

2021-2022 Clifton Safe Return to In-person Instruction

Updated: August 18, 2021



CLIFTON SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION 2021-2022

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service
Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i), following
guidance from COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health
Departments for K-12 Schools and Restart and Recovery Plan CPS and NJDOE

Leverages Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds
to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts
of the COVID-19 pandemic on Clifton's students.

Please note that as information from the New Jersey Department of Education and
the New Jersey Department of Health continues to change, Clifton Public Schools will
modify this plan accordingly and with opportunities for public comment.

Plan review and updates will take place at minimum every six months.

This is the first revision.

ONE-CLIFTON GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Ensuring the health and safety of students and staff in an inclusive manner has been at the forefront of every aspect of this plan. All decisions and choices have been made with this guiding principle.



MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Clifton Public Schools are committed to opening to full day, full time, five day per week schedules beginning on the first day of school Thursday, September 2, 2021.

Our ability to remain on this schedule and to remain open will require everyone's attention to the key items described in tonight's presentation.



MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The district will maintain communication with local and state health authorities.
- Expectations have been set for staff, students, and parents on:
 - Handwashing techniques
 - Proper hygiene
 - Use of face coverings as mandated
 - Indoor/Outdoor
 - Vaccine considerations
 - Parental responsibilities for reporting COVID-19 symptoms
 - Contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, per Health Department guidance.



MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Screening

- Protocols for daily entrance, hand disinfecting, and use of face coverings are posted in main entrance areas.
- Parents will acknowledge the COVID-19 reporting responsibilities form upon logging into the Parent Portal before the first day of school, September 2, 2021, and at Progress and Report Card distribution. **This takes place of the Daily COVID-19 Screening form.**
- Staff, students, and parents are expected to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily before arriving at school.
- Self-monitoring includes self-assessing if you have been in contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 AND/OR you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. If so, please stay home and contact the school to determine next steps.
- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated and **symptom free** do not need to quarantine at this time.
- Staff, students in PreK-12 and all approved visitors (by appointment only) must wear masks in school including classrooms, entrance to the building, hallways, and shared areas.
- Meetings will be held virtually when possible.

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protective Measures

- All students, educators, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face masks indoors per Governor Murphy's Executive Order 251.
- Heat considerations will be made at the discretion of building principal.
- Exceptions to the mask mandate are as follows:
 - When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
 - When the individual has trouble breathing, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
 - When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes the use of a face covering;
 - When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face-covering;
 - When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic activity;
 - When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals;
 - or When wearing a face-covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.



<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210806b.shtml>

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protective Measures

- Plastic shields are secured on desks and tables, as well as plastic barriers in offices.
- Three foot spacing in all areas to the degree possible.
- Classrooms and common areas are equipped with hand-sanitizing, disinfecting stations.
- Frequent cleaning of all high touch areas.
- Windows opened for increased ventilation
- Air scrubbers are installed in all classrooms and shared spaces
- All nurses and staff in isolation area provided PPE including disposable gowns, appropriate masks, face shields and gloves, per applicable guidance.
- Assigned seating / seating charts in all classrooms, cafeterias, and on buses to facilitate contact tracing.



CONTACT TRACING

Contact Tracing:

- The district will continue to use contact tracing to identify any close contacts to confirmed COVID cases.
- A "close contact" is anyone who spent 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period and was within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 while they were infectious (2 days before onset of symptoms to 10 days after).
- These individuals will need to quarantine for 10 days after the verification.
- Virtual options will be available to student(s) or class(es) that need to quarantine as a result of district contact tracing.

WHAT IS CONTACT TRACING?

New Jersey Contact Tracing



Contact tracing is the process used to **identify those who come into contact with people who have tested positive** for many contagious diseases in order to inform them, provide guidance, and offer support.

Contact tracing is a **long-standing practice in New Jersey and around the world.**

WHY IS CONTACT TRACING IMPORTANT?



If you tested positive for COVID-19, you may have spread the virus to others without knowing it. Those individuals could now be infected and putting their loved ones at risk.

Contact tracing is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and keeping you, your loved ones, and your community safe and healthy.

HOW DOES CONTACT TRACING WORK?



- 1 CASE INTERVIEW...**

...if you test positive for COVID-19, a contact tracer will reach out



The contact tracer will connect you with medical care and any help you might need to keep your loved ones safe.

They will also ask about where you have been and your "close contacts," including how to reach them.

Close contacts are anyone who was within 6 feet of you, for more than 15 minutes cumulatively in the past 24 hours
- 2 CONTACT NOTIFICATION...**

...to alert of potential exposure and provide support



A contact tracer will then call your contacts and provide information on how they can protect themselves and their loved ones, for example:

 - Understanding their risk
 - How they can monitor for illness
 - How to prevent spreading the virus (even if they do not feel ill)
 - Where to get tested
 - Local support services
- 3 FOLLOW-UP...**

...to support contacts with testing and quarantine



For the next 14 days, contacts will receive daily follow-ups, either through text messaging or phone calls, to monitor their health and further connect them with the support and resources they may need.

Contact tracers will collect **minimum data** (only what is needed to keep your close contacts safe), use it for **limited purposes** (stopping the spread of COVID-19), and restrict who it is shared with.

We will NEVER share your name or personal information. We take your privacy seriously.

QUARANTINE PROTOCOL – (NJDOH)

- 14-day quarantine is preferred for all individuals and groups where feasible
- Quarantine Timeframes when COVID-19 transmission risk is Moderate or Low:
 - After Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring, OR
 - After Day 7 if the individual tests negative with a viral test (molecular-PCR) between day 5-7 and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring.

Minimum Quarantine Timeframes by COVID-19 Regional Transmission Risk Level (CALI Score)²

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<i>14 days is always preferred as the best way to prevent COVID-19 transmission.</i>			
10 days without testing OR 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	10 days without testing OR 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	14 days for group settings and organized activities 14 days for individuals unless it causes <u>significant</u> economic or other hardship ONLY IF 14 days is <u>not feasible</u>, follow 10 days without testing OR 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days	14 days for group settings and organized activities 14 days for individuals unless it causes <u>significant</u> economic or other hardship ONLY IF 14 days is <u>not feasible</u>, follow 10 days without testing OR 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days

TRAVEL

- Students and staff must follow up to date NJDOH travel guidance.
- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated and **symptom free** do not need to quarantine.
- Unvaccinated students and staff **must quarantine prior to return to school** following most updated guidance.
- Please be mindful of this as we approach the beginning of school.

Summary of Quarantine Timeframes After Travel

Fully Vaccinated Travelers:

- International travel: Get tested 3-5 days after returning to the United States, but no quarantine needed
- For domestic travel, no quarantine or test before or after travel needed

Travelers who Clinically Recovered from COVID-19 in past 3 months:

- No quarantine or pre- or post-travel test needed

Unvaccinated Travelers:

- Defer travel until fully vaccinated
- Before travel, get tested with a viral test 1-3 days before the trip
- Get tested 3-5 days after travel
- Stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if the post-travel test is negative. If not tested after travel, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

CDC Travel Recommendations:

CDC Domestic Travel during COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>;

International Travel during COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

NJ Travel Advisory: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>



VACCINATION EFFORTS

- The district has coordinated efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, staff, and students, if eligible.
- Clifton Public Schools continues to work collaboratively with Clifton Health Department to provide vaccinations to staff, community members and eligible students.
- The vaccination outreach programs will continue.
- Clifton Public Schools has also collaborated with local medical facilities to publicize vaccination clinics throughout the county.
- Vaccination documentation will be requested through the Parent Portal. This information is voluntary at this time and may be requested pending updated NJDOH guidance.



SCHOOL YEAR MEAL PROGRAM

In accordance with NJDOH recommendations social distancing, assigned seating, and multiple meal locations will be designated as appropriate for each school site.

Breakfast Program and Breakfast After the Bell will be available in all schools

Additional staff will be utilized to monitor expanded meal locations across campuses.

ALL Students are eligible for meals at no cost this year due to the Department of Agriculture Waiver. Families must still complete the **Free and Reduced Meal Program 2021-2022 Application** form on the district website

Community meal distribution will cease after August 31, 2021



TRANSPORTATION



- The Clifton Public Schools District will continue to provide transportation to and from school for students eligible to take the bus as per NJ Department of Education guidelines.
 - Purchased additional buses to facilitate distancing and alleviate crowded bus routes
 - Masks will be required for all students, bus drivers, and aides as mandated
 - Special Accommodations as needed
 - Air Ventilation - Bus windows will remain open, weather permitting, to ensure air circulation throughout the bus.
 - Buses will be cleaned between each route
 - Buses will be disinfected each night
 - Loading/Exiting Procedures - Buses will be loaded from back to front and discharged from front to back
 - Assigned seating



CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION

Return to **full day, full time, five day per week in-person instruction:**



SCHOOLS	2021-2022 SCHOOL HOURS
PreK	9:10-3:20*
Elementary Schools	8:50-3:20
Middle Schools	7:45-2:40
High School	7:30-2:00

*Depending on program

CONTINUITY OF INSTRUCTION

- Instructional pacing and curriculum adjusted for learning acceleration
- Individualized instruction expanded through schedule modifications, programmatic changes, and additional staff to provide student instructional support
- Pursuant to expiration of portions of Executive Order 175, the full-time remote learning option has been rescinded.
- All teachers will maintain a Google Classroom as a best practice for instruction and in case of school or class quarantine.
- Home Instruction will be available for students with documented medical needs per Policy #2412



INSTRUCTIONAL ACCELERATION

- Expanded day, week and year options will be offered through 2022 including:
 - Increased summer school offerings
 - Saturday programs
 - Before and After school in-person and virtual tutoring options K-12
- Student learning supports
 - Additional Basic Skills, Reading Specialists, and Content Coaches to provide small groups instruction, inclusion and pullout services
 - Enhanced use of technology programs such as Imagine Math and MyOn Reader
 - Special Education programs expanded
 - Leverage technology to support best practices



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS

- Programs to support the whole-child in transitioning back to full-time in-person learning
 - PBSIS Multi-Tiered System of Supports
 - All schools have completed training for the universal prevention tiers
 - Expansion of Tier 2
 - Increased staff to support Tier 3 interventions
 - Social Emotional Learning Programs
 - Nurtured Heart Programs
 - Trauma Informed Compassionate Classroom
 - Mindfulness
 - Virtual Calming Resources for Staff and Students
 - Wellness Days
 - Additional counseling staff to provide at least one counselor at every elementary school
 - Counseling support expanded PK to 12 with additional staff and contracted services



MUSIC AND ART

- Singing will take place again in vocal music classrooms and chorus as long as the students are masked
- Instrumental music will take place again with bell covers on proper band instruments.
- Art materials, along with the child's desk/table will be wiped down at the end of each period when students travel to art rooms
- Designated Art and Music rooms will be utilized where available



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND ATHLETICS

- Return to more normalized extra-curricular offerings
- Clubs and activities will be held in-person and online based on the specific needs of the program offered
- Assemblies and student performances will be held, and field trips will take place following NJDOE guidelines.
- Physical Education will be held outdoors, when possible, with low impact options for indoor activities.
- Athletics will continue following NJDOH guidance and NJSIAA rules



WRAP-AROUND SERVICES

- The district is collaborating with Boys and Girls Club to provide before and after-care. Please contact the Boys and Girls Club directly by calling 973-773-0966 or visiting the website at <https://www.bgccclifton.org/>
- Minds in Motion Program will be held at Schools 4, 12 and 17.
- Health and safety guidelines in place:
 - Social distancing between groups
 - Mask and health and safety protocols in place as mandated



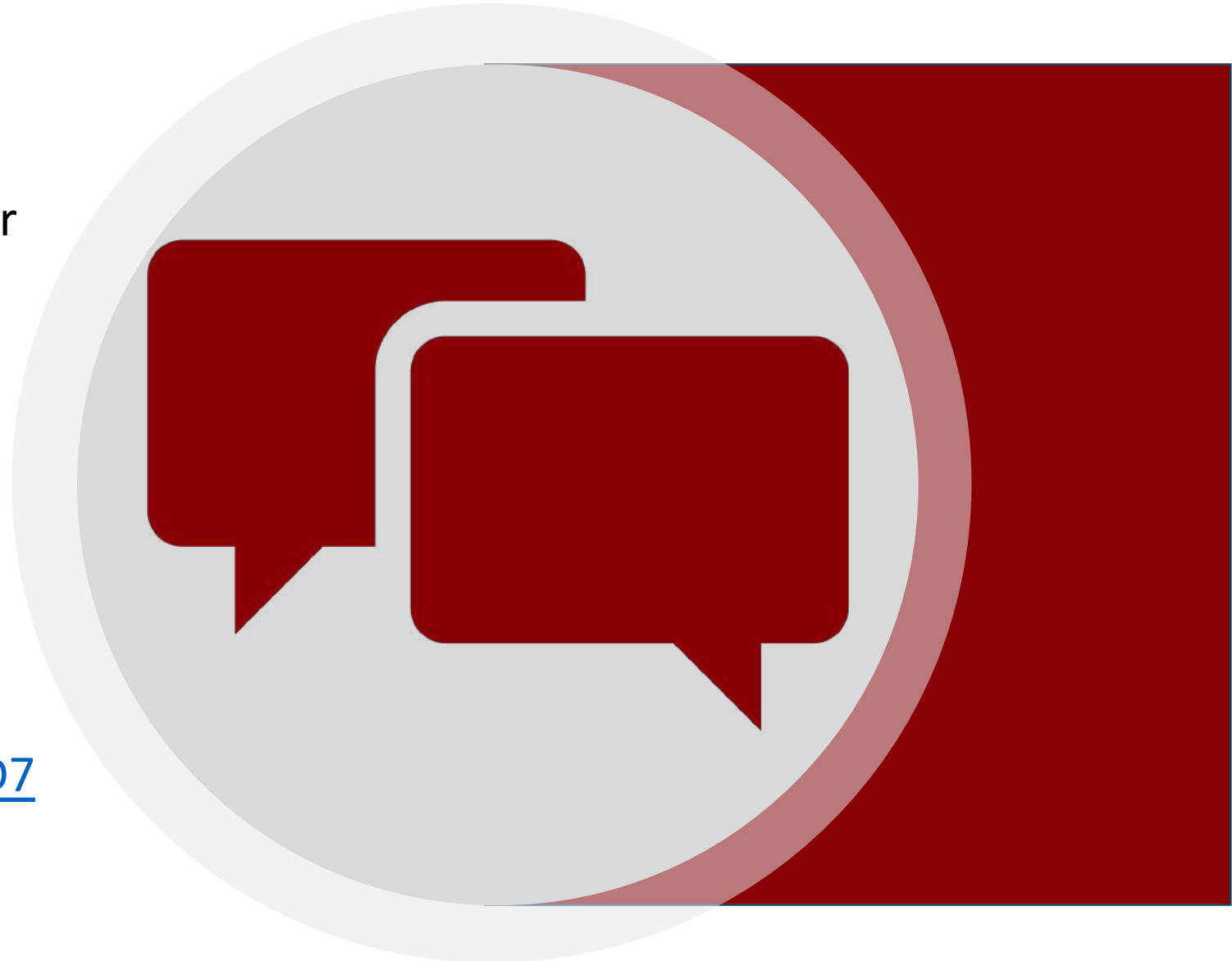
ARP-ESSER FUNDING 2021-2024

- Additional staff to support counseling, nursing and instruction
- Additional stipends to provide appropriate coverage to school entry, exit, recess and mealtimes
- Purchase additional buses to alleviate crowded routes
- Planned window and door replacements to enhance school ventilation
- Air scrubbers for all classrooms and shared spaces
- Purchase of health, safety and cleaning supplies
- Explore additional space as needed



PUBLIC COMMENT

- This plan and public comment response form will be advertised on website and social media to allow for public comment to be reviewed by district personnel.
- Plan revisions including public presentation and online comment forms will take place at minimum once every six months for the duration of funding
- Public Comment Form
<https://forms.gle/CDtevQTe6scAsjyD7>





**CLIFTON
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**



THANK YOU

[HTTP://WWW.CLIFTON.K12.NJ.US](http://www.clifton.k12.nj.us)