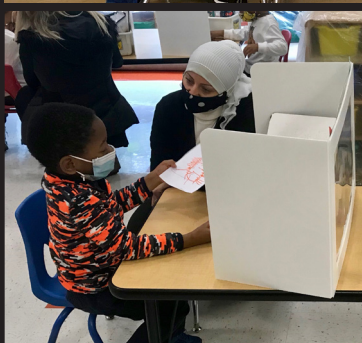


LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY - EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION - COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

2021-22 School Year Reopening Plan

Reimagining Excellence and Distinction
in Linden Public Schools



The Superintendent reserves the right to modify all aforementioned guidance based upon current information from the Governor's Office, New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Union County Board of Health.



Linden Public Schools

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Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

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Reopening 2021-22

Linden Public Schools are looking forward to a successful return to school for the 2021-22 school year! We are eager to get back to a sense of normalcy after a year disrupted by hybrid and virtual learning, but we must recognize the challenges that the continuing COVID-19 pandemic presents.

These guidelines attempt to walk the fine line that gives our students the education they need and the care and protection they deserve. Please familiarize yourself with this reopening plan, and send any questions to our dedicated email hotline: **LPSreopen2021@lindenps.org**

Overview

- All schools will be open for full-day, in-person instruction five days a week.
- Lunches will be served. Schools will monitor and may make modifications to the lunch location or schedule as needed.
- Before and After Care programs will resume, following New Jersey guidelines for maximum capacity.
- All staff and students will be required to wear a mask inside schools. (See below for details.)
- All plans are subject to change based on guidance from federal, state, and local health officials and changing circumstances.
- Specific guidelines will be provided by each school.



Educational setting

- Classrooms will be set up to maximize social distancing and air quality in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Every classroom will have two air purifiers, allowing for windows to be closed during cold or inclement weather.
- School hallways and every classroom and office will have hand sanitizer provided.
- Desks will be sanitized between classes, and changing of classes will be limited in elementary schools.
- Custodians will sanitize touch points throughout the school day.
- Remote instruction will be available **ONLY** in cases of mandatory quarantine.

Masks

- On February 7, 2022, Governor Phil Murphy announced that Executive Order 251, which mandated that all students, staff and visitors to Linden Public Schools wear face coverings inside of all school district premises, will expire on March 7, 2022. With the expiration of this mandate, effective March 7, 2022, face coverings for all students, staff and visitors shall be optional in Linden Public Schools, unless face coverings are required by law.
- Masks are required on school buses regardless of vaccination status, as mandated by CDC.



COVID-19 symptoms

- If a student has any COVID-related symptoms, they must stay home, and the school nurse should be contacted.
- Siblings who attend school must stay home as well, unless they are vaccinated.
- If there is anyone in a household with symptoms or awaiting COVID test results, all unvaccinated students in the household must remain home.
- If a student is sent home from school with a cough or any other two COVID symptoms, they may not return until a negative COVID test is presented. Unvaccinated siblings will be sent home from school as well.

Quarantine

- Vaccinated staff and students will not be required to quarantine following a close contact, unless they are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated students and staff will be required to quarantine for an optimum time of 14 days if contact tracing determines they had close contact with an individual who is or is suspected of being COVID-19 positive.
- Quarantine may be shortened to end after Day 7 with a negative COVID-19 test result collected between five and seven days of quarantine, or after Day 10 if testing has not been performed.

Vaccinations

- All staff members must be vaccinated for COVID-19 by Oct. 18, 2021, or must be tested weekly, as mandated by Governor Murphy's executive order.



Travel

- Staff and students should monitor their symptoms following travel but will not be required to quarantine.

Attendance

- The district's policy regarding excessive absences remains in place and applies to all students.
- A student's medical diagnosis or condition will be taken into consideration when reviewing attendance.
- Staff or students who are sick or show symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to school.



Extracurricular activities

- Middle and high school athletics will have a full schedule of practices and games.
- Temperature checks will no longer be required of athletes or coaches before games and practices.
- In the event of a positive COVID-19 case on a team, vaccinated players and coaches will be allowed to continue participating. Unvaccinated coaches and players determined to have come in close contact with the positive individual will be required to quarantine. (See Quarantine requirements above.)
- After-school clubs and activities will resume, following guidelines for masks and social distancing.