



2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan Update
August 18, 2021

Agenda

- Welcome
- Review of Back to School Planning and Health and Safety Data
- Updates to Health and Safety Plan
- Reminders for School Readiness



Back to School 2021-2022

- Survey results from families during the planning process indicated a desire for consistent in-person instruction in a safe environment.
- Based on this desire, the main goal of our Back to School Planning Committee was to **maximize in-person learning while providing a safe environment for students and staff.**
- The committee created a plan that was focused on returning to school five days a week to a safe school environment.
- Earlier this summer, we were hopeful that the upcoming school year would be less impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. While we remained optimistic for a traditional return to school, the District reinforced the possibility of changing our plan based on current conditions.

2021-2022 NASD Back to School Planning Committee

- NASD Executive Council
- School Administration
- North Allegheny Federation of Teachers
- Committee Groups:
 - Elementary Advisory Council (EAC)
 - Secondary Advisory Council (SAC)
 - Superintendent's Parents' Liaison Committee (SPLC)
 - Student Services Advisory (SSA)
- Health Services
- Medical Community



Update to 2021-2022 Back to School Plan

In order to maximize in-person learning while providing a safe environment for students and staff, **NASD will require face coverings indoors for students, staff and visitors for grades K-12 starting Monday, August 16.**

This decision to consider universal masking is a result of several factors:

- Analyzing COVID-19 data from last school year and county and community statistics over the past month.
- Consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department and District Physician.
- Changes in the quarantine procedures that would negatively impact our ability to ensure consistent in-person instruction for all students.

NASD will continue to evaluate the current conditions and make decisions that maximize in-person learning while providing a safe environment for students and staff.



Review of Health and Safety Plan Data

- Impact of Quarantine
- Impact of School Closures due to Positive Cases
- Allegheny County COVID-19 Case Data
- North Allegheny Municipality COVID-19 Cases
- Consultation with the District Physician and Health Services



Impact of Quarantine: History

2020 - 2021 School Year

NASD was required to quarantine all students within six feet for 15 minutes or more, regardless of their use of a face covering.

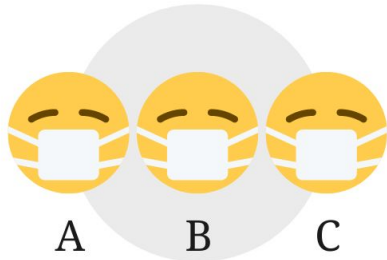
2021 - 2022 School Year

CDC guidance states the following:

- **New** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student **if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.**
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Students or staff who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days and are symptom free and/or received their last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine two weeks prior to the last date of exposure may be exempted from quarantine after consultation with the school nurse.

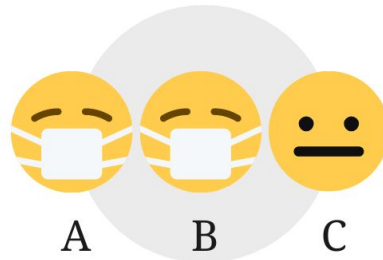


Impact of Quarantine



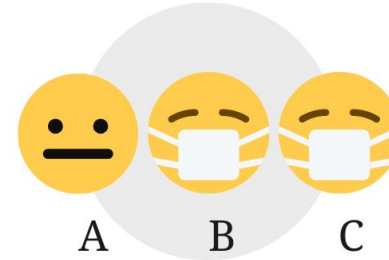
Scenario #1

Students A, B, & C are all masked. Therefore, all three students do not need to be quarantined, but Student A will be out of school until they recover.



Scenario #2

Student A is masked, and Student B is masked, but Student C is unmasked. Student A will be out until they recover, Student B doesn't need to quarantine, and Student C will be expected to quarantine.



Scenario #3

Student A is not masked, but Students B & C are. Student A is out of school until they recover. The guidance specifically states that the positive individual and the surrounding students must all be masked, so Students B & C will be asked to quarantine, even though they were correctly and consistently masked.

In all scenarios, student A tested positive for COVID-19



Impact of Quarantine

- 9,293 quarantine notices were issued during the 2020-2021 school year for the following reasons:
 - Students and Staff who were confirmed positive cases
 - 120 Confirmed Positive Staff Cases
 - 421 Confirmed Student Positive Cases
 - Student and Staff who were close contacts inside of school
 - Student and Staff who were close contacts outside of school
- 2,228 students were quarantined one time
- 2,335 students were quarantined more than one time
 - Maximum number of times quarantined in 2020-2021 was 9
 - Length of quarantine was a maximum of ten days and a minimum of two days
 - Missed in-person instruction due to quarantine does not take into consideration the number of days a school was shifted to remote learning due to community transmission

(All quarantine data collected from NASD data sources.)



Impact of Quarantine

- **Quarter 2 Quarantine Procedures:** When a case was identified the full classroom, bus, and sports/activity pod was quarantined.
- **Quarter 3 Quarantine Procedures:** All staff and students within six feet for 15 minutes or more were quarantined. Bus quarantine procedures were changed to include those on the bus with the positive individual for 15 consecutive minutes or more.
- **Comparing NASD Quarter 2 and 3:** Both quarters had similar number of cases (Qtr. 2: 152 and Qtr. 3: 154) and a similar amount of student quarantines (Qtr. 2: 2832 and Qtr. 3: 3060).
- The quarantine numbers were similar, regardless of quarantine procedure used.
- It is also important to note, to start the 2021-2022 school year, we will have 97% of our students in-person five days a week, as opposed to last year when we had approximately 76% of our students in-person for quarters 2 and 3, with K-8 five days a week and 9-12 hybrid.



Impact of Quarantine

Student Quarantine Frequency During the 2020-2021 School Year

<i>Number of Times Quarantined</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>	<i>Number of Times Quarantined</i>	<i>Number of Students</i>
2	1,286	6	29
3	652	7	6
4	262	8	2
5	97	9	1



Impact of Quarantine

- 519 total staff members were quarantined due to COVID-19.
- 362 staff members were quarantined one time.
- 157 staff members were quarantined more than one time.
 - Maximum number of times quarantined in 20-21 was six.
 - Length of quarantine was a maximum of 10 days and a minimum of two days.



Impact of Quarantine

Staff Quarantine Frequency During the 2020-2021 School Year

<i>Number of Times Quarantined</i>	<i>Number of Staff Members</i>
2	108
3	29
4	10
5	7
6	3



Impact of School Closure

Number of days in-person instruction was shifted to remote learning due to cases:

<i>School</i>	<i>Days remote</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Days Remote</i>
NASH	39	BWE	21
NAI	32	FES	21
CMS	28	HES	21
IMS	25	IES	21
MMS	33	MCK	23
		MES	24
		PES	24



Allegheny County Transmission Data

- Allegheny County started in substantial level of community transmission on August 2, 2021 and as of August 14, 2021, is now in a high level of community transmission. The last time we were in substantial transmission was April 23, 2021.
- High transmission is considered 100 or more cases per 100,000, or a positivity rate between 10% or higher.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
 - 64% of cases in our region are the Delta variant.
- The Allegheny County Health Department encourages Districts to follow this recommendation.

(Allegheny County Health Department Website)



Allegheny County COVID-19 Cases

- The cases of school age children 5-18 years old has increased over the last four weeks.
(Allegheny County Health Department Website)

Week of	Number of Cases of 5-18 Years Old	Total Number of Cases all Ages
July 10 - 16, 2021	28	173
July 17 - 23, 2021	37	297
July 24 - 30, 2021	74	570
July 31 - August 6, 2021	137	756
August 7 - 13, 2021	168	1165



North Allegheny Municipality COVID-19 Cases

July 7-16 2021	Number of cases	Number of tests	Population	Daily average incidence rate (per 10,000)	Weekly positivity rate (%)
Bradford Woods	0	5	1147	0	0
Franklin Park	3	75	14749	0.290576601	4
McCandless	2	108	28311	0.100919885	1.851851852
Marshall	0	43	9355	0	0
Cumulative	5	231	53562	0.133356804	2.164502165
July 17-26 2021	Number of cases	Number of tests	Population	Daily average incidence rate (per 10,000)	Weekly positivity rate (%)
Bradford Woods	0	9	1147	0	0
Franklin Park	0	79	14749	0	0
McCandless	3	114	28311	0.151379827	2.631578947
Marshall	0	51	9355	0	0
Cumulative	3	253	53562	0.080014082	1.185770751
July 27-Aug 3 2021	Number of cases	Number of tests	Population	Daily average incidence rate (per 10,000)	Weekly positivity rate (%)
Bradford Woods	0	7	1147	0	0
Franklin Park	9	116	14749	0.871729803	7.75862069
McCandless	13	213	28311	0.655979251	6.103286385
Marshall	13	111	9355	1.985187448	11.71171171
Cumulative	35	447	53562	0.933497629	7.829977629

- The number of COVID-19 cases in our municipalities has increased over the last three weeks.
- (Allegheny County Health Department)



Consultation with District Physician and Health Services

- Weekly meetings were held with the District Physician and Health Services starting in July 2021 to review county and local data and guidelines.
- As the weeks progressed, case counts for both children 5-18 and adults increased throughout the county, overall case counts increased for our municipalities and the updated CDC guidance on quarantines required us to look more closely at our quarantine numbers from 2020 - 2021.
- Based on these discussions, to avoid large number of quarantines and maximize in-person learning while providing a safe environment for students and staff, the group agreed that requiring masks was necessary.



Updates to Health and Safety Plan

- Prior to the start of the school year, there are a few additional updates to our Health and Safety Plan.
 - Only changes to the Health and Safety Plan since it was last shared on July 19 are included.
 - All changes are denoted with a ♦ throughout the plan.
 - The updated Back to School Plan will be uploaded to our website by August 19.



Health and Safety at School

Face Coverings ♦

- Face coverings for staff, students, and visitors are optional but strongly recommended.
- Face coverings are still required by the Federal government on public transportation, which includes NASD-provided transportation and buses.
- The Board of Directors voted 6-3 to make masks optional but strongly recommended, for students, staff, and visitors through September 22, 2021.
- This vote will be reviewed again at the September 22, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.



Health and Safety at School

Face Covering Breaks◆

- If a student chooses to do so, there will be an opportunity for a scheduled face covering break during class periods, not to exceed five minutes.
- Face covering breaks will be staggered in the classroom to allow six feet between those without face coverings on.
- When possible, outdoor classroom spaces can be utilized to assist with face covering breaks.
- Students and staff are permitted to remove their face coverings when outdoors, including recess.



Health and Safety at School

Food Service ♦

Students will be seated six feet apart at lunch time for the 2021-2022 school year. If necessary, additional spaces such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, and possibly classrooms will be utilized where feasible to reduce student density during lunch periods. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands before and after lunch periods. Meal menus may be revised and limited to support “grab-and-go” style meals and limit a-la-carte and individual serving selections.



Students Health and Safety at School

Large Assemblies and School Activities ♦

Gatherings, concerts, events, assemblies, and extracurricular activities may resume following the guidance below:

Events During the School Day with Students:

- Whole school assemblies will not occur unless held outside.
- Grade level assemblies may occur if students are seated at least three feet apart.
- Field trips will not be scheduled for the start of the school year.
- Clubs and activities will resume and follow the Back to Sports/Activities Plan.

Events in the Evening Indoors:

- All visitors are required to wear a face covering when entering any District building.
- Events cannot involve food unless the food is served and consumed outside.
- For curriculum nights, it is recommended that only one family member per household attend due to space in classrooms.
- Families will be asked to sign in to each event that require families to be in a classroom or multi-purpose room for 15 minutes or more.

Outdoor Events:

- Face coverings are not required outside.
- There are no current limits on outdoor gathering limits.



Students Health and Safety at School

School Volunteers/Visitors ♦

- Volunteers/Visitors are permitted on school property.



Monitoring Student and Staff Health

- The District will complete case investigation and contact tracing for any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 and has been in the school environment during their infectious period.
- If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the District will follow applicable health department protocol and guidance on [contact tracing](#), quarantine, and/or isolation while respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- If your student or someone in your student's household is being tested for COVID-19, immediately notify your building nurse.
- If a student or staff member develops COVID-like symptoms, they will be asked to follow-up with their PCP and may be asked to remain home in isolation for up to 10 days, depending on circumstances.



Monitoring Student and Staff Health

- Upon exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID-19, the student/employee should stay at home and contact their School Nurse before returning to school. Further information on self-assessment can be found through the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and Prevention, PA Department of Health, or Allegheny County Health Department. Upon contacting the School Nurse, you will be asked:
 - If a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 90 days.
 - If a student or staff member is fully vaccinated.
 - If a student or staff member has proof of an antibody test within the past 90 days. ♦
 - If one of these applies, the student/staff member may be excused from quarantine.
- Students and Staff members are encouraged to submit a copy of the vaccination card to their school's nurse.



Reminders for School Readiness

- Students and their parents/guardians and staff are responsible for monitoring symptoms before coming to school/work.
- If students or staff must stay home if they have:
 - a fever of 100 degrees or higher,
 - a cough, shortness of breath,
 - or loss of taste or smell.



Reminders for School Readiness



TIGER STRONG LIVE LONG: KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY & WELL

Keeping our NASD community healthy and well is a shared responsibility between our families and staff. Conducting regular screenings for illness and ongoing self-monitoring can help reduce exposure to various viruses. **Please stay home if you are sick.** If you feel ill while you are at school, please see the school nurse.

When Should I Keep My Child Home From School?

Please keep your child home if they show any of the following symptoms

- **Active vomiting or diarrhea.**
- **Fever (100° or higher), chills, or general body aches.**
- **Has shown any COVID-19 symptoms** including fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, achiness, fatigue, headache, sore throat, and a new loss of taste or smell.
- **Other symptoms of possible concern:** including rash, conjunctivitis (red eyes), swelling of the palms and soles of the feet or skin peeling in those areas, congestion/ runny nose, lymph node enlargement (swollen glands), and sharp abdominal pains.

When Can My Child Return To School After Illness?

- 24 hours since the last episode of active vomiting or diarrhea.
- 24 hours being fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication (fevers of 100° or higher).
- 24 hours after starting antibiotics for bacterial causes.
- Doctor's note of clearance for various student-specific medical conditions.
- For a known exposure to COVID-19, contact your school nurse.

NASD Health & Safety Plan

To view the District's entire Health & Safety plan, visit our website:
www.northallegheny.org



Question and Answers

