



East Moriches School District



2021-22 COVID-19 Protocol Summary

The East Moriches School District is committed to schools that are safe, secure, and orderly environments. The CDC and Suffolk County Department of Health Services has published new guidance for the 2021-22 school year, and below are the protocols our district will follow to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Cleaning/Disinfection

Cleaning and disinfection protocols have been reviewed to ensure requirements from the CDC and NYSDOH are met and exceeded. All classrooms have been thoroughly prepared for the new school year. Daily cleaning of the classroom will continue, as well as an increased wipe down schedule to address frequently touched surfaces throughout the school day.

Hygiene Education

Proper hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough/sneeze coverings will be reinforced among all students and staff. Signage will also be posted in both buildings reminding students and staff about proper hygiene. Hand sanitizer stations are placed in convenient/high traffic locations, near high touch surfaces, or where handwashing is not feasible such as hallways and entrances/exits. Students are encouraged to bring in individual water bottles.

Face Coverings

All individuals must wear masks indoors and while on a school bus regardless of vaccination status. Mask breaks are permitted throughout the day as needed. Masks are not required when eating, drinking, singing, or while playing wind instruments, as long as individuals remain appropriately physically distanced. Face shields may be substituted to provide therapies that require visualization of the movement of lips/mouth. Face coverings are not required outdoors. Continuation of masking requirements will be reviewed by the Board of Education every ten weeks.

Physical Distancing

It will be our goal to maintain at least 3 feet of distance between individuals within the indoor classroom setting, unless members are from the same household or the safety/core function of the activity requires shorter distance. Distancing of at least 6 feet will be organized in accordance with the most current NYSDOH guidelines, including activities such as singing or playing wind instruments. In physical education, any contact due to activities should be quick and not for extended periods of time. When outdoors, activities are encouraged that allow for distancing and reduced contact. On district provided transportation students will be seated two children per seat, and in the classroom's student desks will be spaced apart. Cohort by grade level will take place to a reasonable extent, and bidirectional traffic and social density in hallways will remain reduced.

Sharing of Items

Student belongings will be kept separate from others in the classroom and each child can have individually labeled containers that can be taken home for cleaning as necessary. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned daily, adequate supplies will be provided to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible. Sharing of individual items will be discouraged. Sports and extracurricular activities will follow all NYS Department of Health guidance.

Food Services

EMUFSD will continue to provide free school meals to all students in compliance with the Child Nutrition Program. Lunch will take place in the cafeteria, and students will be required to wash hands prior to eating and remain physically distanced while eating. If purchasing snacks, A cashless system will be utilized in the cafeteria, parents can prepay for meals through MySchoolBucks or by sending a check to the main office. Preparation of meals will be safe and sanitary, served in sealed bags, and remain contained until opened by the student.

Staff/Students Symptom Screening

Staff members are instructed to stay home if sick, and parents are required to keep sick students home. Parents are strongly encouraged to immediately disclose if and when their child experiences symptoms or tests positive for COVID 19. The threshold for fever and minimum time out of school will be determined based on the most current CDC guidelines. If students are suspected of having symptoms, teachers may ask the nurse to complete additional screenings during the day. If a student is sick, they will be isolated from others until picked up, and a doctor's note will be required to return.

Caring for Sick Individuals

Caring will take place for a student, faculty, or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day. Safe locations have been identified in the elementary school and middle school that will be utilized as needed to separate individuals who become sick during the school day. Individuals who become sick, will be immediately transferred to one of these safe areas. Symptomatic individuals will remain cared for and supervised in this area by a staff member who is physically distanced, and parents or guardians will be notified for immediate pickup. Rooms utilized as safe separation areas are required to follow up-to-date protocols regarding cleaning and disinfection.

Return to School Requirements

In order for an individual who has screened positive for symptoms to return to school, documentation from a health care provider following an evaluation is needed. The documentation must indicate either: (1) Clearance to return to in-person setting; or (2) Negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result and symptom resolution; or (3) Positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result and release from isolation. As standard procedure, nurses will hard screen all students who return to school after an infection that results in fever. Their temperature will be checked within the first hour of their return to school and a second time after four hours.

Positive COVID-19 Cases

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should contact their school nurse immediately, who will be responsible for subsequent communication. The local health department will be notified immediately of any confirmed case of COVID-19, and notification will be made to parents while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days.

Contact Tracing

EMUFSD will support local health departments in accordance with the protocols, training, and tools provided in the [New York State Contact Tracing Program](#). Close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 must quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms through the 14th day. Students in the classroom who are within at three of an infected student with appropriate masking are excluded from the definition of close contact and not required to quarantine. Notifications will be made to parents and staff members of potential exposures so they may monitor for symptoms closely 14 days from last exposure. Any students who begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should remain home and seek testing. Fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 do NOT need to quarantine unless they have symptoms and should be tested 3-5 days after exposure.

Temporary Remote Learning

Full time remote learning will not be available this year. Temporary options for learning at home will be available on an as-needed basis for students who are required to quarantine long term. Elementary students will receive 5 hours/week, and middle school students will receive 10 hours a week of at home instruction.

These protocols are subject to change pending updated guidance from New York State. For more detailed information, please refer to our 2122 Reopening Plan posted on our website.*