health emergency. Measures, such as teachers pushing into the classroom and limited transitions, are being taken to prevent intermingling across cohorts.

To prepare a seamless transition between models, Nyack Public Schools administrators and staff established best-practices and lessons learned to improve outcomes for distance learning:

1. Continue the use of Schoology/Google Classroom and look at the use of additional platforms/extensions to improve digital pedagogy: breakout rooms (zoom or meet), conversation, poll everywhere, etc.
2. Make sure every student has a Chromebook and wifi. Allow students to bring chromebooks home if they are in and out of school.
3. Set up clear expectations for students - schedule (start and end times for each class), live conferencing with teachers, amount of work, required work, required classes, communication, etc.
4. Provide online counseling, tutoring, skills classes, IEP services.
5. Weekly staff meetings will include PD on digital success, techniques, case management, student support, etc.
6. Support students to help them mitigate the impacts of financial stress and food insecurity that includes providing daily food (breakfast and lunch) delivery to all students who request it, helping students find community-based resources, etc.
7. Divide school into small social-emotional support/advisory groups.
8. Provide support that may include home visits for students who are absent during distance learning (possible social-emotional issues) to discuss needs with families--to increase engagement; more at home intervention and counseling; use of TAs to structure and engage students; and tutoring.
9. Reduce language barriers by having bilingual staff available for student and parent phone calls when needed.

Grading and Assessment

Students will be assessed on mastery of content, effort, and performance.

1. Project-based activities and assignments will be graded for credit.
2. Students will complete authentic learning units.
3. Rubrics will be used to set expectations, direct students' work, and provide valuable feedback.

Nyack Public Schools Instructional Plans

Hybrid Model

Students will be assigned to blended learning groups.

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines each school will only have half of the students in at one time. The monthly school calendar will reflect the day schedule in relation to the blended learning groups. Each school's schedule can be found on the school's homepage.

1. Parents should contact the main office staff at each building for specific information about the schedule.
2. In person and remote instruction will follow the normal school schedule.
3. In the event of a school closure students will continue with the normal schedule and

remain within their assigned cohort.. See Instructional Plan

4. Any parent experiencing Technology concerns can call the Technology Help Desk at (845)353-7075 or fill out an online Technology request form found on the district website. A technician will follow-up with each family to resolve technology related issues.

ENGLISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The English as a New Language (ENL) and Bilingual Education Department worked diligently to provide equitable asynchronous and synchronous teaching in a remote learning environment beginning in March of 2020. The ENL and Bilingual teachers will continue creating spaces which provide meaningful remote learning opportunities for our English Language Learners (ELLs). Scaffolded materials and best practices are used in lesson plan development and delivery of instruction. The director and teachers will continue to progress monitor students and consistently provide academic support.

The ENL/Bilingual Education Department has been able to build upon the foundational trust that each of our teachers have developed with all our families from the beginning of the school year through differentiated and one-to-one outreach that has been a cornerstone of our departmental practices. Interdisciplinary collaboration between departments with staff who serve our ENL/Bilingual population has been strengthened as we serve our families in this crisis together. Weekly and daily check-ins will continue and are vital to staying connected with each student's educational and evolving needs. Phone calls have been made to each and every ENL/bilingual student by the Director of ENL/Bilingual Services to ensure that students are accounted for and have direct access to resources. The department is ensuring the safety and participation of our students and their ongoing needs.

The department will continue to follow the guidance provided by the [Office](#) of Bilingual Education and World Languages which includes the [provision](#) during school closure recommendations.

Screening, Identification and Placement

English language learner screening, identification and placement processes will adhere to the Commissioner's Regulations Part 154 and the additional guidance provided in the *Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools* [Reopening Guidance](#).

NYSED Expectations for Unit of Study

All English Language Learners are entitled to an academically rigorous education along with learning the English language. The department adheres to the Commissioner's Regulations [Part](#)

[154](#) and all guidelines set forth in the [July 15, 2020 Memorandum](#). This memorandum provided clarification on how schools proceed with serving ELLs. This includes the continuation of providing students with the instructional Units of Study for our Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) classes and our ENL [K-8](#) and [9-12](#) classes. The Units of Study provide the guidelines for the mandated services to our English Language Learners. Students will remain at the same language proficiency level scored during the prior school year. For example, if Jonathan was an entering level student during the 2019-2020 school year, he will remain an entering level student during the 2020-2021 school year and receive his mandated hours of ENL time. These mandated services will be provided in an in-person or hybrid model.

In addition to the mandated services, the ENL and TBE teachers will continue to utilize materials and instructional resources that are linguistically age/grade appropriate and aligned to the [Next Generation Learning Standards](#).

Support to Nyack Teachers

In 2014, the New York State Education Department released *The Blueprint for English Language Learners (ELLs) Success*. This document is a framework of guiding principles to prepare ELLs for success. The expectation set by NYSED is that all school system stakeholders know and understand these guiding principles and how it relates to their practice.

The first principle of the *Blueprint for ELL/MLL Success* is:

All teachers are teachers of English Language Learners/Multilingual Learners and need to plan accordingly by:

- Designing and delivering instruction that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for all diverse learners, including those with Individualized Education Programs (IEP).
- Providing integrated language and content instruction to support language development through language-focused scaffolds. Bilingual, ENL, and other content-area teachers must collaborate purposefully and consistently to promote academic achievement in all content areas.
- Utilizing materials and instructional resources that are linguistically age/grade appropriate and aligned to the Next Generation Learning Standards.
- Collaborating with school support personnel and community-based human resources in order to address the multiple needs of ELLs/MLLs.

The additional guiding principles can be found [here](#).

In addition to the framework established by NYSED, the ENL staff support their general education co-teachers by assigning scaffolded assignments to specific ELLs through Google classroom. This support is also provided to special education teachers who serve ELLs. Teachers provide mandated accommodations such as extended time, bilingual glossaries, virtual manipulatives, visuals, and translation tools for students to complete assignments in the native language. A shared Google Drive, organized by grade level, will provide a wealth of digital resources to build background knowledge, teach academic vocabulary and make content comprehensible. In addition, teachers can utilize the [“ENL Resource To Go”](#) where the ENL Director and teachers continue to add more resources for teachers to help support their students. The Office of Bilingual Education also has provided resources to teachers on their webpage.

In addition, the department offers new families an orientation. This orientation now includes how to use the various technology resources used by the district. Families of current students are also offered this support.

Ongoing Professional Learning

Professional development session on how to support English Language Learners in a completely virtual, hybrid and in-person setting will be offered to teachers during the month of August. Professional development that specifically addresses the needs of English Language Learners will continue to be offered throughout the school year. Administrators and teachers understand that teachers must complete the 15% professional development clock hours requirement outlined in sections 80-3.6 and section 100.2(dd) and ENL/bilingual teachers meet the 50% requirement. Additional training is available on the Office of Bilingual Education [website](#).

Students with Interrupted/Inconsistent Formal Education (SIFE)

One of the most impacted populations of students is SIFE. SIFE have no or low literacy in their native language and are presented with the challenge of learning English. ENL teachers received targeting professional development to help support the academic, social and emotional needs of this specific population of students. In addition to the Bridges [SIFE](#) Project curriculum, see below, ENL teachers modify Nyack curriculum materials to engage students in learning.

English Language Learners with a Disability

The department recognizes the vulnerability of English language Learners with IEPs and will continue to address specific needs of this population of students. New York State Department of Education put forth the following guidance document in April 2020 regarding English Language Learners with a disability:

- Students with disabilities must be given **equal access** to the continuity of learning and receive educational benefits that are comparable to those received by others in the program.

- During this emergency, schools **may not be able to provide all services in the same manner** they are typically provided.
- Related services such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, may be provided through distance learning.
- Committee for Special Education may take place virtually, with parent permission. If a face-to-face meeting is needed, an extension is allowed.

Social and Emotional Well-being

The social and emotional well-being of each and every student remains at the forefront. Our students need to know that we care about them and their families during this challenging time. The department is committed to making sure we partner with our families. The partnership is what will bring continuity. The department works closely with the guidance department and the Family Resource Center personnel to meet the social and emotional needs of students and their families.

Parents Engaging in Learning

Parents receive all communication from the district and the department in their native language. Translations tools such as TalkingPoints and Google Translate are used to support two-way communication efforts. Bilingual staff is also available to support families with language barriers.

We recognize that this can be a stressful time for families as well and below is a list of ways parents can engage in family fun learning activities:

- Create an art project

The ENL teachers will continue to participate in weekly meetings in addition to weekly meetings with the Director. As a department, we are aware of the challenges a remote learning environment can bring to our students. We are making time to discuss concerns and ideas about continued disparities on a regular basis and build our team capacity to address them. Particular attention is placed on re-imagining best, and potentially different, practices and protocols that are evolving in response to growing needs of students during this difficult time. We are applying what we are learning, with a sharpened equity lens, along with the guidance in the [Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Educational Framework](#), to ensure a safe and optimal learning experience and environment.

ATTENDANCE AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

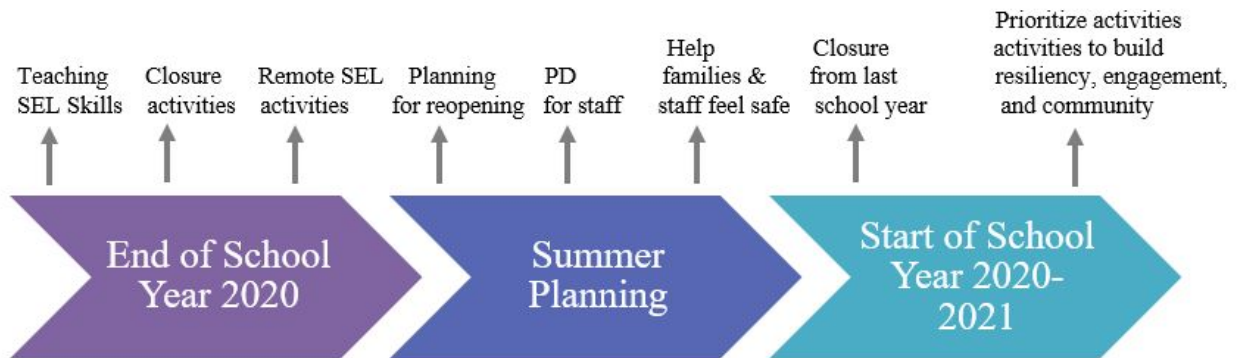
1. All Nyack schools will collect and report daily teacher/student attendance regardless of the instructional setting.
2. Encourage students and staff to stay home when they are not feeling well.
3. For students who have not engaged in remote learning and school staff outreach to parents/guardians has been unsuccessful, Nyack Public Schools will deploy a number of strategies for reaching out including:
 - a. phone calls to families with translation services were necessary.
 - b. collaborating with the home school district to see if the student is participating there (for students who spend part of their school day in their home district).
 - c. physical distancing check-ins with students whose families are not responding to phone calls or other methods of communication.
 - d. Calls to Child Protective Services when appropriate.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Nyack Public Schools is committed to placing student and staff wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Leading with Social-Emotional learning is essential because children need social and emotional support as they navigate the unprecedented challenges of alternative learning contexts, and because social-emotional learning helps students access academic content through building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections. Teachers and staff also need to be supported as they support their students to navigate the individual and collective trauma felt in our community and social and emotional learning is essential as we prepare for student and staff return and before any academic advancements or remediation takes hold.

This section of Nyack Public Schools' Re-Entry Plan focuses on providing administrators, staff, families, and the communities with links to resources for ensuring social and emotional health and wellbeing while ensuring that staff feel their physical and mental health needs are supported and students continue to build empathy, resiliency, in an environment that is culturally sensitive and ensures equity and access for all students.

Road Map for SEL Reentry



Planning for Reopening and SEL Considerations

Nyack Public Schools will engage with staff, students, and families to provide professional development and activities and support to help them feel comfortable coming back to the school campus. Before school begins, Nyack Public School will:

- Review and update the K- 12 Comprehensive Developmental school counseling plan to meet the current needs. [Nyack Guidance Plan 2020 - 21](#)
- During the 19- 20 school year, a school counseling advisory board was developed consisting of representative stakeholders such as Board of Education Members, District Administrators, Building Principals, School Counselors, Social Workers, Parents, and Students. The advisory council meets at least twice a year to review the counseling program, and make recommendations. Our Advisory board will be meeting three times either live or virtually during the 20- 21 school year with the focus on the safety and well-being of all of our students in response to the current global crisis.
- Contact families of enrolled students by phone or face-to-face if possible, to determine if there are concerns about returning, verify contact information, immunization, education received since closure, and access to the internet and computers.
- Schedule Grade Level Webinars prior to the opening of schools to set expectations for new regulations and reopening of schools.
- Large emphasis on SEL integrated into academic instruction first few weeks to check-in and explore COVID impact.
- Be mindful that the economic health of the family may have changed.
 - a. Provide all families multiple opportunities to apply for the free and reduced-lunch program.

- Provide updated information about leveraging community-based resources for support (United Way, NAMI) located through links on Nyack School's Guidance Webpages. [Nyack High School Guidance](#) , [Nyack Middle School Guidance page](#), [Nyack Elementary School Guidance page](#)
- Plan for the increased number of learning, behavior, and emotional problems that are likely to manifest as students transition-back to school. The situation will require new thinking about how staff works together. ([UCLA document](#))

Information on student safety for parents and guardians

- Reassure parents schools are cleaned and provide detailed information on steps to ensure safety [CDC cleaning guidelines](#)
- See CDC's [interim guidance](#) for schools and child care programs to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.
- Reassure parents about student's safety- schools will share Nyack's protocols with parents.
- Reassure parents about teachers' safety.
- Reassure parents who have a high-risk household member.
- Support parents with reminders about adjusting back to a school schedule: sleep schedules, proper nutrition, etc.

Psychosocial and Emotional Recovery of Staff and Students

Nyack Public Schools will coordinate with appropriate stakeholders to assess and assist in the psychosocial and emotional recovery of staff and students:

- Utilize school guidance counselors, social workers, school psychologist, student support services, family resource center , and Mental Health Association of Westchester.
- Reach out to community agencies and the Partnership for Safe and Healthy Youth to address identified crisis needs.
- Continue to follow Nyack Public Schools' specific crisis response procedures.
- Conduct ongoing behavior/mental health monitoring and assessment for the school community.
- Select locations appropriate to confidentially administer psychological and emotional aid. Scheduling to allow for appropriate cleaning protocols.
- All communications and services provide that are culturally and linguistically relevant.
- Review the suicide awareness and prevention policy.
- Review the district anti-bullying policy.

Educator Wellness

Educators play a critical role in helping their students self-regulate and cope with stress, often ignoring their own needs in the process. This is especially true in times of crisis and uncertainty. To do this effectively, educators need to care for themselves and manage their own stress load first.

1. Adult SEL/ wellness resources include
 - a. Second Step Program for Adults (in development)
 - b. [Self-Care Action Plan](#)
2. Complete the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) [“Self-Care Assessment”](#)
3. Free Apps to assist in gaining a sense of mindfulness through guided meditations include: MyLife Meditation (Previously - Stop, Breathe, & Think), Stop, Breathe, & Think Kid, Calm, Relax Melodies, Headspace - explore virtual staff wellness lounge (ex: google classrooms).
4. Encourage staff to establish self care buddy and follow up with check ins regularly either in person or virtually.
5. Create opportunities for movement, mindfulness and breathing at staff meetings to model and emphasize healthy coping techniques.
6. Ensure that educators know where and how to receive extra support for their own mental wellness (counseling through the EAP program, community mental health partnership, etc.).

Providing SEL for Students

The Nyack School district is committed to the health and well-being of all of our students kindergarten through 12 grade. The Nyack School District has school counselors, clinicians, family resource center liaisons, and student support services specialists at the elementary, middle and high school level to address the social ,emotional and well-being of all of our students. Social and emotional learning is essential as we prepare for student and staff return and before any academic advancements or remediation begins. Starting with social-emotional learning is essential because children need social and emotional support as they navigate the unprecedented times. The Nyack School District believes that providing social-emotional learning will help students ability to engage in academic content by building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections.

SEL will be a priority in all of our classrooms remotely or live lessons. Throughout the month of September, Counselors will be visiting classrooms and providing lessons based on CASEL framework of SEL: Self-Management , Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Relationships skills, Responsibly Decision making. The Elementary and Middle schools will provide these lessons through the Second Step curriculum and enhance it with lessons in Mindfulness and Self-Care.

While Nyack Public Schools’ staff made an enormous effort to provide opportunities to celebrate student milestones and transitions, these things looked very different than in years past. Events and celebrations for the most part were cancelled and emotional closure for these missed celebrations is recommended to move forward in a positive way. We need to acknowledge the loss of the spring semester and the feeling related changes due to COVID-19.

- a. Classroom discussions on opening day for students to talk about the impact of closure and how to move forward (empathy building spectrum of impact).
- b. Remain calm and reassuring. Students will react to and follow your verbal and nonverbal reactions to the changes.

- c. Emphasize to your students that they are safe at school. Remind them that you and the adults at their school are there to keep them safe and healthy.
- d. Let your students talk about their feelings surrounding COVID-19 and help reframe their concerns into appropriate thoughts.
- e. Give students information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child.
- f. Please see list of reactions from COVID developed by Indiana Department of Education: [Commons behaviors and reactions from COVID-19](#)

First Days of School - SEL activities

- Examples of how the first few days of schools could be used to focus on building community, connection, resilience and social and emotional skills
 - [Elementary Template](#)
 - [Secondary Template](#)
- Community and trust building
 - Classroom meetings to set clear expectations
 - Please see guidelines developed by Indiana Department of Education: [Guidance for adults facilitating these classroom meetings](#)
- Use social and emotional learning as a way to create a safe and supportive environments for all students through the use of the CASEL Competencies:
 - Self -Awareness:
 - Help students identify their personal strengths. Direct them to reflect on what they may have learned about themselves while being at home/out of school (i.e. strengths within their family role, new skills/talents, adaptability.etc.).
 - Help students name their feelings- Provide a list of emotions and ask students to choose one or two each day which they identify with in order to build emotional awareness, vocabulary and empathy.
 - Self -Management:
 - Facilitate deep breathing exercises (such as [Square Breathing](#)) and prioritize physical activity opportunities
 - Help students understand how their brains work and can react to stress. Use this [video](#) teaching the hand model of the brain.
 - Encourage students to think about how feelings are connected with their body using the [How Does my Body Feel?](#) handout.
 - Relationship Skills:
 - Provide opportunities for collaborative learning games and facilitate the creation of group expectations with specific roles/responsibilities for each student before beginning
 - Responsible Decision Making:
 - Help students identify a cause or problem that arose in their community over the past few months. Ask students to come up with action steps or solutions to these issues.
 - Social Awareness:

- Encourage praise for process rather than outcome. For example, “I can tell you practiced!” , or “ Good Job!”
- Act to remove anxiety about academic performance and prioritize the healing and belonging that will foster academic learning.
 - When speaking about the coming year’s academics, reassure students that the goal will be to “close the gap”, not “catch-up with additional work”
- Assess your strengths and areas to develop as you promote SEL through distance learning and at-home assignments

COVID-19 Safety Practices and SEL Supports

Activities to help students understand the importance of following CDC and NYSDOH regulations for COVID-19 safety:

1. Wearing masks and understanding emotions.
 - a. Clear masks as appropriate for effective communication
 - b. Written identification of feelings
 - c. Mood Meters
 - d. Build school-wide empathy for those who can not wear a mask for medical reasons (anti-bullying)
2. Communication of the necessity for physical distancing and mask wearing
 - a. [Sesame Street Caring for Each Other resources and videos](#)
 - b. Empathy building theme and activities can be linked to social justice as well
 - c. Art component/ written for secondary or elementary - art class template for mask design to create positivity
 - d. Where safe, build time into day areas where mask can come off - outside as long as far apart - build in outside time as part of day

Addressing Lack of Student/Family Engagement

Nyack Public School students collaborate with Nyack Public School School Social Workers and School psychologists to do welfare checks if needed.

Resources for Grief

Grief work may be helpful to provide support for students and families to process their grief over what was lost at the end of the school year.

- [Understanding Grief to Better Support Students, Families and Educators](#)
- [Helping Kids Grieve](#) (Resources best for Primary, Intermediate, and Parents)
- [Help for Kids - Grief](#) (Resources for Primary, Intermediate, Secondary Students and Parents)
- [Helping Children and Teens with Loss for Secondary Students and Parents](#)
- [Transforming Grief into Hope](#) (Resources best for Intermediate and Secondary Students; as well as, Parents)
- If there has been a loss of a student, staff member or a member of the school community carefully plan appropriate messaging to the school community and an opportunity for recognition and grief. Ensure that there are counselors available to students and staff.

Safety supports

- National Suicide Prevention and Crisis Line: 1(800) 273-8255
- Or text TALK to 741741
- Behavioral Health Response Team - 845-517-0400

NURSING

Nyack Public Schools plan for Nursing provides guidance on how to create and maintain a safe and healthy educational environment for every student and all staff while ensuring that their unique health needs are being met. Compliance with health and safety regulations and recommendations provided by the CDC, the NYSDOH, the local department of health, and National Association of School Nurses are being closely monitored and the protocols below adhere to current guidance.²

Staffing

Each Nyack operated school needs to have more than one staff member to help manage the flow of students into the Nurses Office. Elementary students should always be walked down to the Nurse's office by a staff member who should stay. MS & HS students should be sent via the most direct path to the Health Office.

Inventory

1. School nurses have created an inventory of supplies in their respective school Nurses offices and have requested necessary additional supplies.
 - a. Equipment such as non-touch thermometers have been adjusted to increase sterilization and minimize chances of reinfection or if new equipment is needed.
 - b. Classrooms will be provided with basic first aid supplies to be able to handle some health office requests in class.
 - c. PPE is addressed in more detail in the [Health, Safety, and Facilities](#) section of this plan but includes N-95 face masks, gloves, shields, gowns and other disposable PPE.

Nurse's Office Space and Physical Distancing

Physical distancing measures are the most effective intervention but the most disruptive. In the absence of any pharmaceutical interventions, physical distancing, hygiene, and PPE will help to reduce the risk of infection.

1. Nyack Public Schools has reviewed and revised nurse's office configurations to address the need for physical distancing and have ordered special materials such as plastic barriers where appropriate.
 - a. Each Nyack Public School building is considering spacing plans for triage and medical care for students who need suctioning, tube feeding, and other health

² Special note* Some items addressed in this document will overlap with other areas of concern and are being addressed separately in Health, Safety, and Facilities, and Professional Development.

related interventions to minimize contact with potentially ill children.

- i. Nurses will utilize a go-bag (first aid kit) to bring to students for the “walking well”.
 - b. Where appropriate, schools may designate two spaces in the Nurse’s office. One for healthy students for routine care, medications, diabetic checks, first aid, and injury assessment and the other for ill students.
 - i. Polycarbonate safety glass on casters/Dividers will be utilized to maintain social distancing and help to provide a barrier.
 - ii. Mark the floor with 6 ft distances.
 - iii. Remove excess furniture
 - c. A separate area for students/staff who might have COVID-19 has been identified in each school and a plan for frequent disinfecting has been established.
 - d. Basic first aid supplies will be provided to classroom teachers to allow minor injuries (papercuts, scrapes, etc) to be treated in the classroom. Teachers will notify the nurse if supplies need restocking.
2. An online school health office appointment system/schedule through Google docs will be used for daily meds and procedures to avoid crowding in the health office. Emergencies would not utilize this system.
 3. Elementary students should be walked down to the Nurse’s office. When the door is closed, the staff member with the student should stay outside the office until the all clear is given. MS & HS students will be instructed to take a seat in the hallway (chairs positioned 6 feet apart until the office is available for their needs.
 4. Where possible, supplies and equipment used for treating students will be disposable.

Nursing Response to a Sick Student with COVID-19 Related Symptoms/ Contact Tracing

1. Nurse should wear appropriate PPE.
2. Place a mask on students with fever of greater than 100.00 F and or respiratory symptoms, if not wearing one.
3. Students should be moved to the designated isolation area.
4. Staff caring for these students should wear additional PPE.
5. Notify parent/guardian as soon as possible. Updated emergency contact information form being sent by district prior to start of school.
6. Refer to healthcare provider for assessment/testing if exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Protocol for Administering Medication and Medical Care (non-COVID-19 related care)

1. As per NYSED guidelines, school nursing staff should continue to administer only those medications that must be given during school hours as directed by the students healthcare provider.
2. An online scheduling system will be developed for daily medication administration and other medical procedures to avoid crowding in the Nurse’s Office.
3. Masks should be worn by students when not able to maintain required physical distancing.
4. As per CDC guidance, nurses will wear the following PPE when administering aerosol generating procedures: gloves, an N-95 face mask (or surgical mask with a face shield), eye protection, and a gown (if necessary).

5. Nebulizer treatments will not be administered in the school building due to increased aerosolizing of respiratory droplets. Parents will be notified if the student is not responding to treatment with their MDI.
 - a. In accordance with the CDC, respiratory medications utilizing metered dose inhalers (MDI) with a spacer or valved holding chamber be used over nebulizer treatments whenever possible.

Health Physicals and Mandated Screenings

1. Nyack Public Schools will postpone routine hearing, vision, and scoliosis screenings, unless otherwise deemed necessary and will use updated physicals to access that information.
2. Compliance with Immunization Regulations will be maintained.

Monitoring Absenteeism

1. Nyack Public Schools will clearly communicate with parents/guardians the need for notifying the school in the event that their child is diagnosed or quarantined due to COVID-19 or absent for a non COVID-19 related reason.
2. Parents will be required to provide the required documentation when their child returns to school.
3. Each building will have a key person responsible to monitor student returns dates and maintain accurate records of all cases.
4. If a student is absent for more than three days without parental notification, the attendance person shall reach out to seek clarity on the reason for absence. Any disclosure of medical reasons for the absence(s) will be shared with the nurse who will follow-up.

Health Screening and Temperature Checks

Nurses & their designees will implement mandatory health screenings, including temperature checks, of students, faculty, staff, and, where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify any individuals who may have COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

1. Temperature checks will be conducted per DOH guidelines. Specifically, all individuals must have their temperature checked each day – ideally, at home, prior to departing to school – before entering any school facility. If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, the individual must be denied entry into the facility, or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.
2. Responsible Parties & Nurses will follow daily health screening compliance for staff prior to allowing access to the building. Periodic use of questionnaires will be utilized for students, particularly younger students, who may require the assistance of their parent/legal guardian to answer.
3. Responsible Parties & Nurses will maintain records that confirm individuals were screened and the result of such screening (e.g., pass/fail, cleared/not cleared)..

Contact Tracing

1. Nyack School Nurses will work in conjunction with the RCDOH to provide assistance for accurate contact tracing in the event of positive Covid 19 cases within a school building.
2. All return to school protocols for Covid-19 exposure and or diagnosis will be per the NYSDOH recommendations.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation will be aligned with the instructional model that is chosen and collaboration between the Nyack Public School's instructional program staff and school transportation staff has been integral to finding an appropriate strategy. Key points that need to be considered is that in order to practice physical distancing on the school bus, the seating capacity will need to be reduced and students will be required to wear protective face coverings unless medically prohibited to do so. Additional staff will be considered to ensure social distancing and face covering as needed. Masks will be provided by the district to the bus companies for distribution to students that do not have their own. Physical distancing at bus stops and school loading and unloading zones will also be considered and information needs to be communicated to all stakeholders.

Employees

- Are required to self-screen by completing the COVID-19 questionnaire before reporting to work.
- Face covering must be worn.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Must wear gloves if they have direct physical contact with a student.

Modifications to Transportation and Physical Distancing on School Buses

1. Encourage parents who can do so to transport their students to and from school.
2. Encourage 6-foot distancing at bus stops and while loading and unloading.
3. Parents/guardians will be required to ensure their child/children are not experiencing any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and do not have a fever of 100.0 degrees or more prior to them boarding the bus.
4. To maintain the safety of students and staff school districts plans must include physical/social distancing of six feet. In instances when six cannot be maintained proper face coverings must be worn in common areas such as hallways or on school buses. Provide exemptions or alternatives for those medically unable to wear masks.
5. Students must wear a mask while on the bus.
 - a. Students who do not have masks must not be denied transportation and must be provided one by the district.
 - b. Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be forced to do so or denied transportation.
6. Place floor decals or tape to indicate where students should sit and to mark six-foot distances in aisles.

7. Assign a bus monitor where possible to ensure distancing and do symptom screenings.
8. A plan for seating based on maximum capacity determined above will be created that is aligned with the instructional model.
 - a. Prevent students from walking past each other by taking the following measures:
 - b. Seat students from the rear of the bus forward.
 - c. Allow siblings or those that live in the same household to sit together
9. Continue to prohibit eating or drinking on the bus.
10. Hand sanitizer is not permitted on the bus.
11. Take attendance on the bus where possible to assist with contact tracing when necessary.
12. Drivers will have an updated route sheet at all times.

Vehicle Cleaning

Contracted bus companies will follow cleaning practices in adherence with [CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines](#). Additionally, Nyack Public Schools and contracted bus companies will:

1. Inspect all buses and vehicles daily for cleanliness and safety with special attention to high contact areas.
2. Inventory, collect, and purchase enough cleaning equipment and hygiene supplies with the understanding that buses will be disinfected more frequently and thoroughly than previous years.
3. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting a bus that transported a passenger or had a driver who tested positive for COVID-19 or exhibited symptoms of COVID-19. If 24-hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

Reopening schools utilizing new instructional models require special attention to professional relationships and learning. Educators must be supported in ways that allow them to focus on student learning. Additionally, training will be provided to support staff including custodians, meal preparation staff, transportation providers, technology personnel, and others. Nyack Public Schools will consider a safety orientation for all employees prior to the start of the school year.

Training consultants and individuals coming to Nyack Public Schools to attend training will be required to attest to having reviewed Nyack Public Schools' Health and Safety protocol before conducting/attending in person training at any Nyack Public Schools facilities.

Nyack Public Schools Professional Development will include:

1. Disinfecting frequency and tools and chemicals used in accordance with New York State Department of Health guidance. For staff who use hazardous chemicals for cleaning, specialized training is provided.
 - a. Hands-on training through meetings with the Manager of Facilities and Asst. Maintenance Supervisor
 - b. GCN trainings on Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazard Communications
 - c. Training on cleaning guidelines - Training sign-off linked [here](#).

2. Symptom screening, including temperature checks.
3. Symptom screening for COVID-19
4. Health and Safety Training- Nyack Public Schools will be using a combination of videos and tutorials through Global Compliance Network (GCN). An additional Superintendent's Conference day will be added to the beginning of the school year to help people acclimate to new procedures and protocols.
5. GCN Tutorials include:
 - a. COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines- The topics covered in this tutorial include: What is COVID-19 and How is it Spread, Employer Requirements, General Workplace Procedures, Employee Responsibilities
 - b. COVID-19: Plan, Prepare, and Respond (Educational Institutions)- Topics covered in this tutorial include: What is COVID-19 and How is it Spread? Recommended Resources for School Administrators -Guidance for School Staff, Teachers, Aides and Nutritional Service Personnel
 - c. COVID-19: How to Wear a Mask
 - d. COVID-19 Video: Proper Handwashing (CDC)
 - e. Recognizing COVID-19 symptoms
6. Recommended standards for safety and hygiene include, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Physical distancing of staff and students.
 - b. Proper use of PPE, including information on limitations of some face coverings that do not protect the wearer and are not PPE but can help protect people near the wearer. Face coverings do not replace the need for physical distancing and frequent handwashing. Cloth face coverings are most essential when physical distancing is not possible. Also include training on removal and washing of cloth face coverings.
 - c. Cough and sneeze etiquette.
 - d. Keeping one's hands away from one's face.
 - e. Frequent handwashing and proper technique.
 - f. Confidentiality around health recording and reporting .
7. Training for school health staff on clinical manifestations of COVID-19, pediatric presentations, and CDC transmission-based precautions will be done through staff accessing the National Association for School Nurses (NASN) training and resources. NASN has devoted their training and resource library to preparing School Nurses for return: <https://www.nasn.org/nasn/nasn-resources/practice-topics/covid19>
8. Training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention will be offered through a variety of resources.
9. Anti-bullying with a focus on cyberbullying: Nyack Public Schools will continue to use the programs currently in place along with resources from <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>
10. How to identify deficits in learning and how to respond.
 - a. Training in MTSS and RTI through Jim Wright
 - b. Building leadership and reading specialists will support staff in assessment and data trends.
11. Individual staff member's responsibilities if shutdown occurs during the school year will be relayed through ongoing staff communications including but not limited to staff

- meetings, memos, and videos.
12. Effective remote learning techniques.
 - a. Staff will be able to sign up for various course offerings through the Teacher Center, consultant defined courses, the LHRIC, and Technology courses offered by the district technology department.
 - b. Use of reading specialist to support staff in online assessment and instruction.
 - c. Best practices and equitable instruction for ELL students.
 - d. Addressing the learning gaps caused by COVID-19 school closures.
 13. Technology professional development can be found in the [technology section](#).
 14. Implementing collaborative models of instruction for ELL/MLL as recommended by the Blueprint for ELL/MLL Learner Success.
 - a. Co-planning, sharing best practices to support
 - b. Standards-based curriculum accessibility for ELLs
 - c. Progress monitoring
 - d. Analyzing and interpreting data to inform instructional decisions
 - e. Differentiating instruction
 - f. Designing lessons that accelerate learning
 - g. Utilizing formative and summative assessments to identify and address instructional gaps
 - h. Implementing language-based strategies in all four modalities and teaching language skills across a standards-based curriculum;
 - i. Utilizing digital tools that cultivate independent learning, critical thinking, and student engagement
 15. Building positive relationships/rapport among teachers, students and parents/guardians.
 16. Maintaining professional boundaries with students and electronic communication.
 - a. Faculty/staff meetings will be used to review appropriate use of technology with students along with review of BOE Policy 4526.

TECHNOLOGY

Access to technology is essential for the successful roll-out of this plan. The Nyack Public Schools Technology Team has created a plan which ensures equitable access to technology for all staff and students and supports multiple modalities of instruction and learning. This will be accomplished by providing one-to-one technology access for students, digital content and platforms for instruction, along with remote support for staff, students, and families.

In order to implement this plan, Nyack Public Schools will ensure that the district Technology Team is supported in its efforts to adhere to the health and safety guidance as established by the CDC and the NYSDOH. This includes wearing PPE and maintaining six feet of physical distance where and when possible. For the health and safety of Nyack Public Schools staff and students, one-to-one devices will be provided to each student and shared equipment will be sanitized as per regulation. Additionally, the Nyack Public Schools Technology Team will work with staff to review and address any distance learning regulatory concerns and compliance issues, FERPA/HIPAA, staff and student privacy, NYS ED Law 2D, and other concerns related to virtual learning environments.

To facilitate virtual learning environments and ensure equitable access to technology Nyack Public Schools will provide devices to all students and ensure that students have internet access in their place of residence:

Nyack Public Schools is a 1-1 District and all students in the district are given a device for use in school and at home. Students in grades K-8 receive chromebooks and all students in grades 9-12 receive laptops. Students who need Wi-Fi access at home can fill out an online form on the district website requesting home internet access or call the family technology help desk number with their request. Families will then be contacted to pick-up a portable broadband device for home use. If a family is unable to pick up the portable internet device, arrangements will be made for home delivery.

Nyack Public Schools will address the need to provide devices and internet access to teachers who currently do not have sufficient access:

A chromebook will be provided to any K-5 teacher in need of a device and all secondary teachers in grades 6-12 receive a laptop. Any teacher who requires internet access at home will receive a portable broadband device.

Nyack Public Schools will provide multiple ways for students to participate in learning and demonstrate mastery of Learning Standards in remote or hybrid models:

All Nyack students are provided with devices from the district, as well as home internet access if required. To support this 1-1 model, the district has acquired web-based Learning platforms that provide multiple ways for students to participate in learning and develop mastery of Learning Standards in remote or hybrid models. These web-based platforms are user-friendly (for teachers, students, and parents) and provide teachers with the ability to create and deliver content, monitor student participation, assess student performance, and provide timely feedback. These platforms also enhance engagement by providing opportunities to connect with teachers and peers while allowing easy access to and retrieval of instructional materials and resources.

Our K-5 students have access to Classlink, which provides a secure single sign-on dashboard that gives access to grade specific software applications for both teachers and students using secure protocols. The software accessible through Classlink is also vetted for compliance with Educational Law 2d. K-5 students also use a program called SeeSaw to enhance student engagement. Teachers use this tool to empower students to create, reflect, share, and collaborate. Google classroom is also available for K-8 students providing easy access to classroom materials, assignments and teacher feedback.

Our high school students use the Learning Management System, Schoology. Schoology enhances engagement and helps students stay organized by allowing them to easily see and access all of their courses and instructional materials. Teachers can embed videos, provide feedback, create class groups for collaboration, and utilize many additional features to fully manage their classes remotely. Parents are also provided access to Schoology to monitor their child's progress.

All K-12 teachers use the video conferencing platform, Zoom, for remote learning. Zoom allows teachers to facilitate a whole class, work with small groups or setup 1-1 sessions for remediation. Professional development opportunities for all teachers have been ongoing to ensure our teachers know how to effectively utilize the software to support learning and help students develop mastery of Learning Standards in remote and hybrid models. Workshops and courses are offered in collaboration with the Nyack Public Schools Professional Development Center and help teachers to learn how to utilize the Learning Platforms for effective student engagement in virtual and hybrid instruction. Additional training is offered in the district on data privacy and security regulations as specified in NYS ED Law 2D.

Nyack Public Schools will also continually:

1. Update all security measures for information privacy and security in virtual environments. As remote learning continues, accountability into ensuring sound security practices will be implemented and enforced to counter a possible breach in confidentiality, integrity, and availability.
2. Conduct an inventory of equipment and other assets.
3. Monitor the number of students who will require district-provided devices and/or internet access to access remote education in collaboration with schools and building administrators
4. Evaluate special needs, assistive technology, and other accommodations according to the student's IEP.
5. Ongoing needs assessment to determine staff and classroom technology needs for virtual and hybrid learning environments.
 - a. Procurement of needed hardware, software, licenses, and learning platforms to support virtual instruction.
 - b. Procurement will be based upon curricular needs in conjunction with district policies and NY State mandates.
 - c. Ensure adherence to our policy regarding data security and privacy to comply with NYS ED Law 2D.
 - d. A technology life-cycle plan has been developed to address the 1:1 sustainability, as well as a plan for purchasing extra devices due to breakage or malfunctioning devices.
 - e. Filtering programs have been installed to comply with NY State mandates as well as the NIST cybersecurity framework.

6. A deployment plan has been established for distributing and collecting devices, student and parent training (where needed), and information on acceptable use policy implementation.
 - a. Deploy assistive technology and training where appropriate and needed in accordance with student's IEP.
7. Ensure that classrooms are equipped with technology to support synchronous and asynchronous learning models.
 - a. Install cameras, software, and/or hardware where needed in classrooms to support hybrid models.
8. Deploy a sanitization plan and protocol for all equipment being used in classrooms.
 - a. All shared equipment will be disinfected after each use.
 - b. Sharing of devices will be limited as much as possible in accordance with CDC and NYSDOH guidelines.
 - c. Special attention will be paid to adaptive equipment used with medically fragile students.
9. Technology training and support is available to staff, students, and families. Support will be provided through multiple modalities including in-person, help desk phone, online requests, and remote technical support.
10. Conduct on-going evaluation of infrastructure to ensure that there is adequate capacity for access.

COMMUNICATION/ FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Developing and sharing a clear process helps Nyack Public Schools leaders to thoughtfully and proactively design systems and processes that can be deployed easily when needed. When considering the impact of communications efforts, it is important to remember that communication is only deemed effective when information is delivered, received and understood by all stakeholders.

An effective plan to reopen schools must be rooted in sound medical judgement and driven by health metrics so that every member of the school community feels safe as they return to their daily activities. A targeted communications strategy is critical to ensuring public confidence in all COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Reopening Nyack Public Schools with public confidence can be optimized with regular communications. Health and safety issues must be communicated transparently, while still protecting the privacy of students, staff and families.

Nyack Public Schools affirms that it has reviewed and understands the NYS-issued guidance and as such will submit its reopening plans prior to reopening. The Reentry Plan will be posted on Nyack Public Schools website at www.nyackschools.org for faculty, staff, students, and parents/legal guardians to access. These plans were developed in collaboration with Nyack Public Schools leadership team, staff and community members to ensure that the best options for reentry were considered. These individuals are listed as contributors at the beginning of this

document. A county-wide committee was also facilitated by Rockland BOCES and included stakeholders from all eight school districts in Rockland County.

Communication Plan

Nyack Public Schools Communication Plan for students, parents/guardians, staff, and visitors includes applicable instructions, training, signage, and communication strategies to ensure that the school community is provided with up-to-date information with equity, innovation and optimism according to the District's vision. Means of communication used by Nyack Public Schools includes:

- **Official Website** - Nyack Public Schools created a COVID-19 Response webpage and will designate a place on the district's homepage for all Reentry Plan information, school operations information, and other critical reopening information. Content will continue to be maintained regularly to build confidence in this "one click" resource. The finalized Reentry Plan for Nyack Schools will be posted on the District website and linked to each of the schools' homepages.
- **Official Social Media** - Based on information from state and local government, health and education officials, a comprehensive Nyack Public Schools' social media campaign will be created with a focused component for one or more days. Relevant photographs or videos will serve as a great "hook" for social media posts. Content will be frequently updated to build confidence in this resource. As per NYS guidelines, the District will share content that comes from a trusted source like NYSED and the CDC.
- **Video Vignettes** - Short videos (three minutes or less) will be developed and used to illustrate procedures students and staff will be required to correctly follow with new COVID-19 protocols including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face covering (wearing and removal), physical distancing, respiratory hygiene, entering buses, school buildings, etc. Videos will be inclusive of English, Spanish and Haitian Creole as the three most prevalently used languages in Nyack Public Schools. Videos will be rolling on large screens that will be installed in the main entrances of each school building and in other halls that are frequently used by students.
- **Phone, Email and Text Alert System (live/robo) via Infinite Campus Messenger** - As per NYS guidelines, the District will disseminate operational, COVID-19 and reentry information while combating misinformation through multiple channels to staff, students and families, and ensuring that families are also able to access communication channels to appropriate staff with questions and concerns. Mass notification systems (phone alert/text messaging/email) are often the quickest and most effective ways to connect with students, families and staff. Nyack Public Schools will ensure that parents know how to update their contact information to make sure they do not miss important messages. An expectation is set as to when this system is used and communication will be provided to parents to expect to receive "routine" and/or urgent information. These robo and live alerts are limited to communication matters of utmost importance at the District level and help ensure families actually listen to the calls or read the email/ text

alerts. Metrics will be monitored to see what the connectivity rates are. The District sets incremental goals to improve that connectivity. Email, text and phone messages are sent out to our families in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, as identified by each family as the primary language spoken in their homes. Infinite Campus Messenger can also be used to send messages to all staff.

- **COVID-19-specific signage for schools** - in adherence to CDC and NYSDOH guidance regarding the use of PPE, specifically acceptable face coverings, when a physical distance cannot be maintained and other important protocol for health and safety. Signage in the entrance ways need to be inclusive and welcoming as well as clearly communicating all health and safety protocols. The District has ordered signs in English and Spanish for all schools.
- **The Mattering Campaign** - is a new campaign that will be launched with the reentry of schools with a District-wide emphasis placed on ensuring that all students and staff have a sense that not only will their basic needs of health and safety be met but also their psychological, social-emotional needs will be addressed. All children should have a sense of belonging in Nyack Schools. Mattering in schools is a fundamental concept that will be consistently and collectively embedded in pedagogy and daily teaching and learning.
- **Let's Talk! Platform** - Nyack Public Schools is committed to addressing questions, concerns and suggestions on critical issues that our school community faces. Current pressing topics include: the ongoing response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; reopening schools; recovering educational and socio-emotional wellness in the new school year; and our continued commitment to racial equity. We invite school community members to connect with us via [Let's Talk!](#) Input is collected and taken into consideration as we work together to find solutions in accordance with our District vision for equity, innovation and optimism.
- **Outreach Survey to Parents/Guardians** - During the month of July, Nyack Public Schools created and implemented a survey to assess parent/guardian needs and levels of comfortability for reentry to schools. We received 1625 survey responses. The [Results](#) and [Analysis](#) were utilized by the district leadership team in creating a reentry plan. The District will continue to utilize surveys as an outreach tool with stakeholders.
- **Community Zoom Meetings** - Nyack Public Schools conducted three Community Zoom Meetings during extended school closure. An aggregate attendance of close to 1000 community members was documented. Recordings of the virtual meetings were posted to the district website for the public to access and listen. The District will continue utilizing this platform in communicating reentry plans and protocols as well as for engaging stakeholders.

Through the various platforms above, communication on the CRITICAL FACTORS prior to reentry; while schools are open and when schools are closed will include:

- ❖ Contact information for Nyack Public Schools COVID-19 Safety Coordinator, **Leo Macias**, who is the main contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and is responsible for initiating subsequent communication. This person will be responsible for answering questions regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and plans implemented by the school. See Lmacias@nyackschools.org
- ❖ Student Health and Safety Needs and Expectations (ie: hygiene, social distancing, masks)
- ❖ Employee Health and Safety Needs and Expectations (ie: hygiene, social distancing, masks)
- ❖ Guidelines for When to Stay Home (that adhere to the CDC and NYDOH guidelines)
- ❖ Guidelines for Addressing a Positive Case in the School/District
- ❖ School Nutrition and Food Program
- ❖ Transportation and Safety Protocols
- ❖ Listing of school/facilities, water and ventilation systems that have been implemented
- ❖ Instructional Plan and Schedule for Student Learning
- ❖ Special Education Guidelines
- ❖ Guidelines for Addressing Social and Emotional Supports and Accessing Resources
- ❖ Technology Plan for In-School, Hybrid and Remote Learning
- ❖ Listing of Technology platforms used by the District
- ❖ Calendar of school schedules and revised district calendar as needed
- ❖ District Racial Equity Plan
- ❖ Athletics Plan
- ❖ Before/After School Programming; Extracurricular Clubs and Activities
- ❖ Outreach programs/support from Family Resource Coordinators & Community Liaisons

Best Practices for Effective Communication & Family Engagement:

- ❖ Communicate to the entire education family of stakeholders in the school community, especially taking into consideration linguistic differences and visual and/or hearing impairments.
- ❖ Regularly update families and staff on policies for conduct while on school property and during drop-off and pick-up.
- ❖ Utilize multiple means to communicate: e-blasts, robo messaging, websites, official social media
- ❖ Once instruction resumes: utilize classroom lessons, community meetings, one-to-one outreach
- ❖ Communicate actions to be taken, step-by-step, by a school district to reopen
- ❖ Consider having parents complete an affirmation that they will not send their children to school with symptoms
- ❖ Communicate the economic importance of supporting parents return to a normal workday
- ❖ Reinforce topics like good hygiene, social distancing, identifying symptoms and staying home when feeling sick
- ❖ Illustrate steps taken to keep school clean and extracurricular activities safe
- ❖ Show compassion for families and staff, as they will be cautious
- ❖ Express a willingness to always evaluate, improve and reevaluate as necessary
- ❖ Regularly solicit feedback from parents, students, staff and the community

- ❖ Recognize differences between district-wide messaging, building-level messaging and classroom-level messaging
- ❖ Translate written and robo messaging and official district documents as needed
- ❖ Utilize a racial equity lens in accordance with the District’s commitment to addressing systemic and structural racism while acknowledging the racial disparities that have persisted particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic

BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND BUDGET

District offices will reopen for in-person work, with telecommuting available to staff to ensure that work can be conducted safely, and in small groups. The goal of Nyack Public Schools is to provide a safe, clean environment for employees given the onset of COVID-19 and resources available. Each department/office lead will ensure schedules and physical space are conducive to necessary in-person work. In accordance with [NYSDOH’s Interim Guidance for Office-Based Work During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), Nyack Public Schools focused on key considerations that include social distancing, protocols for entering office spaces, cleaning and disinfecting, supplies and PPE, facilities staffing, and budget.

1. Physical Distancing

- a. Classroom desks, office-based space, shared space seating, and restroom availability will be reviewed and changes made (spacing, partitions, etc.) so that spacing adheres to the current recommendations.
- b. Restrooms will be limited to one person at a time.
- c. The use of shared spaces such as employee lounges will be discouraged and if use is absolutely necessary, employees will be encouraged to disinfect all areas that they use such as sink handles and microwaves.
- d. The use of small spaces such as elevators, supply rooms, personal offices, and vehicles should be limited to use by not more than one individual at a time, unless all individuals in such space at the same time are wearing acceptable face coverings.
- e. Markings and signage on floors and walls will ensure that staff remain six feet apart when waiting to enter the office, standing in line for elevators, etc.
- f. Physical barriers will be installed where needed such as reception desks where staff have frequent contact with students, parents, and the general public.
- g. Employees will remove non-essential items off their desks and store in an enclosed cabinet or drawers.
- h. Nyack Public Schools encourages the use of Zoom whenever possible for meetings to reduce the density of in-person gatherings.
- i. Non-Essential travel will be limited.

2. Protocols for employees and visitors entering office spaces include:

- a. Complete and submit the COVID-19 screening questionnaire that attests that employees and visitors do not have any related COVID-19 symptoms.

- i. Central points of contact have been established at each Nyack Public Schools building to receive all employee and visitor questionnaires.
 - b. Hand sanitizing and regular hand washing when entering the building and throughout the day.
 - c. Required wearing of face coverings in areas where maintaining six feet of distance is not possible. Should an employee require PPE, Nyack Public Schools will provide this at no cost.
 - d. Limited hours and seating for in-person services (e.g. payroll and human resources customer service window) with expanded opportunities to complete paperwork and services online.
3. Cleaning and Disinfecting
- a. Building hours have been established and a schedule for cleaning will be developed with special consideration for high use and traffic areas.
 - b. Custodial staff will be trained in appropriate cleaning and disinfecting techniques and in use of permitted cleaning products.
 - c. Open windows and increase ventilation to circulate air in office and classroom areas where feasible.
 - d. If someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, Nyack Public Schools will follow the CDC guidelines on [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#) as follows:
 - i. Close off areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.
 - ii. Shared building spaces used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 (e.g. elevators, lobbies, building entrances) must also be shut down and cleaned and disinfected.
 - iii. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - iv. Wait 24 hours before you clean or and disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
 - v. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, and shared equipment.
 - vi. Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected, it can be reopened for use.
 - vii. Employees without close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can return to the work area immediately after cleaning and disinfection.
 - viii. Nyack Public Schools refers to DOH’s [“Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure”](#) for information on “close or proximate” contacts.
 - ix. If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.

4. Supplies and PPE

- a. Nyack Public Schools will be increasing the purchase of PPE, especially masks and gloves, sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and cleaning supplies. These products will be purchased in bulk where available.
- b. Cleaning supplies will adhere to CDC and NYSDOH recommendations.
 - i. Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be available for shared and frequently touched surfaces and Nyack Public Schools will encourage employees to use these supplies, following manufacturer's instructions, before and after use of these surfaces followed by hand hygiene.
- c. Employees will be encouraged to supply their own PPE such as gloves and masks but these items will also be available in the building to ensure equitable access.
- d. Special PPE items such as clear face masks and shields will be provided if necessary for the employees' function.

5. Facilities Staff

- a. Nyack Public Schools is developing a plan in the event that more than current staffing is needed due to the higher frequency cleaning schedule, or the occurrence of a high rate of absenteeism due to exposure/illness.

6. Budget

- a. Balancing and modifying the budget may be necessary to accommodate the need for additional maintenance of facilities, staff, supplies and contractual needs.
- b. Materials and supplies needed to support Nyack Public Schools' efforts for health and safety are being closely tracked for FEMA reimbursement.
- c. Nyack Public Schools will comply with all requirements of Federal CARES Act funding and will seek additional funding such as grants to help support health and safety.
- d. Reserve funds provide a budgetary option in uncertain economic times that can help mitigate the need to cut services or to raise taxes. The use of district reserve funds may be considered as a means to meet financial obligations due to COVID-19 expenditures in accordance with NYS guidelines.

HUMAN RESOURCES/ MANAGEMENT

Vulnerable Populations: Policies regarding vulnerable populations including students faculty and staff who are at increased risk for severe COVID 19 illness and individuals who may not feel comfortable returning to an in person educational environment, to allow them to safely participate in educational activities and, where appropriate, accommodate their specific circumstances These accommodations may include but are not limited to remote learning or telework, modified educational or work settings, or providing additional PPE to individuals with underlying health conditions. Responsible Parties must also identify and describe any modifications to social distancing or PPE that may be necessary for certain student or staff populations, including individuals who have hearing impairment or loss, students receiving language services, and young students in early education programs, ensuring that any

modifications minimize COVID 19 exposure risk for students, faculty, and staff to the greatest extent possible;

Employee Issues

1. Nyack Public Schools will revisit existing bargaining agreements and contracts to address the relevant issues in this plan.
2. Review benefits
3. Review staffing ratios to ensure that they are sufficient to meet the unique needs of the classroom, facility cleanliness, physical distancing, student learning, and health and safety.
4. Nyack Public Schools will consider hiring more nurses, health care aides, and full-time substitute employees, where applicable and appropriate to meet the requirements set forth in this plan.
5. [Professional development](#) for staff is addressed in the Professional Development section of this document.
6. Nyack Public Schools in collaboration with each direct supervisor at Nyack Public Schools is designated as a staff liaison and is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All employees will be provided with information on how to contact the Human Resources Department.

e. Reasonable Accommodations

i. Staff who are at higher risk for severe illness (medical conditions that the CDC says may have increased risks) should contact the Department of Human Resources in order to discuss concerns. Individual plans will be developed with the employee if reasonable accommodations are not practicable.

f. Possibly cross train employees so that more than one employee is familiar with the essential job duties.

g. Leave and Health Related Guidance

1. In the event you or someone in your immediate family, including anyone in your household, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should contact your supervisor and the Office of Human Resources directly. Return to work or use of sick time will be discussed with you individually.

2. If you are out sick and you are being tested for COVID-19, you must follow your regular procedures for using sick days (i.e., contacting supervisor and entering days into WinCapWeb). Return to work or use of sick time will be discussed with you individually.

3. Nyack Public School refers to DOH's "[Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure](#)" for information on "close or proximate" contacts.

4. The Family Medical Leave Act and Families First Coronavirus Response Act provide additional protections for employees who are sick, employees providing care for a family member that is sick, and employees who are home with their children because their school or place of care is closed/unavailable. Please contact Human Resources if you believe you may be eligible for protections/leaves under these acts.

5. If you are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19, then stay home. Employees should immediately call their healthcare provider for further guidance.

6. If you experience COVID-19 symptoms while at work, advise your supervisor, report your absence in Absence Management, leave work, and consult your healthcare provider.

7. Should an employee report that he or she is ill and cannot report to work, the absence should be recorded in AESOP or be reported to the attendance monitor as you normally do. All suspected or diagnosed cases of COVID-19 are to be reported to Human Resources.

8. Quarantine and Isolation Information

Rockland County Department of Health has issued information for employers regarding quarantine and isolation.

http://rocklandgov.com/files/3315/8896/3832/Quarantine_and_Isolation_Information_for_Employers_05.6.2020.pdf

Rockland County Department of Health has issued information about quarantine.

http://rocklandgov.com/files/1015/8559/0892/QUARANTINE_INSTRUCTIONS_3.18.2020.pdf

9. Return to Work after COVID-19 or Quarantine

Any employee who was not able to report to work due to having COVID-19 will be required to provide a doctor's note in order to return to work.

In addition, an employee who was self-isolating or in quarantine will need a return to work letter from the doctor and may also complete the following questionnaire from the Rockland County Department of Health in order to receive a release letter to return to work.

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/release-letter>

ATHLETICS REOPENING GUIDELINES

As of 7/27 the Officers of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), voted to delay the official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season, cancel the Fall 2020 Regional and State Championships and prepare to implement a condensed season schedule in January 2021 if high school sports remain prohibited throughout 2020 due to COVID-19.

- The NYSPHSAA Officers' decision includes:
- Delay Fall sports start date until Monday, September 21st (NYSPHSAA PAUSE)
- Cancel Fall Regional and State Championship events
- Waive seven-day practice rule
- Maintain current practice requirements
- Encourage geographic scheduling for games & contests
- Schools would have the option, if permitted by State officials, to offer off-season conditioning workouts. Workouts could begin once we receive notice from the New York State Governor's Office that School Districts can open their campus for school events. Any approved workouts will follow safety guidelines.

At the discretion of the NYSPHSAA Officers and authorization from state officials, if the Fall sports seasons are interrupted or impacted by COVID-19 crisis (i.e. state official guidance, school closings, cancelation of high-risk sports, etc.) then a condensed seasons plan will be implemented.

The Condensed Season plan would entail the following, with the stipulated dates being tentative.

Season I (Winter Sports)

Dates: Jan. 4-Mar. 13 (Week 27-36) 10 Weeks ***Note: tentative dates**

Sports: basketball (girls & boys), bowling (girls & boys), gymnastics, ice hockey (girls & boys), indoor track & field (girls & boys), skiing (girls & boys), swimming (boys), *wrestling, *competitive cheer.

* Because of the high risk nature of wrestling and competitive cheer, sports may have to be moved to Season II or season III.

Season II (Fall Sports)

Dates: Mar. 1-May 8 (Week 35-44) 10 Weeks ***Note: tentative dates**

Sports: football, cross country (girls & boys), field hockey, soccer (girls & boys), swimming (girls), volleyball (girls & boys), Unified bowling.

Note: Weather will have an impact upon outdoor sports in some parts of the state in March and potentially early April. Girls Tennis moved to Season III.

Season III (Spring Sports)

Dates: Apr. 5-Jun. 12 (Week 40-49) 10 Weeks ***Note: tentative dates**

Sports: baseball, softball, golf (girls & boys), lacrosse (girls & boys), tennis (girls & boys), outdoor track & field (girls & boys), Unified basketball.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SECTION ONE HAS BEEN ADVOCATING TO CHANGE THE TENTATIVE DATES TO PREVENT THE OVERLAP OF SEASONS AND CONFLICTS FOR MULTISPORT ATHLETES. IN ADDITION DISCUSSIONS OVER WHAT SPORTS COULD BE OFFERED IN EACH SEASON ARE ONGOING AS WELL

The Nyack School District recognizes the importance of the use of our athletic fields to community members during the COVID-19 crisis. However, given the current circumstances of non-approved use by groups that have not been properly practicing social distancing, and because of damages to our fields as a result of unauthorized use, all district fields will be closed until further notice with the following exceptions:

- *High School Tennis Courts*
- *High School Track for walking/jogging/running only. Social distancing must be maintained. All walking/jogging/running must be in the same direction as other users.*

Use of turf fields is not permitted. Additionally, the District will not accept facilities use requests. Anyone in violation of these guidelines will be considered trespassing and the proper authorities will be contacted if necessary.

We appreciate your cooperation and consideration in our effort to help our community remain healthy and safe during this time.

APPENDIX A- HEALTH AND SAFETY RESOURCES

CDC Decision-Making Tree

Visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Schools-Decision-Tree.pdf> for guidance on reopening decisions.

Campus Access

[CDC: What to Do If You Are Sick](#)

[CDC: People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness](#)

Hygiene and PPE

[CDC: Hygiene Practices](#)

[CDC: Using Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)

[CDC: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#)

Cleaning and Disinfecting

[EPA: 6 Steps for Safe and Effective Disinfectant Use](#) [EPA: List N - Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)

[Vehicle Cleaning- CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility Guidelines](#)

[NYSDOH Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)

Communication with Students, Parents, Employees, Public Health Officials, and the Community

[CDC: Criteria to Discontinue Home Isolation](#)

[CDC: Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure](#)

Instructional Models and Other Guidelines

[Link to ACTE's High-Quality: Planning for a COVID-19 Impacted School Year](#)

[SAMPLE MODELS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS](#)