



Neshaminy School District

Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

We Build Futures

Good Morning Neshaminy,

As we prepared for the Commonwealth's School Mask Order to expire on January 17, 2022, the PA Supreme Court issued a Verbal Ruling on Friday at 4:00 PM striking down the School Mask Order. (You can't write this stuff...)

As a result, Neshaminy will accelerate the January 17, 2022 plan to begin instead on Monday, December 13, 2021.

Neshaminy COVID Communicable Disease Procedure Revisions

Masks:

- Wearing a Mask is recommended for students when in school.
- Masks for students will be an individual student/parent choice in schools.
- Masks will remain a requirement on School Buses as per Federal Requirement.
- Neshaminy Staff and Contractors will be expected to wear a mask indoors when within 6 feet of students and/or other staff.
- Masks will not be required outdoors.
- Mask Expectations for Indoor Special Events – Athletic, Co-curricular and Social – will be determined on an event-by-event basis by District Administration.

Distancing:

- Elementary Lunch Time will remain in the classroom until a time determined by District Administration.
- Middle School Lunches will remain with individual desks in the cafeteria until a time determined by District Administration.
- Otherwise, there are no distancing requirements.

COVID Positive:

- COVID Positive students and staff will be excluded from school/work for 10 days from symptom-onset or testing date, whichever was first.

Close Contacts:

- Contact Tracing will continue as established since September 2021. The District Cabinet continues to meet daily to review all COVID Cases in the District to ensure we are maintaining a safe environment.

Exclusions from School/Work:

Vaccinated and/or Masked Students/Staff:

- Vaccinated students/staff will not be excluded when a Close Contact, but will be required to wear a mask for 10 days from last contact. *
- Masked students/staff will not be excluded when a Close Contact, but will be required to wear a mask for 10 days from last contact. *

Unmasked AND Unvaccinated Students/Staff:

- Students/Staff who are both Unmasked & Unvaccinated when a Close Contact will be excluded for 10 days.
- Or Students/Staff who are both Unmasked & Unvaccinated when a Close Contact will be excluded 7 days given a negative COVID Test on Day 5 or later. The individual will then be required to wear a mask for 10 days from last contact.*

* Eating and Mask Breaks at greater than 6 feet from others

Notifications/Dashboarding:

- Notifications and Dashboarding will continue as established since September 2021.

Vaccinations:

- COVID Vaccinations will remain the personal choice of students and staff.

Random and Test-to-Stay Practices:

- Neshaminy will not be participating in Cyclical or Randomized COVID Testing of Students or Staff.

Other School Activities:

- Athletic, Co-curricular and Social Events will return without distancing requirements. Mask Requirements will be determined on an event-by-event basis.
- If not specifically indicated otherwise for a particular event, Masks are recommended; and a personal choice.

Discussion:

The following is worth restating for clarity -- whether you believe the COVID Vaccination is effective or not, whether you believe Masks are effective or not. Procedurally, being fully vaccinated will prevent a student from being excluded from school when in Close Contact with a COVID Positive Individual. Procedurally, wearing a Mask will prevent a student from being excluded from school when in Close Contact with a COVID Positive Individual. So, if you choose not to be vaccinated AND not to wear a Mask in School and are in Close Contact with a Positive COVID Individual, you will be excluded from school. I respectfully suggest students, minimally, have a mask with them at all times and wear it when in proximity to others at less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes to eliminate any potential interruption in their education and participation in activities.

I realize there is no Win-Win scenario in this situation; as a Nation, we are polarized on the topic of Masks in school. However, as a District and Community, Neshaminy has successfully managed each turn of the COVID Pandemic over the past two years. We have done so by being well-planned, transparent and well-communicated along with being respectful and civil in our debates. I respectfully ask that we all "Put down our Swords" until January and permit the students and staff to move to the Winter Break without further disruption to the school environment.

It is my sincere hope the next few months will bring us another step closer to a more normal and continued safe school environment as we inch our way to living with COVID in the Endemic state. With success on the above changes, the next iteration is returning cafeterias to normal operation and hopefully, the Nation, State and/or County will revise the Close Contact Exclusion Expectations.

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors will meet in a Public Work Session on January 11, 2022. At that time, the Board may choose to adopt, revise or take no action on the aforementioned COVID Mitigation Practices.

Details of any additional recommended changes to the COVID Mitigation Practice for the January 11 Work Session will come in advance of the meeting during the Week of January 2.

With Continued Neshaminy Pride

Rob

215-809-6500

Rob McGee, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Neshaminy School District

rmcgee@neshaminy.org

My past emails may be found at www.neshaminy.org/Page/42023