

OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
501 Atlantic Avenue  
Ocean City, NJ  
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Thomas A. Baruffi, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

## Back to School Reopening Plan 21-22

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Dear Ocean City School District Families,

As the interim superintendent of the Ocean City School District, I am looking forward to the start of another school year. I am excited to be part of this outstanding school community and I look forward to meeting many of you in the days ahead.

Over the past several months, the Ocean City School District has gathered feedback from a number of sources to develop the **Opening School Plan for the 2021-2022 school year**. The initial draft of the plan was distributed on June 24, 2021 to gather feedback from our district community. Although we recognize there are varying perspectives on mitigation strategies, the district has outlined a plan for opening schools for the 2021-2022 school year. The following recommendations are meant to guide school teams to balance the needs of students and staff. This guidance and local data will be reviewed monthly during the 2021-2022 school year and updates to all recommendations will be made as needed. This information will be shared with the public through district communications of various sorts. Primary aspects of the plan are as follows:

### **Instructional Model**

#### *In-Person Instructional Model for P3-12*

The school day is built to maximize instructional learning time within a safe learning environment. At all grade levels:

- Students will attend school 5 days a week on full day schedules.
- Our schools are fully open, and near 100% in-person attendance is expected.
- Health and safety remain a priority, therefore many of our COVID protocols will remain.

#### *Social Emotional and Mental Health Supports*

The Ocean City School District is dedicated to the physical and mental wellness of all students. The goal of the district's mental health plan is to expand on the multi-tiered system of support currently in place for mental and social-emotional health and improve the quality and accessibility of mental health services through direct services and/or referral to outside providers. Student support is provided through classroom SEL lessons, targeted skills groups, individual and group counseling supports, wellness clubs/activities, and referrals to community agencies.

#### *Instructional Continuity*

Consistency with learning platforms will provide instructional continuity in the event of a district-wide or individual student disruption of learning due to crisis. At each school level consistent use of Powerschool will facilitate online access to classroom content. In addition, the district will continue to leverage data to refine our instructional model to differentiate our teaching to support students where they currently are academically. This includes prioritizing on grade level reading in K-6 and implementing small group instruction to allow for

remediation, mastery, and stretch learning opportunities in literacy and math, as well as implement programs to support basic skills.

### *Schedules*

The district recognizes the importance of bell schedules in structuring the educational environment for our students. School principals will create a building schedule that ensures optimal time for academics while also adhering to Health and Safety Guidelines.

## **Health and Safety Protocols**

### *Face Coverings for Students and Staff*

The district, in coordination with the CMC health department and NJDOE, is implementing the following guidance for face coverings in educational settings:

- The wearing of masks for the 2021-2022 school year is required while **inside** school buildings for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks and/or barriers do not preclude an individual from being identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case.
- Transportation: Per Order of the CDC, passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems. This includes to and from school, as well as to and from all events, activities, contests, etc.

### *Social Distancing*

Social Distancing in classroom settings is one prevention strategy to utilize, as feasible, with other key mitigation strategies to maintain healthy schools. The Ocean City School District will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding physical distancing as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend Ocean City School District will be expected to physically distance throughout the facility during the school day or until different guidance is issued regarding physical distance by the CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health. Students will remain three (3) feet socially distanced in the classrooms and common areas where practicable. In addition, signage regarding social distancing is displayed throughout the buildings and on school grounds. Email and social media reminders will be distributed to students, parents, and guardians regarding physical distancing expectations. Best practice instructional techniques are recommended to continue (small groups, labs, intervention, etc.). Instructors in all areas will maintain accurate seating charts and attendance records for the purpose of any necessary contact tracing.

### *Screening and Testing*

The Ocean City School District will continue to utilize the self-screening tool provided by the NJDOH that reflects COVID-19 screening requirements for all students, faculty, and staff. The screening requirements are delineated in weekly/daily district school correspondence to staff and families. Furthermore, students, faculty, and staff (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who manifest or present symptoms of COVID-19, based on the screening tool, will be directed and expected to follow the most current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by the CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health. The District's COVID-19 screening tool will be distributed to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of the school year. In addition, regular reminders and social media posts will be shared with stakeholders to reinforce the district's self-screening expectations for all individuals. Faculty and staff will continue to monitor students for any signs of illness and report any concerns to the school nurses and proper administration.

The district has identified the following rapid testing sites in and around the community:

- AtlantiCare Urgent Care Center: 443 Shore Rd. Somers Point: 609 569-7077
- CVS Pharmacy: 1 Roosevelt Blvd, Marmora, NJ 08223: 609 390-0060
- Cape Regional Urgent Care: 8 U.S. 9, Marmora, NJ 08223: 609 465-6364
- Village Pharmacy- Atlantic Diagnostic Lab: 38 Tuckahoe Rd, Marmora, NJ 08223: 267 525- 2470

Additional testing locations: <https://www.solvehealth.com/nj/c/ocean-city-nj-srv-covid-testing>

\*If you need assistance in paying for a Covid test, please contact your child's school directly.

### *Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff*

Each school will have a designated staff member trained in best practice procedures for isolating individuals (unvaccinated and vaccinated) who present with symptoms related to COVID19. The district will continue to utilize isolation rooms for individuals that are in attendance and presenting symptoms of COVID-19. Furthermore, any individuals suspected of having COVID-19 will be directed to be tested for and self-quarantine based on current and relevant CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health guidance. The District will continue to work in partnership and communicate with the Cape May County Department of Health regarding self-quarantine periods for identified students, faculty, and staff.

### *Exclusion & Continuity of Learning*

If a school is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of contact tracing the school will be prepared to offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible. Teacher(s) will provide communication and procedures for the alternate learning environment within 24 hours of notification. **This option is only available for documented Covid related absences.** In the case of other absences, students will follow make-up work procedures provided by their individual teacher(s).

**\*\*Please note, vaccinated students identified as a close contact do not need to quarantine if symptoms are not present. Unvaccinated students identified as a close contact will be required to quarantine based on county health guidelines.**

### *School Operations*

The information outlined above pertains to all of our schools and is intended to provide guidance district-wide. However, there are some procedures that will need to be tailored to each building.

Individual school principals will provide information on building specific procedures.

I welcome you to the start of another school year with the confidence that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead in a cordial and collaborative manner.

Respectfully,

*Tom Baruffi*

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