



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 30, 2021

Good Afternoon Hawthorne Families.

We look forward to welcoming all students and staff back to school this week. Please be reminded that the first day for students is **Thursday, September 2, 2021**. Attached for your reference is our [2021-2022 district calendar](#).

Below, please find information along with a chart that provides you with a quick-reference guide on what our school year will look like. As new information is communicated from the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education, or the Governor's office this chart will be updated accordingly. Specific details related to building-based operations will be shared through each school's communications.

PART 1: Quarantine and School Exclusion

The following information is based on the New Jersey Department of Education document, [The Road Forward](#) guidance most recent update from August 20, 2021.

CLOSE CONTACTS

What is the definition of a close contact?

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

EXCEPTION: According to The Road Forward 2021-2022 Health and Safety guidelines (pg. 14) In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition **excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet** of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) **where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore masks the entire time**. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the room.

What happens if I am considered a close contact?

- **Fully vaccinated individuals** (must show proof of vaccination to school officials) DO NOT have to quarantine if they have NO symptoms.

- **Unvaccinated individuals:**

- Low or Moderate (**Green or Yellow**) transmission - excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative PCR or NAAT test results collected at 5-7 days)
- High (**Orange**) transmission - excluded from school for 14 days

SCHOOL EXCLUSION

When should a student or staff member stay home?

1. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days.

- A positive individual is excluded from school for 10 days after their positive test result.

2. Unvaccinated individuals who live with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days are excluded from school for 10 days.

3. Students and staff should NOT attend school if:

- **Two** of the following symptoms are exhibited:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| ○ Fever, | ○ Sore throat |
| ○ Chills | ○ Nausea or vomiting |
| ○ Rigors (shivers) | ○ Diarrhea |
| ○ Muscle aches | ○ Fatigue |
| ○ Headache | ○ Congestion or runny nose |

- **One** of the following symptoms are exhibited:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New smell or New Taste disorder.

Individuals who exhibit the above symptoms should get tested for COVID-19.

- Positive Test - quarantine for 10 days
- No test - quarantine for 10 days
- Negative Test
 - If vaccinated they may return to school following the [NJDOH school exclusion guidelines](#).

What happens when a student or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms in school

- Individuals should immediately go to the nurse's office and be sent home. They should get tested for COVID-19.
 - Positive Test - quarantine for 10 days
 - No test - quarantine for 10 days

- Negative Test
 - If vaccinated they may return to school following the [NJDOH school exclusion guidelines](#).
 - If transmission rates in the area LOW (Green) OR the individual has no known close contact to a positive COVID-19 individual they should follow the [NJDOH school exclusion guidelines](#).
 - If transmission rates are Moderate (Yellow) or High (Orange) OR the individual was a known close contact quarantine for 10 days.

**All information on this document is subject to change as new guidance is provided from the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education, and our local health department.*

PART 2: Daily Operations

Item	2021-2022 School Year
Masks Indoors (includes masks on buses)	Yes. The school year will begin with all students and staff wearing masks as per the Governor's Executive Order 251
Social Distancing	3 feet, or to the greatest extent possible
5 Full days of instruction	Yes
Fully Remote Option	No
Changing classes	Yes
Lunches	Yes, with distancing to the maximum extent possible
Contact Tracing / Quarantining	Yes, as per the guidelines listed above
IEP Meetings 504 Meetings	In-Person (Remote at the parents request)
In-Person Extracurriculars / Sports / Clubs	Yes
In-Person Performing Arts / Award Ceremonies	Yes
Field Trips / Assemblies	Yes (Busing and distancing rules apply)
Use of Google Classroom	Yes
Back to School Nights	In-Person

Parent-Teacher Conferences	In-Person (Remote at the parents request)
Use of Lockers (6-12)	Yes
Use of Locker Rooms	Yes, with masks
Increased hand washing / hand sanitizer stations	Yes
Increased sanitation of the buildings / equipment	Yes
Daily Screening form / Temperature Checks	No
Desk Shields	No. Available upon request of the teacher
Emphasis on ventilation / air purification	Yes, air purifiers in every classroom, locker room, offices, and gym.
Visitors to schools	Yes. By appointment only
Facility Use for Outside Groups	Yes. However, use may be limited based on transmission level and all school guidelines must be followed.
School Aged Child Care (SACC)	Yes

***Additional guidance or changes to this information will be shared with families either by the Superintendent’s office or by their respective schools.**

PART 3: Virtual Learning During Quarantine

As per the recent [NJDOE broadcast](#), the Hawthorne Public Schools will provide virtual instruction on a limited basis for those students who are confirmed positive for COVID-19 or have been quarantined by the school district. Also, please be aware that the availability of virtual instruction provided will vary between the elementary schools and the middle and high schools. Finally, please understand that only the instructional portion of classroom lessons will be streamed virtually and students at LMS and HHS will be required to reach out to their teacher with any questions.

Confirmed Positive for COVID-19	Eligible for virtual learning while quarantined
Close Contact of Positive Case	Eligible for virtual learning while quarantined