

Frequency Asked Questions:

Student/Staff Health and Safety

1. Are teachers going to be required to be tested on a regular basis as a requirement for working?

At this point testing will not be required. They will need to complete a self screening each day before or upon arrival. Since we are not a medical facility, we are not permitted to administer testing. However, there is Department of Health guidance suggesting if an employee or student is exposed or displays symptoms, they will have to be quarantined for at least 14 days and may not return without medical clearance, which may include a COVID test.

2. Will students be required to be tested on a regular basis as a requirement for attending?

No, each school day, students who are attending will be health screened prior to entrance. If a student does not pass that health screening, which will include a temperature check, they will be asked to leave the school and not return until a doctor's note is furnished medically clearing the student to return to school. Unfortunately, testing is not readily available or accessible unless you have symptoms or unless a medical facility orders you to test. Additionally, due to the delay in receiving test results, it would not be feasible to expect every student to test every day or even once a week or even before the start of school. If a student takes a test on August 28 and school starts on September 3, the student would have to self-quarantine from the 28th to September 3rd, with no considerable contact with any other person. Again, I just do not see that as feasible.

3. If students do not pass a health screening, where do they go? Is this confidential?

If a student does not pass a health screening, they are escorted to an isolation room located either inside the school or outside of the school. This is done behind a health screen to protect the identity of the student. Both the nurses's office and the isolation room will have an air purification filtration system.

4. Who is conducting the health screening?

Nursing staff will primarily be conducting the health screenings, but we will also be training other certificated staff members to perform the health screenings as we will have students entering multiple entrances upon arrival and exit.

5. How will students socially distance on the school bus?

We will not have all students attending school on the same day. We will have to divide those attending to maintain social distance as recommended by medical and science professionals. All students upon entrance to the school bus has to have a face covering/mask. All employees and students will wear a mask in school as well. Students will be seated at most one person to a seat. Students will enter the bus and the first person on the bus will sit in the back and then bus will fill in from back to front. When exiting, the bus will empty from front to back, with the exception of any bus evacuation drills, then it will be the opposite unloading procedure.

6. How do we define Close Contact?

As per the Camden County Department of Health, close contact is defined as being within six (6) feet of someone with no mask on for more than 10 minutes.

There are other institutions who have defined close contact as being within six (6) feet of someone for more than 10 minutes regardless of whether or not they are wearing a mask.

7. Why do students have to wear masks all day? We cannot guarantee that we will eliminate the spread of COVID-19, but with masks, as recommended by medical and science professionals, we will mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We want to protect faculty and students who go home to those loved ones who may be at most risk of this virus. Failure to wear a mask will constitute a policy violation and the students will be asked to leave. Continued refusal will result in a removal to remote instruction for longer periods of time.

8. How and where will students eat? Breakfast kiosks will be located at each entrance so students can pick up breakfast after going through the health screening. Relative to lunch meal service, students will eat in classrooms and limited capacity spaces for less time. They can bring their own lunch or order a pre-packaged meal from the cafeteria. Cafeteria staff will deliver that meal choice to the classroom the student indicated on their order form. Protective barriers will be available so that students can eat behind one if social distancing is not available.

9. Will the lunch trash be sitting in classrooms? We will have trash receptacles in the hallways so students can dispose of their lunch refuse outside of the classroom.

10. What about those days where my child will not be in school - how do they eat? We will have meals available for families to pick up or for students to pick up before leaving school at outside locations between the hours of 12:30 p.m to 3:30 p.m. and between 6 pm and 7 pm, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

11. My child and I are uncomfortable coming to school in the Fall, so how will they be taught? The District will place the students in their class schedule. Teachers will deliver instruction three ways: in-person, asynchronously remotely, and synchronously remotely. Additionally, teachers will have live classroom feeds of their lessons or recorded lessons available to students on a total remote instruction schedule. Students can opt-out of in-person instruction. If they opt out, they can still participate in extracurricular activities. More information will be forthcoming.

12. What is required for a student or family who is uncomfortable sending their child to school? Parents will have to complete a form requesting an opt out of in-person learning. Students can opt out of in person learning at any time during the course of the school year. However, they cannot opt in at any time. Once a students opts out of in person instruction, they can only opt back in at the beginning of the marking periods. Students who opt out can still participate in extracurricular activities.

13. What cleaning process will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19? We will do a deep clean every Wednesday and Friday night/Saturday. Additionally, at the end of every class exchange, disinfectant wipes and/or spray will be available for the teachers and students so that they can clean as they wish prior to a lesson or at the end of a lesson. At the end of every day, custodians will clean

every desk and every high touch area, like keyboards, door handles, and other high touch areas. Each custodian will have a checklist they hand in each night and all cleaning procedures will follow CDC guidelines as expected by the New Jersey Department of Education.

14. I heard that fresh air or being outdoors mitigates the spread of COVID-19? This is true. Therefore, we will ask windows to be open when possible and will increase fresh-air intake in each space where possible. We will also encourage outdoor classrooms and will prepare some spaces with covered tenting. Ventilation systems in the schools will be outfitted with appropriate MERV-13 filters to capture some particles, where possible given the ventilation system in use. Filters will be changed frequently.

15. Will the schools be responsible for tracking infected students? We will track those students who have been infected and affirmed by the Camden County Department of Health. The Department of Health is responsible for completing Contact Tracing, however, the school may be involved as the student may have been in Close Contact with individuals inside the school. If the school becomes aware of an infected student, whereby Close Contact occurred, we will notify students/parents, while maintaining confidentiality of the person infected.

16. What happens to those people who were in Close Contact with someone known to be positive for COVID-19? Those individuals who were in Close Contact will be reported to the Department of Health, who will follow up with those individuals. They will be asked to quarantine for 14 days and will be required to have medical clearance prior to re-entering school. The Camden County Department of Health and our school physician will be collaborating with our nursing staff and school administrators in order to properly communicate in this circumstance.

17. Will the school district increase medical or nursing personnel this school year? Yes, we budgeted for additional nursing services to assist in carrying out screening protocols.

18. What pre-screening will be done prior to the start of the school year? All staff and students will be asked to perform a health self-assessment screening and turn that documentation over to the school nurses for evaluation. We ask our staff and students to be honest in their assessments as their answers could jeopardize the health of someone else in the school community. If answers to those questions raise additional questions, the school nurses or the Department of Health may contact the family.

19. What happens if a teacher or staff member cannot or does not want to return due to COVID-19? Staff members have to present medical documentation for not returning to school in the Fall. If that is the case, the teacher can perform remote instruction (live, recorded, or otherwise).

20. What accommodations will be made for students or staff with medically compromised family members in the household? Again, there are six reasons for applying for Family Medical Leave. Federal legislation and local policy changes will support Family Medical Leave.

21. Will nurses need a additional personal protective equipment? The nurses office and isolation room will have a high efficiency filtration system installed. The nurses will be supplied with N-95 masks, face coverings, face shields, and protective medical grade, disposal gowns.

22. At some point, there will be a vaccine. Will vaccines be required for staff members? If they refuse to get vaccinated, will they be allowed work in the schools? At this time, we do not have enough information about vaccines to make this determination.

23. Will vaccines be mandatory for students? This would require major changes to legal provisions and has broad societal ramifications regarding parental rights and choice. There is just not enough information about vaccines to make this determination.

24. Will districts need to invest in electrostatic sprayers, eye and face protection, and portable sinks? Yes, we will be purchasing electrostatic sprayers, eye and face coverings. We will be purchasing portable sinks and each school has an outdoor bathroom. We have invested in touchless bathroom features, which are being installed at each school.

25. Will hallway water fountains need to be turned off to prevent the potential spread of the virus? Water fountains will be turned off, but water filling stations will not be turned off. They will be cleaned appropriately every day.

26. As buses are used for multiple runs per day, what will be the cleaning protocols in between routes? The District owns two (2) buses, so those bus drivers will have cleaning protocols and checklists in between all bus pick-ups and drop-off runs. Students will enter and be seated on the bus from back to front and then exit the bus from front to back. We will rely on the Camden County Educational Services Commission, Gloucester Township Bus Service, and private vendors to adhere to CDC and NJDOE cleaning protocols and practices.

27. If nurses only work during the academic school day, who will monitor temperature checks of staff, visitors, and students in after hour programs and evening custodial shifts? The nurses will be training school administrators, athletic trainers, in-house school-based supervisors, and volunteer staff members to screen employees, students, or visitors when needed.

28. If someone tests positive in the school learning community and has attended school, what happens? Who is notified? What information can we expect? The results of a health test are confidential, however, we will be collaborating with the Department of Health, who is responsible for the contact tracing. The Department of Health, or the school district in concert with the Department of Health, could be contacting individual students/families if we are aware of potential exposure as soon as we are made aware of a positive case. We will not publish the names of those who have tested positive as this would be a violation of HIPAA. A general statement will be released to faculty and students/community of an infection and dates of the possible exposure.

29. If the school learns of an infected individual in the school, does the school shut down and go to complete remote instruction again? Not necessarily. We have to give notice to the Department of Health who will collaborate with us on the decision to close the school. In some cases, we may diminish the number of students attending or close portions of the school down for a “deep cleaning.”

30. What happens when a student sneezes in class? Do they get a new mask? Are they required to go wash their hands or use hand sanitizer? What do they do with that mask? If a student sneezes in class or repeatedly coughs in school, they will have done so in a mask. We will offer a new mask to that student. If the mask the student is wearing is disposable, they will be asked to throw it away in a lidded trash receptacle. Students will have to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands after using tissues or removing a mask. We will also have sneeze guards for classroom use.

31. How often will the schools be cleaned? We will close the schools every Wednesday to do a “deep cleaning.” Additionally, every night, custodians, who will wear appropriate personal protective equipment and be health screened prior to working, will adhere to CDC cleaning protocols. They will perform routine cleaning and have to review a checklist prior to leaving each classroom or space. Each classrooms will also have a spray bottle of disinfectant or disinfectant wipes, increased fresh air ventilation, and hand sanitizer. Hallways will have hand sanitizer stations, including those set before offices.

32. Will there be limitations as to who and how many can use the restrooms at any one time? Yes, there will be limitations.

33. What happens to the schedule if we have a snow day? Snow days will count as school days so long as we implement remote instruction/learning on those snow days. The school day would then count.

Curriculum , Instruction, & Programs

1. The Spring 2020 semester has impacted the learning progress of my son/daughter, so how are we planning to assess their development? At the beginning of the school year, teachers in every department will assess any learning gaps with a diagnostic skills assessment. Those results will help identify the learning needs of all students and help teachers address those gaps due to the COVID-19 slide.

2. How will speech therapists or occupational therapists deliver their specialized content and help students while maintaining social distancing? Students will be provided with related services through a variety of platforms that correlate with the students level of need as described in student IEPs.

3. Will there be an athletic season? The NJSIAA governs high school athletics. They will determine if participation is allowed at all or in some capacity. Please see their [website](#) for updates. Also see the [National Federation of State High School Associations](#) for Guidance on Reopening.

4. How does an athletic trainer treat student athletes safely? Athletic trainers will have specific tactics and protocols for treating student athletes. They will have the appropriate protective equipment to do so.

5. If student athletes are not attending the day of a practice, how do they get to school? We would ask that students find their own way back to the school. However, if they are in need of transportation, the school district will provide bus service from a bus stop to the school starting approximately at 1 p.m.

6. How about other extra-curricular activities? All other extracurricular activities will be supported and supervised by appointed certified staff members. We encourage socially distanced in-person meetings, utilizing outdoor locations around the school for meetings, or remote/virtual meetings.

7. Will students be permitted to go on field trips? No, we will reevaluate that decision February 1, 2021.

8. If a student is approved for remote instruction, can they still participate in extracurricular activities, including athletics? Parents will have to complete a form requesting an opt out of in-person learning. Students can opt out of in person learning at any time during the course of the school year. However, they cannot opt in at any time. Once a student opts out of in person instruction, they can only opt back in at the beginning of the marking periods. Students who opt out can still participate in extracurricular activities.

9. Our household struggles with providing internet access, so how can the school help? The school has provided those families with a need for internet access with limited internet “hotspots.” Any family or student in need of a internet, wireless hotspot should contact our technology support team at Highland is 856-227-4100 extension 4357
Timber Creek is 856-232-9703 extension 4357
Triton is 856-939-4500 extension 4357 OR email the technology department at helpdesk@bhprsd.org.

10. What happens to large ensemble curricular or co-curricular programs, like vocal choir or instrumental band? If students are enrolled in a curricular program, then they will be separated by day of attendance, therefore, be in an environment with less students. If the space in which those programs is too small, the teacher can decide to bring the class to a larger area within the school. For extracurricular activities, like vocal choir or marching band, the advisors can utilize outdoor spaces or indoor spaces so long as students have face coverings/masks and are socially distanced to six (6) feet. Additional supplies will be needed for instrumental music.

11. How will student/parent and teacher meetings occur? Unless the subject of the meeting requires in-person contact, meetings between adults will be remote/virtual.

12. What guidance do we need to provide to our librarians? Exchanging books presents a challenge because of the guidance that suggests sharing equipment or resources increases risks. However, if the books are cleaned and given an appropriate amount of “rest” the virus will likely not live on those surfaces. The librarians will also increase on-line resources so that students can access documents and e-reads online.

13. Will instructional aides and special education teachers still be available for assistance in classrooms? Yes, 99% of instructional support staff and special education teachers are required under the child’s Individualized Education Plan. In school, if two adults are required in one classroom, they will wear a mask and have physical barriers if necessary. When teaching on remote instruction days, both instructors will deliver live or recorded lessons, either synchronously or asynchronously.

14. Will teachers move from class to class or will students move from class to class? Students will move from class to class. Each school will have an abundance of socially distanced signs reminding students to keep distance from one another. We may employ directional signs to keep student hallway flow in one direction, where possible given the configuration of the school building.

15. Will students be allowed to use their lockers? No, because of the limited in-person schedule and because of the physical distance between lockers being so thin, we are directing students to carry their resources on the day they are physically attending school.

16. The National Federation of High School Sports Associations Sports Medicine Advisory Committee released a document entitled, “Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities.” Based upon that guidance, how will sports return in the Fall 2020, when the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee that provides guidance to athletic associations across the nation state that there is to be no shared equipment, no more than 10 athletes on a field at any time, and no handing off/pitching/passing/catching a shared ball? The NJSIAA governs high school athletics in New Jersey. Their latest guidance can be found [here](#).

17. Many guidance counselor’s offices will not allow for meeting with students or families with proper social distancing guidelines due to space constraints. How will individual guidance services be met under social distancing requirements? We will have plexi glass dividers for classrooms and offices in each school. Anyone can request these dividers to increase safety measures when social distancing cannot be achieved. Visits between counselors and students may have to be shifted to alternate locations where social distancing can be achieved.

18. Secretaries often are the first point of contact with members of the public. What modifications will need to be made to workspaces and main office locations? We are drastically reducing the

number of visitors who enter the school to increase safety. We will have plexi glass dividers for classrooms and offices in each school. Anyone can request these dividers to increase safety measures when social distancing cannot be achieved.

19. Administrative workspaces are often in high trafficked areas of school buildings. What measures will need to be put in place to protect these staff members from potential exposure? We are drastically reducing the number of visitors who enter the school to increase safety. We will have plexi glass dividers for classrooms and offices in each school. Anyone can request these dividers to increase safety measures when social distancing cannot be achieved.

20. Will there be a series of assessments and remediation measures or will the opening of schools be focused on SEL and re-establishing school culture? Yes, we have a plan to focus on mental health for students and staff as we re-enter school life.

21. Teachers and administrators that are shared between buildings or departments move amongst school buildings daily and weekly. Will limitations and modifications be needed for shared staff schedules? Yes, we are still working on the individual and comprehensive teaching schedules to limit travel between schools.

22. How do fire drills and school security drills work during COVID-19. As long as Governor Murphy has a declared HEALTH EMERGENCY in the State, the code regarding one fire drill per month will be waived. There is no waiver for security drills for the upcoming school year. We will still be required to hold one security drill per month (per legislation). During the first two months, we will be utilizing the provision in the legislation which allows for drills to be held without students. These will be "Communication Drills". Think of this as the "test of the emergency broadcast system". Once we reach November, we will have to run drills (lockdown, shelter-in-place, etc.). If we are in the building, and the State has not provided a waiver, the Department will be giving us ideas as to how to safely run the drills without "watering down" the purpose of the drill.

23. How can staff safely manage students who require toileting needs or other health needs? Staff should continue to follow all Standards of Universal Precaution when toileting students. As a measure of increased precaution, staff should wear a face shield in addition to a mask, gown and gloves at all times when toileting students. In reference to students with medical needs, the same level of caution should be followed. Social distancing should be followed, when possible, when working with students with health impairments. Staff will model concepts and tasks for students to increase student independence which would allow for additional opportunities for social distancing. When social distancing is not possible, safety garments will be worn.

Food Service

- 1. How will students eat during the school day?** It depends on the schedule. If students are in school for a full day, they will order their meal at the beginning of the school day via their chromebooks. The meal will be delivered during 4th bell/period, where they will have 20

minutes to eat while in the classroom. Trash cans will be in the hallway for students to remove their trash from the classroom. If the students are in a half day, then they will be given a bagged lunch as they exit for the school day. As always, students can bring their own lunch.

2. **Will be meals be available to students receiving free/reduced lunch benefits on the days we are not in school?** Yes, meals will be available for pick-up at each school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
3. **What are the food choices for students?** If we are delivering meals to classrooms or providing bagged lunches at the time of exiting school, the choices for lunch will be limited, but still within the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.
4. **My child stays after school, will there be snacks available?** Yes, we will have after school snacks and a la carte items available for purchase.
5. **What about breakfast?** Breakfast will also be available as the second station after students are completed their health screening. Kiosks will be set up in multiple hallways.
6. **Are free meals available for every student?** No, only those families that qualify for free/reduced lunch can receive those benefits. You can complete the forms to receive these benefits at the beginning of the school year.

USE OF FACILITY

1. **Will outside groups be permitted to use our school facilities?** Outside groups may not use our indoor facilities through the month of January 2021. We will reevaluate our position based on the COVID-19 infection rates. Outside groups may use our outdoor facilities. We do not have the staff to appropriately clean those spaces, nor do we want to increase exposure to our staff and students by inviting in outside use.