



Elizabeth Forward School District 2021-2022 FAQ's

Reminder – As we have learned over the past sixteen (16) months, the circumstances related to COVID-19 evolve constantly. Therefore, we will update our plans as necessary based on state and federal mandates and notify all parents/guardians of the most recent changes throughout the school year.

Will K-12 students be required to wear face coverings?

No, face coverings are not mandatory. However, EFSD parents/guardians will be given the option of having their child wear a mask/shield in the school buildings. This is a personal choice. Please note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) currently recommends universal indoor masking by all students. Please note that masks are required on the school bus.

Are face coverings required for EFSD Staff?

No, face coverings are not mandatory. However, EFSD staff will be given the option of wearing a mask/shield during the school day in the school buildings. This is a personal choice. Please note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) currently recommends universal indoor masking by all staff. Please note that masks are required on the school bus.

What will transportation look like for students?

Pursuant to the most recent CDC order, students and bus drivers are required to wear face coverings for the entire bus trip, both to and from school. Students will follow the current loading and unloading procedures. Buses will be sanitized between runs. Students entering will be seated from the rear of the bus to the front of the bus. Students will have assigned seats on the bus to help with contact tracing as needed.

Who is covered by the transportation mask order exemption for “a person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)”?

Please review the guidance from the CDC below. Contact the building principal with questions regarding exemptions to the transportation mask order.

Most people, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a mask and are required to wear one as per CDC's Order. However, certain people with disabilities who, because of their disability, cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, are exempted from CDC's mask-wearing requirement.

The exemption is not meant to cover people with disabilities for whom wearing a mask might only be difficult or whose disability does not prevent them from wearing a mask or wearing a mask safely.

The following narrow subset of persons with disabilities are exempt from CDC's requirement to wear a mask:

- A person with a disability who, for reasons related to the disability, would be physically unable to remove a mask without assistance if breathing becomes obstructed. Examples might include a person with impaired motor skills, quadriplegia, or limb restrictions
- A person with an intellectual, developmental, cognitive, or psychiatric disability that affects the person's ability to understand the need to remove a mask if breathing becomes obstructed

The following persons with disabilities might be exempt from CDC's requirement to wear a mask based on factors specific to the person:

- A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask because it would cause the person to be unable to breathe or have respiratory distress if a mask were worn over the mouth and nose. A person with a condition that causes intermittent respiratory distress, such as asthma, likely does not qualify for this exemption because people with asthma, or other similar conditions, can generally wear a mask safely.
- A person with a disability requiring the use of an assistive device, such as for mobility or communication, that prevents the person from wearing a mask and wearing or using the assistive device at the same time. If use of the device is intermittent and the person can remove the mask independently to use the device, then a mask must be worn during periods when the person is not using the device.
- A person with a severe sensory disability or a severe mental health disability who would pose an imminent threat of harm to themselves or others if required to wear a mask. Persons who experience discomfort or anxiety while wearing a mask without imminent threat of harm would not qualify for this exemption.

If a parent decides to have their child wear a face covering, can the child wear a clear face shield instead of a mask?

“A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth.”

What are the physical distancing guidelines for this school year?

Every effort will be made to ensure that students are separated to the maximum extent feasible. To the extent possible, students will utilize 3-foot social distancing in the classroom. To maximize social distancing, unused desks and furniture will be removed from classrooms to the extent practicable.

What are the start and dismissal times this school year?

The start of school and dismissal will return to their original, pre-COVID times at all levels.

<u>High School:</u>	Start time – 7:25am	Dismissal Time – 2:20pm
<u>Middle School:</u>	Start time – 8:09am	Dismissal Time – 2:59pm
<u>Central Elementary:</u>	Start time – 9:00am	Dismissal Time – 3:45pm
<u>Greenock Elementary:</u>	Start time – 8:50am	Dismissal Time – 3:35pm
<u>Mt. Vernon Elementary:</u>	Start time – 9:00am	Dismissal Time – 3:45pm
<u>William Penn Elementary:</u>	Start time – 9:00am	Dismissal Time – 3:45pm

When will the classroom and other areas be cleaned?

Cleaning of schools with EPA-approved disinfectants will occur daily. These cleaning products will decrease the potential virus residue left on surfaces and objects. Custodial/Maintenance staff will utilize disinfecting sprayers in all classrooms and common areas and apply cleaning solutions to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, light switches, sink handles, drinking fountains and copiers.

How will we maintain ventilation in the classrooms and large areas?

Custodial/maintenance staff will ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and to increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. All cafeterias and auditoriums have been equipped with large air purifiers and our custodial/maintenance staff will ensure they are operating effectively.

What will be the procedure if a teacher or student tests positive for COVID-19?

Based on information from the PA Department of Health, the CDC and the Allegheny County Health Department, there are many factors that contribute to this decision. Because of the close relationship that has been formed between the district and the Allegheny County Health Department, the district will share all relevant information regarding the positive test with their staff and then follow their advice.

What will the change of classes look like?

Elementary students will move to classrooms for academic and/or specials throughout the school day. Middle school and high school students will move to classes following their daily academic schedule.

What will physical education and swimming at the middle and high school look like?

All students will resume traditional physical education classes. Middle school and high school students will utilize locker rooms to change. High school students will resume swimming in aquatics classes.

Are parents/guardians required to do daily home health screens?

Parents are asked to continue daily home health screens prior to sending students to school. Parents should keep your child home and contact the school nurse if your child presents with symptoms, and/or a person in your household is getting tested or has tested positive for COVID-19. If your child is fully vaccinated and presents with COVID-19 symptoms, and/or someone in your household does so, please contact your school nurse.

High School	Kim Herbst	(412) 896-2356
Middle School	Bethany Kilinsky	(412) 896-2338
Central Elementary	Lisa Vay	(412) 896-2319
Greenock Elementary	Rachel Gindlesperger	(412) 896-2325
Mt. Vernon Elementary	Anne Speney	(412) 896-2328
William Penn Elementary	Liz D'Antonio	(412) 896-2331

Will we be sharing instructional materials and equipment this school year?

When appropriate, students will resume sharing instructional materials and equipment in classrooms. For example, lab materials, art supplies, maker spaces, etc. will be utilized during the 2021-2022 school year. Proper disinfecting and hygiene protocols will be in place to the extent possible.

Is breakfast and lunch free for all students in the 2021-2022 school year?

Free breakfast and lunch will continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year for ALL K-12 students. Please contact Kristen Savorelli, Food Service Manager, with any questions at 412-896-2340.

Will teachers and staff reinforce good hygiene measures?

Teachers and staff will reinforce good hygiene measures to students, including handwashing and coverings. There will be hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol in every classroom, at every entrance to the buildings and in all cafeterias. There will be signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of infectious disease.

Will students use lockers at the middle and high school this school year?

High school and middle school hallway lockers will be used this school year for all 6-12 students. Athletic locker rooms in the high school and middle school will be used this school year for P.E. classes and for athletes.

Will water refilling stations remain open in each school?

For the start of the school year, water fountains will not be operational. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home to be filled using several water refilling stations that are in each school building. Water bottles can be provided upon request.

What will recess look like at the elementary schools?

Elementary students will participate in both outdoor and indoor recess and will have access to the playground and equipment. Hand hygiene practices will be followed at the conclusion of recess each day.

What will school events and athletic events look like this school year?

Social gatherings, concerts, events, assemblies, field trips, athletics and extracurricular activities will continue to the maximum extent possible. In addition to offering in-person performances, some events will also be livestreamed for family convenience. All events will adhere to the most current guidance from local, state, and federal agencies.

Are there any travel restrictions this upcoming school year?

There are no restrictions for students traveling within the United States. Students traveling internationally should contact the principal and/or the school nurse before travel to follow the most updated international traveling mandates.

Please contact FAQ@efsd.net with any questions.