

High Bridge School District

COVID-19 Protocols 2021-2022

(Revised March 4, 2022)

The following are the 2021-2022 COVID-19 Protocols currently in place for the High Bridge School District. These protocols follow our [Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services](#) as outlined in the NJ Department of Education's [The Road Forward](#) and are subject to change as we receive new guidance from the NJ Department of Health, the Governor, or the CDC.

1. **Vaccinations** – As per the Governor's Executive Order 253, p5,1: the COVID-19 vaccine is a requirement for all school staff beginning October 18, 2021.
 - a. Staff must provide proof of vaccination to your school nurse by or before October 18, 2021. This proof of vaccination will be added to your immunization file, and it will assist with contact tracing if needed. See your school nurse for acceptable documentation.
 - b. The vaccine is not a requirement for students, but if your child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, please send in a copy of the vaccination record to your school nurse so that they may add it to your child's immunization file. It will assist with contact tracing if needed.

2. **Masks** – As of March 7, 2022, the Governor's [Executive Order 251](#) has been lifted. Masks and facial coverings are no longer mandated for students, staff or visitors in schools. The High Bridge School District will move to a mask-optional environment as of March 7, 2022. Students, staff and visitors are welcome to wear a mask if they so choose. We are asking everyone to respect each other's decision, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. In accordance with our district policy and Code of Conduct, bullying will not be tolerated.
 - **Exception to masks being optional:**
Per the NJ Department of Health recommendations that we continue to follow, if your student is a close contact to a positive case and returns to school after the required five-day quarantine period, masks are required to be worn on days 6-10 after exposure to a positive case. Those students who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask should stay home for the full 10 days and not return to school until day 11.

3. **Screenings** – Staff and parents must conduct a Covid screening each morning before coming to school. See the link for details: [District Covid Daily Pre Attendance Screening](#).

4. **COVID-19 Positive Cases** – If any student or staff member, either vaccinated or unvaccinated, tests positive for COVID-19, please report the positive case to the health office so we can contact trace if needed (Elementary School, call 908-638-4105 ext. 4218; Middle School, call 908-638-4101 ext. 4118).

5. **Isolation** – Isolation requirements are still in effect for ill individuals or those who test positive for COVID-19. Please contact your building nurse for guidance based on current health department and CDC guidelines.

6. **Close Contacts and Quarantine** – Quarantine protocols are still in place for those identified as close contacts. Please contact your building nurse for guidance based on current health department and CDC guidelines.
7. **Schoolwork While on Quarantine** – Students who are quarantined will receive assignments either via Google Classrooms or with take home packets. Please contact your student's teacher.
8. **Visitors in the building** – Visitors may be limited based on community transmission levels. Visitors must be approved prior to arrival.
9. **Social Distancing** –
 - a. While in the classroom, maintain a three foot (3) distance between students whenever possible.
 - b. When using common areas such as the cafeteria, maintain as much distance between students as possible.
 - c. Six foot (6) distance should be maintained as much as possible between adults and students or between unvaccinated adults.
 - d. Face desks in the same direction.
 - e. When outside of the classroom, maintain as much distance as possible, and stagger when leaving classrooms to prevent crowding in hallways.
10. **Group Activities** - Group activities, such as assemblies and community events, may be limited based on community transmission levels and current guidelines.
11. **Shared Items** – Limit the use of shared items as much as possible. If items need to be shared, they must be cleaned between uses.

We appreciate your cooperation with these protocols to keep our students and staff safe and healthy while at our schools and helping us to provide a traditional school year for students.