



Margate City Board of Education

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Planning a Safe Return: 2021-22 School Opening

September 2021

Dear Margate and Longport Families:

As we prepare for opening day on September 9 when we welcome the students back for a new school year of full day classes, I want to share some details related to our school operations. Many of the restrictions from the pandemic have been lifted, while others have been mandated and added. This is a very fluid situation. While we strive to provide a more “normal” school experience for our students, we continue to be prepared for a number of possible scenarios so that we can respond quickly and decisively to keep our district community safe. Likewise, the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the Atlantic County Health Department periodically provide guidance that we must consider and comply with. Please refer to our district website both now and during the year for current updates, as we know how important communication between home and school is and plan to keep relevant information at your fingertips.

Since last June, we have updated our Safe Reopening Plan as per NJDOE requirements and each version is available on our website. These plans outline many of the safety practices we will be following, including daily facilities cleaning and sanitizing, improved ventilation systems within each building, close contact and positive Covid case management, and classroom guidelines for distancing and mask use. As previously mentioned, the plan and our necessary protocols can change quickly and often as we (public schools) are not provided much advance notice when mandates are enacted, so we appreciate your trust and confidence in us to safely educate your children during this pandemic.

Ultimately, the district’s top priority is keeping all our children safe and in school for full day learning and peer experiences! The staff is excited to see the students and provide an enriching year of academic success and social/emotional growth for 2021-22.

Please see below as a quick reference guide to our Safe Return protocols and instructional practices for September 2021. Here we compare 2021-22 with 2020-21 to help students, staff, and families see how the current plan will differ from the previous year. More detailed information on many of these protocols can be found on our website.

Sincerely yours, Mrs. Audrey Becker, Superintendent

School Opening Comparison Chart

Protocols	2020-21 school year	2021 Fall opening
Full school day	No	YES!
Small class sizes	Yes	Yes
Cohorts	By grade level in PreK-4, by class in 5-8	Still keeping most grades as cohorts, but more mixing due to full day activities
Masks in building	Required except for brief May-June exemption	Required by EO 251
Masks on buses	Required	Required
Social distancing in school	6 ft	3 ft
Lunchtime in school	No	Yes
Lunches available to students	Yes, free to all but must be ordered daily	Yes, free to all but must be ordered daily
All virtual option that guardians can request	Yes	No
Remote learning for students quarantined due to Covid exposure	Yes	Yes
Daily screening form (paper or electronic)	Yes	No
Temperature check of all who enter school	Yes	Yes
Use of lockers (middle school)	No	Yes
Sharing of items/supplies in school	No	Limited, but not restricted
Class parties and birthdays (elementary)	Only individually wrapped treats handled by staff	Yes
Extracurricular clubs	Yes, when possible	Yes
Athletic teams	Yes, when possible	Yes
Vaccine for staff	Not required	Required by EO 253
Vaccine for eligible students	Not required	Not required
Back to School Night	Virtual	In Person
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Virtual	In Person or Virtual (allow parent choice)
Travel quarantines	Yes, at various times	Not at this time