



VIRTUAL REMOTE INSTRUCTION PLAN

2021-2022

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THE ROAD FORWARD: HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

- Holmstead School will continue to provide FULL DAY, FULL-TIME, IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION for the 2021-2022 school year based on guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). All virtual instruction is no longer an option.
- This guidance includes a range of strategies to implement in order to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19 while still allowing for fulltime in-person learning. While the State is committed to a resumption of normalcy, the data will continue to be monitored and decisions will be guided by science to ensure that we maintain safe and healthy school communities.

MASK WEARING PROTOCOL

Executive Order 251 requires that all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the indoor premises of all school buildings. The only exceptions 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, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Education Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
- When the individual is under two (2) year of age;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic 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 apart from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND COHORTING

Holmstead School will continue to maintain physical distancing measures in the classrooms and school building to the greatest extent possible as an effective COVID-19 prevention strategy.

Holmstead School will also prioritize other prevention measures including masking, physical barriers, and the use of personal protective equipment.

- Distance in classroom settings will be three to six feet between students to the extent possible
- Desks will be faced in the same direction
- Grouped seating arrangements will be avoided

Holmstead School will implement physical distancing and barriers in the following areas, to the extent possible, that may pose a greater risk of transmission:

- In common areas, in spaces where students may gather such as hallways and the lunch room
- When masks may be removed, such as during lunch and/or during outdoor activities.

EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS ACCORDING TO VACCINATION STATUS

Vaccinated Staff/Students

- **Asymptomatic:** full vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities).

COVID-19 testing is recommended for any fully vaccinated individual who has been identified as a close contact to a positive case. A mask should be worn in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they received a negative COVID-19 test result.

- **Symptomatic:** the individual should remain out of work/school using illness days (just like any other illness) and be tested for COVID-19.
 - **Negative Test Result:** the individual may return to work/school once the COVID-19 test result has been received and reviewed by the nurse, symptoms have been resolved and they are fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
 - **Positive Test Result:** the individual must remain out of work/school from the date of testing and may return after 10 days of isolation as long as they are feeling better, symptoms are resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

EXPOSURE PROTOCOLS ACCORDING TO VACCINATION STATUS

Unvaccinated Staff/Students

- Close contacts who are not **fully** vaccinated are to be quarantined:
 - 10 days from the date of last exposure, while our area is considered to be at a low or moderate risk for transmission of COVID-19 (green/yellow) or,
 - 14 days from the date of last exposure, when the risk for transmission is considered to be high or very high (orange/red).
- Should an asymptomatic individual choose to be tested, they should still quarantine at home for 10 days (or 14) after exposure regardless of test result. Employees will be required to use illness days during this time.
- If an unvaccinated individual experiences symptoms he/she should be tested for COVID-19.
 - **Negative Test Result:** the individual may return to work/school once the COVID-19 test result has been received and reviewed by the building nurse, 10 days have passed from when the individual was initially determined to have been a close contact, symptoms have been resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
 - **Positive Test Result:** the individual must remain out of work/school from the date of testing and may return after 10 days of isolation as long as they are feeling better, symptoms are resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.

SCREENING

Parental Screening: Parent/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. Employees who are ill should also remain at home.

Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff: the nurse is the contact person for any COVID-19 related issues that arise.

Procedures are in place to identify and respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms while in a school building. This includes checking with students as they enter the building in the morning. If a student is identified as ill with COVID-19 symptoms while at school, he/she will be isolated in Heritage Hall pending parental pick-up. Staff members will be sent home if experiencing symptoms. Hygiene supplies, including additional masks, facial tissues, and sanitizer (over 60% alcohol content) will be available.

CONTACT TRACING

If a staff member or student reports that they have contracted the COVID-19 virus or come in close contact with someone who has the virus, a report will be made to the Ridgewood Health Department (RHD). The RHD and school nurse will then facilitate the contact tracing protocol/process and make recommendations for a school and/or community response.

The school nurse is the designated staff member who will work with the DOH to identify possible close contacts of the COVID-19 positive individual to potentially reduce further exposure. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes cumulatively, over a 24-hour period.

COMMUNICATION

- Holmstead School will continue to maintain close communication with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures to establish procedures for notification and response to COVID-19 illness in our school.
- We will communicate information with transparency to all stakeholder groups.
- Our plan will be shared with all sending districts.

Any COVID-19 control measures put in place will be consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION DUE TO QUARANTINE STATUS

- At present, we will not be offering an all-virtual learning option for students.
- Students who are required to quarantine based on close contact determined by the school nurse, will access instruction via live-stream to their classes using Microsoft Teams or Zoom.
- In the event that a large group of students must quarantine, they will receive live-stream instruction via Microsoft Teams or Zoom for core instruction and virtual related services.
- After completion of a school-wide survey, it was determined that all but one present students have access to the internet and a device at home. The one student who does not, as well as any new students needing a device, will be provided with a laptop computer by Holmstead School. If they do not have access to the internet, arrangements will be made for them at the local public library.
- If the entire school must close to quarantine, teachers will provide instruction via Microsoft Teams or Zoom and adhere to the current bell schedule with instruction taking place from 8:35am – 1:00pm. P.E. will be done independently and require students to complete P.E. forms for each activity that they complete. Failure to log on will be considered an unexcused absence. Related services will be provided virtually as well during the school day and based on the current therapy schedule.

TECHNOLOGY – STUDENT DEVICES

- A survey is being generated to evaluate student access to a device and internet connection.
- Students who do not have a device will be assigned one by Holmstead School.
- Students have all been provided login information for Microsoft products, including Teams.
- Students and parent have all been provided login information for Realtime, where they can access their grades.

Liza will continue to be available for technical support and assistance with technology issues.

FOOD SERVICES

- Holmstead will continue to offer lunch options daily.
- Students who qualify for free lunch through their public school district will be provided with free lunch at Holmstead School.
- In the event that the school has to close to quarantine, students who qualify for free lunch will be able to access grab and go lunch through their public school district.