

Sea Girt Elementary School

2020 Restart Plan

Frequently Asked Questions



HEALTH and SAFETY

Are the children and staff going to be asked if anyone in the household has COVID-19 or pending COVID-19 testing?

All families and staff will be asked to complete a daily pre-screening tool stating that by arriving at school they agree they are not COVID-19 positive, do not have any pending testing, and are not exhibiting any symptoms. Additionally, students and staff will be temperature checked when they arrive at the building. If a student seems overheated from riding their bike and has a temperature higher than 100.4 they will be asked to sit for 10 minutes and have their temperature rechecked prior to calling their parents.

How will social distancing be maintained in the hallways and during arrival and dismissal?

During arrival, students will no longer gather outside awaiting the teachers to bring them in the building. Instead, at 8:20 AM students will enter through one of three entrances, have their temperature checked, and proceed directly to their homerooms. The entrance will be determined by the student's homeroom and will be identified in our late August welcome back letter. Signage has been placed both on the walls and floors throughout the building reminding everyone to social distance. Face coverings will be worn while inside the building. During dismissal, all teachers will be walking students to an identified exit. This too, will be identified in our welcome back letter.

Can a face shield substitute a cloth face covering?

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do not recommend the use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth coverings. According to the guidelines put forth by the State, face coverings (masks) are required when in the building. CDC guidance for face covers can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html> CDC recommends considering the use of clear face coverings in the event that staff needs their face visible in order to teach (teaching young students how to read, English as a second language, students with disabilities, etc.)

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Will the bathroom be available for use and how will sanitary conditions be maintained?

Our custodial team will have an increased rotation to enable higher frequency cleaning of bathrooms during the day. Custodial schedules will be modified to enable more frequent cleaning routines. We are in the process of hiring an additional custodian to assist with the daily cleaning that will be taking place. Evening and after school activities will be limited while the plan is in place. This will allow us to implement increased cleaning routines after the school day has ended. In bathrooms, additional partitions/dividers have been added between the sinks where possible. UVC fixtures will be added to sterilize the room throughout the day. Signage will be both in the bathrooms and throughout the building reminding all of proper handwashing procedures. Students will need to maintain good hygiene, hand washing, and the wearing of face coverings to maximize safety. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available in all rooms throughout the building.

What if my child is showing symptoms on the list, but as a parent I know that it is not COVID-19?

Now more than ever, we need to err on the side of caution. If your child is showing symptoms or feeling under the weather, keep them home for everyone's benefit. We need to work together and to err on the side of caution.

Will students be using their lockers?

No, students will no longer be using their athletic or academic lockers. We recommend that students only bring what they need for their classes and not extra items.

Will students be required to provide their own face coverings and other PPE?

Yes. Students will be expected to wear their own face covering at all times. It is recommended that students come to school with 2 face coverings in case something happens to one of them. If using disposable face coverings, they need to be replaced each day. If using washable/reusable face coverings, they should be washed after each school day. The school will have additional PPE to issue to students if they do not have an appropriate face covering, if their face covering gets wet or dirty, or if they do not have access to PPE. All face coverings must follow our student dress code policy.

Will students change classrooms every period?

No, students will remain in their own classrooms (other than PE) or designated outdoor space during the day. At the pre-high level, teachers will move from room to room.

Kids being kids, it's difficult to maintain social distancing, enforce wearing face coverings, and hand sanitizing protocols, etc. How will these situations be handled?

We have a collective responsibility to one another to uphold and adhere to these requirements. How we handle this and prepare our children will determine how they handle it. We ask that all parents and guardians begin, if you haven't already, normalizing the wearing of face coverings for extended periods of time. Staff members

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will monitor this in school and we are encouraging parents to help us reinforce these responsibilities as well. If a particular student presents an issue with this requirement, the teacher and administration will work with the family to rectify it. If the student continues to refuse to follow the requirement, they will need to be placed into the Virtual Classroom.

What precautions are taken to make sure the facility is well ventilated as well as being sanitized?

We are following the recommendations of the CDC and NJ Department of Health regarding ventilation and sanitation. Our Superintendent and custodial team is currently updating our cleaning protocols and HVAC maintenance and filter schedules. CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

LEARNING MODELS

If we choose the In-Person Model, what will it look like?

During Phase One, students will be in person for a single session day. Students will remain in their classrooms or designated outdoor space for their time in the building. They will have in person instruction for reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, and PE. Pre-high teachers will travel to the students to minimize movement throughout the building. Students will go home for lunch and have their other specials and some small group activities virtually. During Phase Two students will remain in their classrooms or designated outdoor space for the full day. Specials and pre-high teachers will travel to the students to minimize movement throughout the building. Lunch will be outdoors (picnic-style) or in the classroom. During both phases, masks will be required by all when inside the building.

If we choose Remote Instruction, what will that look like?

The students that are in the Remote Instruction model will follow the same daily schedule as the students attending school in person. They will log in for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. They will participate in group work with their peers virtually.

If the school goes into a full closure, will distance learning look the same as last year?

No. Last spring, we were responding to emergency circumstances that occurred towards the end of the school year. We have been able to reflect on our time in extended closure and our experience with implementing virtual learning has grown. Our use of digital tools and live, interactive instruction has evolved as well.

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What online platform(s) will be used for Remote Instruction?

The district utilizes the Google platform as well as Zoom. Teachers will be utilizing Google Meet and Zoom for interactive virtual lessons and will be using Google Classroom to manage assignments, lessons, and communication with students on Remote Instruction.

POSITIVE COVID TEST/POSSIBLE EXPOSURE

What happens if a student in the class, or teacher, who has been in contact with our child tests positive? Does the school close? Are we instructed to quarantine?

We will be working closely with the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission to determine what actions are necessary if a student or staff member becomes ill with COVID-19. Contact tracing and safety protocols will determine the extent of closure and notification. However, due to the close proximity of students and staff and the reality that siblings and families could be impacted, the chance of a quick closure of classrooms and/or school to ensure safety is possible. Parents need to be prepared to have their children home on remote learning in the event a quarantine is advised.

If a student/staff member tests positive, how will I be notified?

If your student has been in close contact with a student who has tested positive, has a household contact who has tested positive, has been symptomatic or has had a possible exposure, you will receive both a BlackBoard alert message, as well as an email from the nurse or administration.

What do all of those different terms mean regarding testing and household contact?

Quarantine - The purpose of quarantine is to keep people who might have been exposed (but not sick) to COVID-19 away from others

Isolation - Isolation is to keep sick people and those infected with the COVID-19 virus away from those who are not infected.

Household Contact - Household contacts are individuals who live in the same house as a lab confirmed COVID-19 case.

Close Contact - Close contacts are individuals who were within 6 feet of a lab confirmed COVID-19 case for a prolonged period (about 10 minutes or more) or had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., were coughed on).

Possible Exposure - A student/staff member who has been in close contact with someone who is being tested or is symptomatic.

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At what point would the school close due to positive cases?

The school will be in constant contact with the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission and would make that decision in conjunction with the Superintendent and Board of Education.

If my student tests positive or is symptomatic how will they continue their education?

Students who need to quarantine or isolate will immediately be transferred to the remote learning option. Once they have been cleared by their health care provider, they will be allowed to transfer back into the in-person classroom.

How will you handle students who go on trips to “Hot Spots” and need to quarantine?

We would hope that parents would not take any trips to hot spots within 14 days prior to the start of school as well as during the school year. If they do, they would need to quarantine for the necessary time before coming into school for in-person instruction.

OTHER QUESTIONS

I’ve heard that students from other districts are now signing up to be tuition students at SGES. Are you accepting new tuition students?

We have received numerous inquiries requesting applications for enrollment as a tuition student. At this point in time we are not accepting any new tuition students. We are working to ensure that we are able to meet the instructional and safety needs of our current SGES students.

If students ride their bikes to school, are you worried about them being too close to each other?

Both the school and parents should be encouraging students to follow social distancing guidelines during these unsupervised times.

What will after-school activities and sports look like? Will they happen?

As of now, the soccer season has been cancelled. Before and after school activities are all suspended until further notice. In the event we feel it is safe to hold those activities during the year, they will begin at that time.

How will you conduct fire and emergency drills?

As of now, the requirements for fire drills have been lifted during the health emergency. Security drills are still required. We will update protocol to incorporate current health and safety guidance.

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How will substitutes be handled?

We will first look to utilize our existing staff to fill any of these needs. If substitutes are necessary, they will be screened prior to entering the building. All substitutes will be trained on our new procedures and expected to adhere to all protocols.

Will the attendance policy be enforced/adjusted?

Attendance will be taken in both the in-person and remote instruction.

How do we ensure that IEPs are being met in the remote classroom?

The IEPs and 504s will be met as we are required. Our special education and student services staff will meet regularly to ensure that the programs are being followed accordingly..

If school doesn't open on the first day, will there be an opportunity for students to meet their teachers?

If school doesn't open on the first day, that would be the result of an Executive Order and we would need to follow any guidance that accompanies that at the current time. We agree that would be a valuable interaction and would look to make that happen, if allowed/possible.