



NORTHSHORESCHOOLS
Discovering Your Dreams

FAQ



Answering Your North Shore CSD Reopening Questions

Introduction

What is the District's Reopening Plan? How was it developed?

On July 31, 2020, each school District in New York State prepared three reopening plans that were submitted for approval to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) that included in-person, remote, and a hybrid of the two. Over the course of the past three months, teams of stakeholders researched, designed, and prepared for the execution of our eventual North Shore Schools reopening. I am grateful to the over 150 students, faculty, staff, parents, and members of the Board of Education who spent many hours contributing to this work.

On Friday, August 7, 2020, Governor Cuomo authorized all schools in New York State to reopen in compliance with guidance and regulations set forth by The Center for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health (DOH), and the New York State Education Department (NYSED). We are looking forward to welcoming you and our students back to a new academic year. It will be one of the most complicated openings that any of us have ever had to undergo, but we are up to the challenge. The health, safety, and wellness of all of you and our students are our top priority.

Where can I find the most up-to-date information regarding the reopening plans?

At the top of school homepage at www.northshoreschools.org, there is a section titled **“Reopening Plan/COVID-19 Update”** This section is dedicated to providing information including the reopening of the North Shore Schools for the 2020-21 school year, Superintendent messages, and COVID-19 updates. It will be updated on a regular basis. Additionally, the Reopening Plan, latest emails by Superintendent Dr. Giarrizzo, Board of Education meetings, and upcoming community meetings (with respective Google Meet and livestream links), can also be found on the school homepage.

Health and Safety

Are masks required at all times?

Yes. Masks are required to be worn at all times. Mask breaks will be provided for students during the day.

- Any individual who cannot wear a face covering needs approval from the Superintendent or his designee, along with medical documentation.
- Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Face shields worn without other face coverings are not considered adequate protection or a source control against COVID-19 and should not be used.
- The district will provide employees and students one set of five cloth face masks at no cost. Disposable masks will be available to those who need them.
- The district will obtain and maintain adequate supplies of cloth face coverings for school staff, students who forget their masks, and PPE for use by school health professionals
- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded.
- Face shields and smocks will be utilized by staff when required to be in close contact with students and when there is a high risk of transmission of bodily fluids.
- The district will train all students, faculty, and staff on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE, including but not limited to, appropriate face coverings.

How does a mask break work?

Students will be given brief mask breaks when socially distanced outdoors, when possible. The NYSDOH defines a 10-minute exposure to an infected individual as a “close contact”, so mask breaks will be of lesser duration than 10 minutes.

Can time spent outdoors be increased so that students have the opportunity to move around and get fresh air?

Outdoor learning will become an important component of our work and we await the delivery of canopies that will provide us with 20,000 square feet of covered outdoor space across the district. That said, the District will maximize opportunities for students to go outside during the school day. All K-12 P.E. classes will be conducted outdoors, weather permitting.

Do students and staff have to maintain a 6-foot distance from others at all times?

Everyone will be required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet from one another whenever possible.

What is being done to encourage hand washing?

Hand washing is considered one of the best defenses against the spread of viruses.

Employees, students, and visitors will be required to perform hand hygiene as follows:

- Arrival at the building
- Departure from the building (visitors will be encouraged)
- Before and after eating or handling food
- Before and after administering medication
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors or in the sand
- After handling garbage

The district is securing the installation of additional sinks in hallways where code will permit it. Additionally, posters describing handwashing steps will be installed near sinks.

Are health checks being conducted before admission to a school building?

In an effort to screen building occupants prior to their arrival at school, the district will implement the following screening procedures:

- Staff will be encouraged to stay home if they are sick and parents to keep sick children home.
- All employees, parents, and regular contractors will be required to complete a mandatory health screening assessment at home, including a temperature check. This is done daily and prior to the start of each school day. Employees and parents will be required to certify “No” to all of the following in order to be permitted access to school buildings:
- Individuals will be denied entry into the facility, or sent directly to a dedicated area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home for the following reasons:
 - If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F
 - If they have had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 14 days
 - If they have had demonstrated any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 14 days
 - If they had close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the past 14 days
 - If they have traveled out of state or to a location with known community spread

Via a Joint Communication from the Commissioners of Health in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

What should someone do while waiting a pending COVID-19 result?

Staff as well as students who have been tested for COVID-19 or who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19, should remain at home and not come to school until results are known. A positive result will require additional isolation of the case and close contacts elicited as described above. Quarantine and/or notification will be determined by the local health department in conjunction with the school district. Laboratory testing may take days until results are determined. The local health departments have no control over laboratory testing.

What information is confidential?

NCDOH and SCDOH will only discuss names of cases with appropriate personnel consistent with HIPAA and public health law. No parents or other students will be informed of names or identifying information. Please do not email names of individuals as well, as they are not secure.

To what extent must students/staff quarantine/isolate after:

A singular positive case?

Identified close contacts should be placed on quarantine for 14 days from date of last contact. This could affect students, teachers, or other school staff. NCDOH and SCDOH recommends that close contacts get tested for COVID-19. Students and staff should consult their medical provider for guidance.

Multiple positives?

This would be more complicated, depending on if they are in the same cohort (a cluster), or positives in multiple cohorts (an outbreak). Those in a cluster would isolate at home, and a presumably small number of identified close contacts would quarantine at home. An outbreak across multiple cohorts would involve a larger number of people identified as close contacts, and thus more of the student population under quarantine. This would require coordination with NYS DOH in addition to the school district.

Should isolation occur within singular classroom? Grade level? Building? District?

Isolation would apply to the person who tests positive. Any close contacts identified for quarantine will likely be in the same classroom or lunchroom. Schools should try to limit the number of cohorts to the greatest extent possible. For most children that number is going to be at least two, the bus and the classroom.

If an elementary student tests positive and the students within the class/cohort are all in masks and 6 feet apart in class must the class be quarantined?

This scenario would need to be decided on a case-by-case basis. There would be many factors considered including age of students, time spent in the classroom, size of the classroom, etc. If all were wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing, the likelihood that further positive cases are identified from that cohort is minimal. These individuals might be considered proximate contacts and should be monitored for signs and symptoms but may not part of the contact tracing effort. The school districts may decide to make notifications to their students and staff in the classroom or building who are not close contacts.

If students are 6 feet apart in a classroom with no masks and one tests positive, is the class quarantined?

Yes. In this scenario, there will be a higher likelihood of identifying other positive cases related to the index case. Students wearing masks lower the rate of transmission/new cases even when one is exposed to a case.

If the spouse of a faculty member presents with a positive COVID test, for how long should the employee isolate? Should a negative test be required to return to work?

The employee would be considered a close contact of the spouse, and would be subject to quarantine for 14 days from date of last contact with the spouse. The employee may return to work after completion of the quarantine period; no test is necessary unless the employee develops symptoms.

If a faculty member who has wide-spread access to the building tests positive (ie - custodian, principal, etc.) to what extent should isolation occur amongst the rest of the population? What steps should be taken before a return?

The faculty member should be under home isolation; if anyone meets the definition of a close contact with that faculty member, the close contact(s) should quarantine for 14 days. The faculty member may return to work after 10 days of isolation provided that person is fever free for the last 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and symptoms (if any) are improving.

A child, who rides a school bus, has a parent who was notified that she (the parent) tested positive for COVID-19 after the child left the house for the bus stop. The parent called the principal to alert her of the test results: the student had already arrived at school and was in class. What protocols need to be put in place for students/families that were at the bus stop, students and staff who were on the bus, and classmates and teachers of the bus riders?

The child should be sent home to be placed on quarantine. The child is most likely a close contact, but not a case/did not test positive, therefore there is no action that needs to be taken for any of the other persons mentioned. LHD will not quarantine a contact of a contact.

What will be the protocol if a faculty/staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19?

The student or district employee should immediately notify the district by contacting:

- The nurse's office at the school which they attend or work in.
- If not assigned to any one school building, the employee should contact Dr. Peter Giarrizzo, Superintendent of Schools at 516-277-7801.
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the district will immediately notify state and local health departments and cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.
- The district will determine, in conjunction with the DOH, how to proceed with school (re: switching to remote learning, cleaning and disinfection timeline, etc.).

What will be the protocol for a faculty/staff member or student to be cleared to return to school following illness or diagnosis of confirmed cases of COVID-19?

The following procedure will be followed for allowing persons to return to school following illness or diagnosis of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or following quarantine:

- Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and their return is coordinated with the local health department. According to the NYS DOH and the District's Medical Director the Return to School Policy is as follows. The return to school protocol shall include, at minimum, documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result and symptom resolution, or a health care practitioner writes that it is part of a chronic condition and not COVID-19 related or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation. A chronic condition would be diabetes, asthma, allergies etc. Strep and flu etc is an acute condition and would not be considered a chronic condition.

What happens if a student or faculty/ staff member starts showing symptoms during the school day?

In the event a person becomes ill with COVID-like symptoms while at school, the following procedure will be followed:

- The person will be moved to a predetermined supervised isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- The person will be assessed by a registered nurse at the school.
- Parents/guardians of students showing symptoms will be notified to pick up their child immediately.
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off and not used before cleaning and disinfection.
- When possible, custodial staff will wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) before cleaning and disinfecting the area in accordance with procedures contained in this plan. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible.
- Persons who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be advised to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and to follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, they will be instructed to follow appropriate CDC guidance for home isolation.
- Sick staff members and children will be advised not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.

What if my child has a health condition that causes a symptom, such as a headache, that is also a symptom of COVID? Will my student have to stay home?

A Nurse will assess individuals that are sent to the health office, as chronic conditions such as asthma and allergies or chronic gastrointestinal conditions may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat. Our school nurses will use their professional judgement, based on guidance from the NYSDOH and CDC, to isolate and dismiss any student or staff member who has a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by a chronic health condition for follow-up with a healthcare provider.

When should someone stay home or be excluded from school?

Students, faculty, and/or staff should be **excluded** from school if they have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 including:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| - Fever | - Sore throat | - Nausea or vomiting |
| - Loss of taste or smell | - Headaches | - Fatigue |
| - Shortness of breath | - Muscle aches | - Diarrhea |
| - Difficulty breathing | - Congestion/runny nose | |
| - New or worsening cough | - Chills | |

What if someone doesn't report their positive test result to the School District?

All health care providers and testing laboratories are required to report any positive test result to the County department of health (DOH). The DOH will then commence a contact tracing process that will result in the school being notified. The school district will then support the DOH's contact tracing protocol by providing class lists and/or student schedules, for example.

By law, the DOH must keep medical information confidential, so contact tracing could potentially occur without the District being informed of who the individual was who tested positive. Even if the District is aware of the individual's identity, it also must keep confidential any health-related information it obtains whether from an individual who self-reports, or through the course of supporting a DOH-led contact-tracing effort. No such information will be disclosed to any member of the general public. However, if it is determined through the contact tracing process that you or your child were potentially exposed to an individual with COVID, you will be notified and given direction on next steps to take.

On August 7, Governor Cuomo announced that school districts will need to post a contact tracing protocol. Guidance on how we partner with the DOH in this process is forthcoming.

How will health and safety protocols be enforced? Will there be consequences for those who do not follow the guidelines?

There will be ongoing communication with students, parents, and staff to ensure all are aware of the protocols. Enforcement will be handled by the school administration on an individual basis consistent with the Code of Character, Conduct and Support.

Will the District be utilizing clear desktop barriers for students?

The District is currently evaluating the use of these barriers for specific uses. As the science on these is emerging each day, we are exploring these as an option and resource for students. A final determination will be made as we learn more.

In the event that they are used, if a child is sitting behind a desktop barrier, can they remove their mask?

No. There will be designated mask breaks.

Are COVID tests required throughout the school year?

As of right now, school districts will not test individuals directly. However, schools are required to have a plan in place to perform screening testing in the event of an outbreak.

Cleaning and Air Quality

How often will classrooms, hallways, bathrooms be cleaned?

The district will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health (DOH) in addition to the following:

- Classroom and office spaces will be provided with appropriate cleaning /disinfection supplies for self-cleaning of shared and frequently touched surfaces
- The custodial staff of each building will perform frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the school day, including:
 - door handles
 - rails
 - counters
 - tabletops
 - bathroom fixtures
 - trash cans
 - phones
- Daily cleaning log checklists will be completed for each area of the building
- The head custodian of each building will be responsible for maintaining all completed cleaning logs, which will be forwarded to the Director of Facilities on a weekly basis

Will all classrooms be air conditioned, as it will be difficult to wear masks if it is hot in the classroom?

We are planning for full air conditioning in all instructional spaces through our Bond work & Energy Performance Contract. Unfortunately this work will not be completed until next summer. For the 2020-2021 school year, only spaces that have air conditioning units in them now and spaces that need to have air conditioning under special circumstances, will be air conditioned. There will be provisions for mask breaks.

Is there appropriate ventilation in each classroom and office in the schools?

Any spaces occupied by the students, faculty and staff will meet the minimum ventilation requirements. An important aspect of that work is reviewing the air filters that are installed in our building HVAC systems with the goal of upgrading filters wherever possible. MERV stands for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. MERV ratings are on a scale from 1 to 16 depending on the size of the particles a filter can be expected to capture. The higher the MERV rating, the more effective it is at trapping smaller particles. Filters in unit ventilators and other mechanical ventilation systems will be upgraded to the highest MERV filters allowable based on recommendations of architects/engineers and manufacturer's recommendations for the individual units.

Movement inside the School Buildings

Will visitors be allowed in the buildings?

A modified visitor management process will be utilized at all school buildings as follows:

- Only essential visitors, including parents, will be permitted into the school buildings
- Essential visits consist of:
 - Pre-scheduled meetings that cannot be handled virtually. Parents will be provided the opportunity to meet with school personnel virtually via Google Meet or Zoom including parent/teacher conferences, which should be limited to virtual meetings
 - Picking up of sick persons
 - Other visits deemed essential by the school administration
- All visitors will undergo screening and monitoring and be advised that they will be required to wear face masks prior to being permitted entry into the building as well as undergo hand cleaning steps
- All persons entering the building will be required to wear face masks prior to being permitted entry into the building. Disposable masks will be provided to visitors for exigent circumstances
- Visitors will be required to clean their hands with sanitizer prior to the check-in process
- Touchless sanitizer dispensers will be installed at building entrances, check-in locations and any delivery locations such as loading docks
- “Stand Here” signage and floor markers will be installed to designate places where visitors should wait to be checked in
- Appropriate shields or other barriers will be installed at check-in locations where it is necessary to physically separate building service staff from visitors during the check-in process
- Visitors will be required to answer mandatory screening questions, and access will be declined when indicated. This will also assist contact tracing when needed
 - Mandatory screening questions will be added to the visitor management system sign-in process
- Visitors will display their license

How will student arrival and dismissal be handled while still maintaining proper social distancing guidelines? Will drop-off and dismissal times be staggered?

To reduce close contact of persons entering and exiting the building, the district will:

- Stagger arrival times of both buses and parent transportation to reduce density
- Establish designated areas for student drop-off and pick-up, limiting contact and entry of parents/legal guardians into the building, to the greatest extent possible.
- Utilize multiple supervised points of entry into each school building to reduce bottlenecks, close contact and hallway travel to classrooms
- Require face masks to be worn by students, staff, and parents during the arrival and dismissal process.
- Implement a detailed traffic management plan to include:
 - Separate parent drop off/pick up locations

- Consideration for multiple, supervised building points of entry. Schools should be prepared for an increased number of parents transporting their own children to and from school due to health concerns. The school should conduct several surveys leading up to the school reopening to gauge parents' transportation plans.
- Install hand sanitizer dispensers at all entrances to the facility and require students, employees, and visitors to clean their hands upon entry.

How will social distancing be maintained when students are accessing their lockers and otherwise moving through the school?

North Shore Middle School and North Shore High School will NOT be assigning lockers to students for the 2020-2021 school year at this time.

Students at the elementary schools and North Shore Middle School will be assigned to a classroom with a small number of peers. The students will stay in that classroom for the duration of the day and teachers will meet students each period to provide instruction. Students will leave the classroom for the purpose of a movement/brain break, lunch/recess outdoors. At the Middle School, students will also leave the room for the purposes of music lessons, resource room, speech, ICT skills, reading, or counseling services. At North Shore High School, students will need to switch classes but will do so in a manner which preserves social distancing.

At all schools, strategic movement and a reduction density in hallways and stairways (to the degree possible) will allow for appropriate distancing. The district will take the following safety actions:

- Face masks will be worn when students and staff are moving throughout the building
- Announcements will be made to release classes in a staggered manner based on Room Letter Designations (e.g., all A and B classrooms, followed by C and D classrooms, etc. to reduce density in hallways during class changes. The additional time needed to stagger transitions should be factored into the school day.
- Floor and wall signage will be utilized to prompt distancing where appropriate including outside classrooms where students will be required to stage during class transitions
- Hallway movement will be evaluated in each building, and a modified traffic pattern will be utilized to:
 - Create one-way corridors where appropriate
 - Create one-way stairways where appropriate
 - Use of center hallway prompts (e.g., cones, floor tape, or retractable belt stanchions to promote distancing of 2-way traffic

Will facilities be available for outside use after school?

At this time, unfortunately we are not planning on permitting outside organizations to use District facilities during the evenings or on weekends at the initial onset of school so that we can properly monitor and clean. However, the District will reevaluate this decision as national and regional conditions evolve.

Teaching and Learning

What will the in-person learning model look like at the elementary level?

Every classroom will have approximately 12-17 students (depending on room size) so they can be seated according to the NYS Department of Health guidelines (6 ft. apart).

- All students attend in-person Monday-Friday with normal school day hours.
- Instruction is delivered in-person, in class sizes appropriate for each individual space.
- Each space in the building has been evaluated for occupancy with appropriate social distancing. The number of students in a classroom will reflect the need to ensure that students' desks/seats are positioned no less than six feet apart.
- Many spaces within each building have been repurposed for instructional space
- All students will remain with their cohort (homeroom class) throughout the day. Special area teachers (Art, Music, SWES and Library) will follow a push-in model. This means the students stay in their classroom and the special area teacher will come to them. Physical Education classes will take place outdoors when weather allows. Lunch will take place in classrooms.
- The student schedule will allow for breaks and recess opportunities.
- At this time, assemblies, field trips and other large-group activities will not be scheduled.
- Each student will have a Chromebook.
- Changes to foot-traffic flow through buildings have been identified to limit the amount of close contact between students in high-traffic situations.
- Desk partitions may be used as an additional social-distancing precaution.
- Multiple entry/exit points will be utilized rather than funneling all students through the same space.
- Arrival and dismissal times may be staggered in order to accommodate social distancing.
- Signage, floor markings and visual aids will be used to illustrate traffic flow and appropriate spacing to support social distancing indoors and outdoors.

What will in-person instruction look like at the middle level?

Student cohorts of approximately 8-16 students will be assigned to a classroom for the duration of the school day. Each period (30 minutes each) will include the classroom teacher meeting the students in the classroom and providing instruction in that space.

North Shore Middle School will operate for the instructional day from 8:00 am - 2:50 pm. The day will begin with a 15 minute E3 Squad followed by 11 periods of 30 minutes each. A sample schedule is as follows:

Time	Period	Class	Location
8:00 am - 8:15 am	E3 Squad	E3 Squad 7	Room 115
8:15 am - 8:45 am		1 Pre-Algebra 7	Room 115
8:50 am - 9:20 am		2 Social Studies 7	Room 115
9:25 am - 9:55 am		3 English 7	Room 115
10:00 am - 10:30 am		4 Innovation 7	Room 115
10:35 am - 11:05 am		5 Science 7	Room 115
11:10 am - 11:40 am		6 LUNCH	Room 115/Outside
11:45 am - 12:15 pm		7 LUNCH	Room 115/Outside
12:20 pm - 12:50 pm		8 Foreign Language	Room 115
12:55 pm - 1:25 pm		9 Brain Break 7	Room 115/Outside
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm		10 Music Lessons/Reading	Conf. E / Stage
2:05 pm - 2:35 pm		11 Wellness 7	Room 115/Outside

The instructional day will conclude at 2:35 pm, at this time there will be building-wide announcements and the dismissal process will begin in a staggered manner.

What will the in-person instruction look like at the high school level?

- Preservation of Academic Program
- Broad choice of programming options and student program individualization are preserved (e.g., Arts, Music, Language, etc.,)
- Students' self-selection and desired level of study has been preserved (i.e., Regents, Honors, IB)
- All elective options will still be offered to students.
- Student Cohorts
 - Students will be divided into two cohorts:
 - Cohort 1 - Students whose last name begin A-L
 - Cohort 2 - Students whose last names begin M-Z
 - Each cohort participates in:
 - 2 days of in person learning
 - 2 days of remote asynchronous learning
 - 1 day of remote synchronous learning with combined cohorts live online

If a school or all schools need to move to a remote learning option for all students, what will the student schedule look like?

Elementary

An approximate version of the elementary school day will be adopted in the event a fully remote learning model is needed for the building. Teachers will remain with their classes and instruction will be synchronous every day and closely mirror the in-person day.

Middle School

An approximate version of the middle school day will be adopted in the event a fully virtual model is needed for the building. In this circumstance, students should expect to follow a schedule of a prescribed number of classes that will be scheduled to meet at predetermined and fixed times. Instruction will include a combination of synchronous instruction with time for independent student practice, virtual group work, and consultation and support from teachers as needed.

High School

An approximate version of the high school day will be adopted in the event a fully virtual model is needed for the building. In this circumstance, students should expect to follow a schedule of a prescribed number of classes that will be scheduled to meet at predetermined and fixed times.

If the school buildings reopen for instruction in September, can I request that my child stay home for full remote learning?

Yes.

If I decide for an exclusively - remote learning experience for my child, what will the schedule for the day look like?

Elementary

- Students will have a dedicated North Shore teacher.
- Students will be grouped by grade level but may be from different elementary buildings in the district.
- Core instruction from a classroom teacher will be synchronous and take place at the same time as in-person schedules for that grade level.
- Daily feedback – written comments, “corrected” work, formative and summative assessments, etc.
- One 40-minute special (art, music, PE, library or SWES) per day.
- Students will also take part in FLES.
- Special education (resource room) and ancillary services will be scheduled for those students with individualized education programs.

Middle School

- Students will follow a period by period schedule and will be taught by North Shore teachers.
- Instruction will be synchronous in core academic areas. Some other courses may be asynchronous.

High School

- Students will be assigned to a class and will follow that class remotely through online work Monday-Thursday of each week.
- Students will follow the same schedule that in-person students follow on their “off” days.
- On Friday’s students will join their whole class for synchronous online instruction following the regular bell schedule.

If I opt into an exclusively-remote learning experience for my child but conditions change, will I be able to change my decision?

Yes, while the district asks for a commitment to all-remote learning through December 22nd, 2020, we understand that conditions and decisions can change for many reasons. Please contact the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction if you would like to discontinue exclusively-remote learning.

If my child returns to school in-person but conditions change and/or they are uncomfortable in the new environment, can we immediately switch to all-remote learning?

Students who decide to transition from in-person learning to fully remote online learning will be assigned a new teacher based on scheduling and space available within the existing section. Any request for a change in delivery of instruction must be submitted in email from the parent to the building principal by the last day of each quarter.

Do I have to make the same decision on the fully virtual model vs in-person instruction for all my children? Or, can I make an individual decision for each child?

Decisions can be made by families for each school-aged child on an individual basis, based on the needs of each child.

In the hybrid model, will my children who attend different secondary schools all be able to attend in person on the same schedule?

In the event that the District adopts a hybrid model for all K-12 students, families will be supported by creating designated cohort groups based on students' last name so that children from the same family would all be home or all in school, on the same days.

If a child switches between in-person and virtual instruction, will they have a different teacher?

Yes.

If a student is enrolled in in-person instruction but is absent due to a quarantine, can that student engage in virtual instruction?

Not at the elementary schools or the Middle School. The virtual classes are being created for families whose children are not attending school beginning in September. In order to provide a consistent learning environment for these students, it is essential that transitions, including the (virtual) arrival of new students, be limited. Therefore, students who are absent for quarantine in grades K-8 can contact their teacher for work and materials to make up.

However, since the High School is operating in a hybrid model, high school students who are absent for an extended period of time can participate in the online sessions and activities for their classes Monday through Thursday as well as full group online meetings on Fridays.

What will be done to address the needs of students with IEP's and special services?

The provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible students identified by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) remains within the school reopening plan. Special education programs, related services, and supplemental aids/services are provided to students as listed in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) to the greatest extent possible to consistently protect the health/safety of students with disabilities and those providing the services. All accommodations, modifications, supplemental aids/services and assistive technology interventions are provided to students to the greatest extent possible. Moreover, the

implementation of an individual's recommended program modifications may be contingent on the delivery model for instruction (in-person, remote, or a hybrid). In the development of classes for the purposes of in-person instruction, the schools will take into account those individuals who may require the support of a paraprofessional (e.g. shared aide, 1:1 aide, teaching assistant) or the provision of recommended "push in" programs and related service when determining the size of a particular student cohort. Testing accommodations will be administered in accordance with the student's IEP to the degree possible.

The Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education are still obligated to identify, locate and evaluate students who may require special education programs and services. The Committee on Special Education will continue to adhere to the procedures set forth in Part 200 of Commissioner's Regulations for Students with Disabilities as it relates to referrals initiated by parents and school staff. CSE and CPSE meetings will continue to be conducted virtually (via video and teleconference) to minimize the number of individuals in a particular school building while adhering to the required social distancing protocols. Families will be given access to required technology as necessary and interpreting services will be provided to those in their native language or preferred mode of communication.

The District will continue to provide procedural safeguards notice, prior written notice forms, meeting invitations, and Individualized Education Plans in a reasonable time. If the district is operating remotely, all correspondence and documents will be sent electronically via email or through the IEP Direct collaboration portal. If changes or revisions to programs and services are being recommended, a CSE meeting will be scheduled with the family. However, parents may opt to make changes through the IEP amendment process in lieu of conducting a formal meeting provided an annual review was held prior to the conclusion of the previous school year. All documentation will be disseminated to parents in their preferred language or mode of communication.

Will a student with an accommodation to take exams in a testing room still be able to do so?

Yes. Both North Shore Middle School and High School have designated spaces for alternate location testing services. The spaces honor socially distanced measures, and thus, fewer students at a given time will be able to access the space.

Who will be teaching the virtual classes?

North Shore teachers.

What will the class size be for both virtual and in-person instruction?

In-person instruction in each building is designed around a classroom environment of socially distanced protocols. At North Shore Middle School, classes will be anywhere from 8-16 students, based on the space capacity of a room.

Virtual instruction will be able to appropriately accommodate the needs of students and will likely resemble a typical class size.

What improvements have been made to the remote learning model that was implemented in the spring?

Most significantly, the remote learning (also known as virtual or fully online model) will be a full day model with live instruction throughout the day. While this does not mean that students will be in front of screens every day for the full length of a school day, it does mean that we will

approximate an in-person schedule with live instruction throughout the day. Live instruction includes collaborative work and discussions in addition to direct live instruction. In addition, we are working to simplify the submission of both student work and teacher feedback.

Can I request 5 days of in-person learning for my high school student?

No. Unfortunately, due to the requirements of social distancing in classrooms and the use of every classroom space to accomplish that safe approach, all students must follow the every other day (A/B) schedule.

Can you provide a visual example of what a classroom will look like?

Photos of typical classrooms will be shared at our reopening coffee talk meetings and are posted the District's website.

Will there be any additional SEL supports in place for students?

At the elementary level, the RULER program is expanding to Glen Head and Sea Cliff. It is currently in place at Glenwood Landing. Counselors and Social Workers are also developing push in lessons to help students successfully transition back to school.

At North Shore Middle School, students are being scheduled for the following SEL support services:

- 6th Grade Academy (6th graders, transition to middle school, focus on teamwork, socialization)
- Brain Break (grades 7-8)
- Wellness (grades 6-8; focus on movement, physical wellness, mental & emotional wellness, social issues, and/or stress and coping strategies)

At North Shore High School, counselors and social workers are available to help students through this difficult time. The health curriculum was updated this summer to include up to date wellness programs.

A district-wide survey will be sent home to assess student anxiety. Counselors and social workers will be available to meet with students and parents the week before school starts.

What is the District doing to ensure consistency among grade levels and buildings? Are teachers being offered professional development to ensure the same level of proficiency with the online learning tools?

Professional development has been offered throughout the summer on educational technology, best practices in teaching and learning in online and hybrid environments, social emotional learning and equity in instruction. There will be professional development on the common learning platforms, programs and protocols that teachers and students will be using during our beginning of the school year conference days and throughout the school year. In addition to using our own staff with expertise in this area, the District has contracted with Columbia University's Center for the Professional Education of Teachers.

Will standardized testing still be taking place this year?

The administration of New York State standardized testing for Grades 3 - 8 and Regents examination will be determined later in the year as per federal and state guidelines. District administered standardized testing for academic progress monitoring is scheduled for late September and early October, 2020. Standardized testing for the identification of students in need of special education services is available.

Will before and after-school activities take place?

Any before and after-school activities will take place remotely until further notice.

How will music curriculum classes (band, orchestra, choral groups) be taught under social distancing practices?

Large group ensembles are being cancelled. Small lesson groups will still be scheduled on a rotating basis. Groups will be small (2-4 students based on the size of the space). At the elementary level, instrumental lessons will take place in small groups or via asynchronous instruction.

How will physical education classes take place if gyms will be used as classrooms to reduce class size?

At North Shore Middle School, the physical education and health curricula will be modified and delivered in the Wellness period, with additional focus on social emotional learning and wellbeing. During this period, teachers will be encouraged to take students outside to participate in appropriate physical activities. At all levels, physical education classes will take place outdoors during regularly scheduled times and indoors as a classroom lesson or in the gym if social distancing allows for space.

Will there be any middle school and high school sports?

The district will follow the guidance of NYSED, Section VIII Athletics, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Research is also informed by the National Federation of State High School Associations, which writes the rules of competition for most high school athletics. Some sports may be added that involve less physical and do not involve shared equipment. Sports will be made available as conditions permit and based on their respective risk levels and as directed by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section VIII Athletics.

Will the students have recess? Are they with their class cohort for recess or are they mixed with the whole grade or another class?

Elementary Level - For recess, the students will remain with their class cohort. Classes will be assigned a specific place to play outside. We are going to take a very cautious approach at the start of school. Thus, all students will remain with their cohorts initially and wear masks. As the year progresses, we will revisit these protocols and adjust them accordingly or leave them as they are. Every effort will be made to maintain and encourage social distancing in all places.

Middle Level - Students will be assigned to a 60 minute lunch period every day. During this time, students will eat their lunch and have an opportunity to go outside. While outside, provided that students exercise social distancing measures, masks can be removed. Supervision will be provided to ensure adherence to this protocol. Students will also be scheduled for a Brain Break daily for a period. If the class spends this time outside, the same rules will apply as mentioned above. As the year progresses, we will revisit these protocols and adjust them accordingly or leave them as they are. Every effort will be made to maintain and encourage social distancing in all places.

High School- Students will be allowed to go outside and eat their lunch in the high school courtyard. The seating in the courtyard will provide social distancing and will be canopied for inclement weather. All students must remain on the campus during lunch to minimize exposure outside their cohort during school hours. To provide students time outdoors, we will create outdoor socially distanced chalk circles in the grass. Students may eat their lunch, read a book or work on assignments during their lunch or free periods. The outdoor chalk circles spaces will be supervised by a monitor.

Food and Transportation

Food

Will breakfast and lunch meals be available for purchase?

Cafeterias will generally be closed in all buildings and food services available as a grab and go only.

- Grab and Go lunches will either be delivered to classrooms or each classroom will be called to the cafeteria in a staggered manner based on Room Letter Designation.

Where will students eat lunch?

At North Shore Middle School and the elementary schools, students will eat lunch in their classrooms or outside. Students will be responsible for maintaining a clean and orderly environment. Students will be emailed a link to a lunch survey on Friday of every week. Students will make lunch selection for the upcoming week at this time, in order to provide adequate preparation time for the cafeteria staff. At North Shore High School, students will have the option of eating outside in the tented courtyard or in the socially distanced cafeteria.

Breakfast will be available to students in a “grab and go” format. Students are encouraged to pay using My School Bucks.

What precautions are in place during lunch time?

At all schools, students will be supervised by lunch monitors and aides while eating lunch. These employees will be trained in all safety protocols and procedures. In the event that lunch occurs in the classroom, students will be asked to clean their space when they are finished eating. In addition, this will be a time to remind students to wash their hands.

What precautions are food servers taking?

Food Service Workers continue to follow all DOH food safety guidelines. They will wear masks when working. Gloves will be worn as well as disposable aprons.

With all students eating in the classroom, what precautions will be taken for students with food allergies?

The existing point of sale (POS) system will ensure attentiveness to students' with allergies at all levels. At the elementary and middle schools, food service workers or monitors will scan the meals into the POS system prior to delivery to the classrooms. At the high school level, students will scan their cards into the POS system upon purchase of their meals. School nurses will identify students with food allergies to staff working with these students. Particular attention will be paid to ensure that students are maintaining separation from identified food allergens during lunch in the classroom. Social distancing will mitigate the spread of allergens. Moreover, the established room cleaning protocol will ensure that any surface area which may potentially retain food allergens will be thoroughly disinfected.

Will meals still be available to students who are remote learning?

The Food Service and Transportation Departments will work together to prepare and deliver meals to students on Free and Reduced Lunch on the days they don't have in-person instruction. The students and their families will be contacted by the District's Counseling Department to assess the need before delivery begins.

Transportation

How often will buses be cleaned?

Within the school and on the school buses, frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.

- Bus drivers will be required to conduct pre and post-trip inspections to include the cleaning of high use areas of the bus, (e.g., steering wheel, handles, seatbacks, etc.)
- Drivers will be required to complete a checklist after each cleaning, which should be forwarded to the district's Director of Transportation

Will students be required to maintain social distance on buses? And, will students be required to wear masks on buses?

Yes. In order to maintain social distancing, district buses will need to operate at reduced capacity and students and the driver will need to utilize Personal Protective Equipment. The following are other safety actions that will be taken:

- Students should social distance (six feet separation) on the bus whenever possible.
- Students, school bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics will be required to wear face masks/coverings prior to boarding the bus unless they have been provided a medical exemption.
- Students who do not have a mask will not be denied transportation and will be provided a mask.
- Students will be encouraged to find alternative modes of transportation if possible (e.g., walking or parent drop off) to reduce bus occupancy.
- Weather permitting, drivers will increase bus ventilation by opening the top hatches of buses or opening windows.
- Additional bus monitors will be utilized to enforce social distancing on buses as deemed appropriate by district administration.
- School buses will not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier or district. School bus drivers, monitors and attendants must not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses.
- Boarding children will occupy seats from back to front, where feasible.
- Students will sit one student per seat, alternating left and right positions.
- Wheelchair school buses will be configured to ensure social distancing of 6 feet.
- Siblings may sit together to increase capacity on the bus.
- Seats will be marked with tape to show students where they may sit.

Will bus drivers be screened for COVID-19?

Like all North Shore CSD employees, bus drivers will also be screened for Covid-19 symptoms on a daily basis before they enter their bus and begin their route.