



**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan
Initially Adopted by the NPS Board of Education
6/24/2021**

**Amended 09-13-2021, 12-13-2021,
01-10-2022, 06-15-2022, 9-07-2022**

Please note that this plan will be reviewed at least every six months and may be adjusted as new information/guidance becomes available.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan–Revised 9/2022

The Norfolk Public Schools COVID-19 Return to School Committee developed our initial COVID-19 safety protocols during the summer of 2020. This plan allowed us to successfully return to in-person learning and remain in-person throughout the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. That plan and subsequent revisions were based upon guidance from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD).

Currently, both the CDC and ELVPHD recommend that children should stay home for a minimum of 5 days if they exhibit any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptom, and only return if they wear a mask for 5 more days, or they receive a negative COVID test, followed by a second COVID test 48 hours later.

Because NPS has consistently reiterated that we will only require masking if cases surge to a level where it is necessary to keep schools open AND we have also reiterated that we will not require COVID testing, we are now breaking with guidance from the CDC and ELVPHD. We believe that this is necessary in order to continue in-person learning and protect individuals' personal right to choose whether to mask, test, and vaccinate.

Safety Precautions and Protocols Recommended by the NPS COVID Return to School Committee Include:

Ensuring Continuity of Services	We have returned to a regular school year schedule that follows our normal curriculum, assessment and instruction cycles.
Food Service	Our food service program has returned to pre-pandemic routines.
Face Masks	Face masks are strongly recommended for those who may be contagious and/or unvaccinated.
Physical Distancing	Physical distancing is no longer recommended by the CDC and is not required by NPS.
Cleaning	High-touch surfaces will be cleaned routinely.
Hand Washing and Sanitizing	Everyone will be encouraged to sanitize or wash their hands frequently. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout NPS buildings.
Ventilation	Ventilation will continue to focus on filtration and fresh air practices consistent with ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) standards for current equipment.

Screening	<p>Parents are asked to screen their children at home for COVID symptoms*. If children are ill and/or exhibit symptoms: keep them home, consider giving them a COVID test, and follow the advice of your medical doctor.</p> <p>* COVID symptoms include any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptom, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea.</p>
Isolation and Quarantine	<p>Students who are ill and/or exhibit COVID symptoms are expected to stay home from school until their symptoms are better and they are fever-free for 24 hours.</p> <p>An isolation period of 5 days is required for individuals who test positive for COVID. (See additional details below this chart.)</p> <p>Quarantines are no longer recommended by the CDC and are not required by NPS.</p>
Accommodations for Children with Disabilities	Students' IEPs and 504 Plans will be followed.
Contract Tracing	Contract tracing is no longer recommended by the CDC and is not required by NPS. However, NPS will monitor COVID case levels and implement a dashboard if cases surge.
Coordination with Local Health Officials	We will continue to collaborate with our local health department, as necessary.
Vaccinations	Parents are encouraged to consult their family physician regarding vaccinations.
<p>IMPORTANT NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future changes may be made to these procedures if cases surge. This may include the implementation of a temporary mask requirement for individual classes or schools with high rates of COVID or total illness. 	

How to determine if (and how long) to stay home:

If you are ill and/or exhibit COVID symptoms:

- Stay home until your symptoms have improved and you have been fever free for 24 hours. Consider taking a COVID test and follow the advice of your medical doctor.

If you test positive for COVID:

- Stay home for a minimum of 5 days and follow the advice of your medical doctor.
- You may return after 5 days if your symptoms have improved and you have been fever free for 24 hours. It is strongly recommended that you wear a mask for 5 additional days.

Additional Information:

- While supplies last, free in-home COVID test kits are available from NPS school nurses and the Central Office receptionist, courtesy of the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department.
- Quarantines are no longer recommended by the CDC for people who were exposed to COVID. Therefore, attendance will not be excused unless a child tests positive for COVID. Attendance for students who exhibit COVID symptoms, but have not tested positive, will follow our normal attendance rules outlined in our student handbooks.