

# 2021 PARENT COVID FAQ

Updated 12/13/21

We know you have questions; we hope this document helps!

## Quarantine Virtual Instruction Guidelines

<p>What qualifies as a COVID required quarantine and provides for approved virtual learning (zoom link provided by school)?</p> <p>When will COVID Quarantine instruction be allowed:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A student is COVID positive.</li><li>2. A student is in quarantine as a close contact.</li><li>3. A student is in quarantine for some extenuating circumstances (permitted by administration).</li><li>4. A student is awaiting test results and results are not available within two days. Virtual instruction will be allowed beginning the third day.</li></ol>
<p>When will quarantine instruction begin?</p>	<p>Quarantine Instruction will begin 24 hours after the quarantine begins.</p>
<p>Will a remote learning option be provided for other illnesses, unrelated to COVID-19?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> As per the NJDOE and Governor's directives, remote learning will not be provided for other illnesses, as they are often short lived, and students should focus on their medical recovery.</p>
<p>What does Quarantine Virtual Instruction look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will access the live instructional portion via a zoom link provided by the school. Students will also have access to Schoology to access some assignments and submit work.</li><li>• <b><u>Be aware that the focus of the teacher's instruction will remain on the in person students.</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Parents will need to provide support at home for virtual learning.</u></b></li></ul>
<p>How long does Quarantine Instruction last?</p>	<p><b>It depends...</b> You must contact the school nurse immediately upon any information related to COVID in regard to your child. The below link from the New Jersey Department of Health dated October 8, 2021 has the most recent exclusion criteria found on <b><u>page 12</u></b> for positive cases, symptomatic individuals and close contacts.</p> <p><b>Always contact your school nurse who will guide you through this.</b></p> <p><a href="#">RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>What about class tests or assessments when students are quarantined?</b></p>	<p>These decisions will be left to the individual teacher, who may decide if it is - or isn't - appropriate to administer assessments to online excluded students. Teachers may also decide to postpone the assessment or provide an alternative assessment.</p>
<p><b>Quarantined Student Responsibilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantined students will join the class virtually.</li> <li>• Students will access instructional materials provided by the teacher.</li> <li>• If a student is having difficulty accessing the information, the student, or parent as appropriate, is to email the teacher to make them aware of the situation.</li> <li>• Students will submit completed work following teacher directions as applicable.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technology during Quarantine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and/or parents can request chrome books for use during quarantine.</li> <li>• Technology support will be available as needed.</li> </ul>

# STUDENT EXCLUSIONS(Quarantine)

The NJ Departments of Health and Education have provided districts with guidance on when quarantining will take place. The following will help families better understand when their child may be required to quarantine.

<p><b>What constitutes being a “<a href="#">close contact</a>” for an unvaccinated student?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><a href="#">In a classroom setting:</a></b> Unmasked, unvaccinated students who were 3 feet or less from a diagnosed COVID positive student for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">Outdoors:</a></b> Masked or unmasked, unvaccinated students who were 3 feet or less from a diagnosed COVID positive student for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">Other school settings such as lunch room &amp; hallways:</a></b> Masked or unmasked, unvaccinated students who were within 6 feet of someone with diagnosed COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A VACCINATED student is not considered a close contact.</b></p>
<p><b>How many days does my child need to quarantine if <a href="#">COVID positive</a>?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For a <a href="#">symptomatic</a> person - <b><a href="#">10 days from the first</a></b> day that COVID symptoms began and at least 24-hours symptom free.</li> <li>• For an <a href="#">asymptomatic</a> person - <b><a href="#">10 Days from the day</a></b> that the COVID test result is received.</li> </ul>

<p>How many days does my <u>unvaccinated</u> child need to quarantine if found to be a close contact of a positive person?</p>	<p>14 days from last day of contact.</p>
<p>What happens if my child has <u>undergone COVID testing</u> due to symptoms and we are waiting for the results?</p>	<p>Until such a time that a negative test result is received, you must <u>keep your child home</u> and also must keep home siblings until such time as that negative test is obtained.</p>
<p>What happens to <u>unvaccinated siblings</u> in the case where one sibling has symptoms in the household?</p>	<p>Unvaccinated siblings in a home where their sibling has exhibited COVID-like symptoms <u>will also be excluded</u> from school for up to 10 days, or permitted to return when the sibling with symptoms receives a negative PCR test.</p> <p>If the sibling with symptoms tests positive for COVID, that sibling stays out for 10 days and the sibling must now be quarantined for 14 additional days.</p>
<p>When would a <u>classroom or an entire school</u> be required to quarantine?</p>	<p><u>An entire classroom</u> may be quarantined based upon specific circumstances that would be evaluated on a case by case basis. This may depend on the number of cases in a classroom, or the extent of potential exposure in the classroom.</p> <p><u>Entire School</u>: We will work in conjunction with the Health Department and will take into consideration the extent of COVID positive cases and exposures. Rules in this regard are in constant flux.</p>
<p>What are the rules for <u>exclusion if my child has COVID-like symptoms</u>?</p>	<p><u>Regardless of vaccination status</u>, a child with symptoms needs to be excluded for 10 days, or until they have received a negative PCR COVID test result that has been reviewed by the school nurse. This all needs to be communicated to the school nurse at the onset of symptoms.</p>
<p>How will I be <u>notified</u> if my child is going to be excluded from school for a COVID related reason?</p>	<p>You will receive a letter from your child's school or in some instances, a phone call from the school.</p>

## HVAC/Air Quality

<p>Are our classrooms equipped with air purifying systems to improve the air quality in classrooms?</p>	<p>NUI has been equipped with an ionization purification system since 2020.</p>
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# Health and Safety Protocols

<p>What should I do if my child is sick with COVID-like symptoms?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME! NOTIFY THE SCHOOL NURSE. KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME!! CALL YOUR PEDIATRICIAN. KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME!!!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>THIS IS THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COVID (OR OTHER INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS)</b></p> <p>The NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:  <b>At least two of the following symptoms:</b> fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose;  <b>OR</b>  <b>At least one of the following symptoms:</b> cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.</p>
<p>Will there be a daily Health Check?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> There will not be a daily health check by the school. <b>But parents must use this daily health check before bringing their child to school.</b>  <a href="#">NUI docs\Daily Health Check.pdf</a></p>
<p>Will there be a Daily Reminder about the importance of making sure my child does not have a temperature and is not exhibiting any COVID-like symptoms?</p>	<p><b>Yes,</b> you will receive a daily email reminder to make sure your child is symptom free before sending them to school.</p>
<p>Will there be Temp Checks?</p>	<p><b>Yes,</b> temperature checks are made before your child enters their first period.</p>
<p>What will happen if my child gets sick with COVID symptoms while at school?</p>	<p>The nurse will contact you. Please make sure that your emergency numbers are updated in the Sycamore. It is very important that we can reach you when necessary.</p>
<p>What happens if another student/staff member in my child's</p>	<p>You will be contacted if there is a COVID related issue that impacts your child or your child's class.</p>

class is sick with COVID Symptoms?	
Will there be social distancing during the day?	Desks have been spaced at least 3 feet apart. During lunch and snack, students are given an opportunity to sit farther apart by dividing classes in two as often as possible or eating outdoors when weather permits. This is done as much as possible but keeping in mind that children's behavior cannot be controlled 100%.
Beyond masks, what other safety measures will be in place?	We will continue with our health and cleaning procedures from last school-year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>We will continue to regularly reinforce proper hand hygiene routines and respiratory etiquette.</b></li> <li>● <b>We will maximize physical distancing whenever possible.</b></li> <li>● <b>We will maintain strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols.</b></li> <li>● <b>We will comply with all NJDOH, NJDOE and Governor's health and safety guidance.</b></li> </ul>
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We will continue to maintain strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols inclusive of daily and regular touch point sanitizing.</li> <li>● <b><u>The District is outfitted with ionic scrubbers within its HVAC equipment that meet/exceed all standards for COVID.</u></b></li> </ul>
How will we know the number of positive cases in the school?	We will create a place on the website that will be updated for weekly positive rates in the school.
Where will my child eat?	Students will eat lunch in the classrooms, or outside or in MOD 3 depending on how they are divided into their groups and on the weather.  Each division is managing their lunch and snack time based on their space and needs.
Water	Communal water fountains will be off limits. Students should bring their own water bottles. Refillable water stations are available.
What if I have an appointment at the school? What do I need to do?	If you have an appointment at the school, you'll need to fill out the visitor health screening form. In-person visits will continue to be limited at this time.
What if I need to pick my child up early (for an appointment or if they are sent home sick)?	We ask that when possible you call prior to arriving at the school and share that you will be picking up your child. Once you are at the school, please ring the bell and inform office staff that you will be picking your child up. They will call for your child and bring them to you. You will be asked to sign your child out before departing.

# Masks

**Masks will be required to be worn by all students and staff (some exclusions outlined below) including all visitors to our buildings as per the [Governor's Executive Order 251](#) that states that students and staff in K-12 schools will be required to wear masks at the start of the school year. - This includes being fully masked on school buses at all times. All school codes of conduct will be updated with this state mandate. We will of course monitor any change to this mandate.**

Does every child need to wear a mask all day?	<b>Per Executive Order 251</b> , masks will be required indoors for all students, staff, and visitors. Teachers will allow students to have mask breaks when possible.
Will the school district provide my child with a mask?	<b>No</b> , each family is responsible for providing their child with a mask that fits and can be worn for the full day over the child's nose and mouth. However, if a child does need a mask due to forgetting or the like, the school will have masks available.
Is there a particular kind of mask my child needs?	<b>No</b> , just one that covers the mouth and nose and is comfortable for your child. Please make sure that it fits properly and make sure that your child has several masks as back-ups.
Will there be mask breaks?	<b>Yes</b> . The teachers will allow students to socially distance and have mask breaks as needed and as appropriate.
What if a student does not wear their mask?	A student that willfully chooses to not wear their mask will be subject to the school's code of conduct and will face similar consequences to other school infractions.
What if a parent/visitor seeks to enter the schools without a mask?	They will not be granted access.
Does the mask mandate apply to any school-sponsored event, even if outdoors?	Executive Order 251 mask mandate only applies to school activities in the "indoor portion of school district premises."
How does a parent/guardian seek an exemption from the mask mandate on behalf of a student?	Requests for exemptions based upon health reasons or medical conditions must be supported by medical documentation from a medical professional. Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient under Executive Order 251 and 253. Reach out to the school nurse and principal with such requests.

# Vaccinations

As of the writing of this FAQ, there is no mandate that students be vaccinated to be allowed to come to school. Currently vaccines are available and easy to obtain for individuals 5 years and older.

A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19, 2 weeks after receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) or 2 weeks after receipt of the single dose of the Janssen (J&J) vaccine.

The NJDOH Vaccine Resources [https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/COVID2019\\_vaccination.shtml](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/COVID2019_vaccination.shtml)

Is my 12 year old or older child required to be vaccinated to be allowed to come to school?	<b>No</b> , there is no mandate at this time. If this changes, we will let the community know immediately.
Are staff required to be vaccinated to be allowed to work in the school?	<b>Yes</b> , all staff must either be vaccinated, or undergo weekly COVID testing. This has been in effect since the start of the school year.
What if my child is asked to discuss his/her vaccination status?	The only people who will ever need to inquire about a child's vaccination status are those associated with formal contact tracing to determine close contacts.
Can parents and/or guardians see confirmation that staff members have been vaccinated?	<b>No</b> . The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (NJLAD), and other regulations require that vaccination results should not be made public.
Can parents and/or guardians request that their child only be assigned to a classroom in which the teacher has been vaccinated?	<b>No</b> . Vaccination status will not be used to make student placements.

## Social Distancing (SD)

In [The Road Forward](#) the term, "Practicable" is used often to refer to when something can be implemented and when it may not be able to be. The strict rule that must be followed is that we must operate on our traditional full day schedule, for all students. As a result of this directive, much of what we were able to implement last year when we had small percentages of students in-person will not be able to be implemented when we have 100% of our students. Social Distancing is one of the big ones and I know one of the ones on people's minds. I want to be both clear and realistic in sharing our approach. Here is how we are approaching this important topic knowing that in order for us to meet the mandate, SD will not be possible in the way it was last year.

<p><b>What will social distancing look like for the start of the school year?</b></p>	<p><u>Classrooms</u> Desks are spaced at least 3 feet apart.</p> <p><u>Hallways and open areas</u> Students will be asked to maintain distance but human behavior cannot be controlled 100%.</p> <p><u>Outdoors</u> This is a place where it is easier to manage the space, but of course, a place where students themselves will be more prone to being close to friends. They will be allowed to have mask free breaks when they are distanced.</p>
<p><b>Contact Tracing and Notification</b></p>	<p><b><u>Exception to close contact in K-12 classroom only</u></b> - In an indoor setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were at least 3 feet away from an infected student where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.</p>

# Travel Rules

This policy has been developed to best protect the NUI community based on standards set by the CDC and NJDOH. These requirements were designed to have clear rules for travel that errs on the side of safety for our school community.

## Students Who Quarantine for Travel

- Vaccinated International Travel
- Unvaccinated International Travel
  - Domestic Travel

A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19, 2 weeks after receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) or 2 weeks after receipt of the single dose of the Janssen (J&J)vaccine.

<p><b>What should I do if my child has traveled or plans to travel out of state?</b></p>	<p><b>You should immediately notify the school (division office and nurse) of travel plans prior to travel and upon return from travel.</b></p>
<p><b>What are the quarantine rules for a child planning to or has travelled internationally?</b></p>	<p>International Travel <b>Unvaccinated</b> - <u>Self-quarantine for 10 days</u> after travel prior to returning to school as long as symptom free.</p> <p>International Travel <b>Vaccinated</b> - <u>May return to school 7 days after travel</u> as long as they produce a negative viral test, where the test was taken 3-5 days after returning from travel. Without producing a negative viral test, individuals must quarantine for 10 days.</p>
<p><b>What are the quarantine rules for a child planning to or has travelled domestically?</b></p>	<p>Travel <b>Unvaccinated</b> - <u>Self-quarantine for 7 days after return from travel as long as your child receives a negative COVID test. The earliest a student can return after</u></p>



**domestic travel is 7 days. Optimal testing should take place 3-5 days after return from travel.** Parents are expected to manage this COVID testing on their own. If child is not COVID tested upon return, your child will need to stay out of school for 10-days after return from travel. Please make sure to communicate with the school so they are aware of your child's travel.

**Domestic Travel Vaccinated** - Those returning from domestic travel who are fully vaccinated are **not required to quarantine** and may return to school without delay as long as symptom free.

**\*\*Domestic travel for unvaccinated students is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to New Jersey, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware \*\***

#### Useful Links and Resources

[The latest CDC school guidance](#)  
[The latest from American Pediatrics on school reopening](#)