



Good Afternoon Neshaminy,

I'll skip the opening introduction paragraph and get right to the point. I am recommending to the School Board that Neshaminy append the Health & Safety Plan approved in July to include all the Targeted Temporary Mitigations issued by the Bucks County Department of Health on August 15 and, in part, the Targeted Temporary Mitigations issued on August 17. (Details on Page 2)

The goal is to balance the least restrictive environment with student and staff safety; the need for top-notch, interactive, collaborative, in-person instruction; and getting the most students back to school. Below is the starting point of what will most likely need rebalancing along the way.

Last year the approach to COVID in schools began with the most restrictive environment – schools did not open – because of the many unknowns about the Pandemic. Over time, we gradually eased restrictions permitting more and more students in-person access to daily instruction. This year's approach is the opposite; beginning school with the fewest restrictions as deemed safe by local conditions. And as necessary, adding mitigation layers if conditions warrant such measures.

The idea of Targeted Temporary Mitigation (TTM) strategies is the foundation of the Neshaminy Health & Safety Plan as approved by the School Board on July 22, 2021. The goal is to eliminate the "One-size Fits All" Model of COVID mitigation and tailor efforts to the specific areas of need whether it be the entire County, a particular District, or an individual school as we normalize the school setting as COVID moves from Pandemic to Endemic over the next several years. (www.newyorker.com/science/annals-of-medicine/coexisting-with-the-coronavirus)

Neshaminy Health & Safety Document is intended to be flexible, adaptive and agile as it permits the Targeted Temporary Mitigation (TTM) efforts deemed necessary by the Superintendent in consultation with BC DoH without necessarily waiting for School Board approval. If the Board wishes to change a TTM strategy, it may do so at scheduled or special Board meetings.

In this case, given the timing and schools not being opened yet, the Board can act on the TTM Strategies issued by the BC DoH in advance.

Fortunately, locally, we have a high vaccination rate and COVID transmission appears to be less than many areas being reported on the nightly news. I've included the following below:

1. The chart containing the weekly Incidence Rate per 100,000 in the County.
2. The 30-day COVID Case count and a 7-day count specifically for the 6 municipalities making up the Neshaminy School District.
3. The PA DoH August 13 Report of COVID Deaths
4. The August 15 BC DoH FAQ Guidance with the additional TTM
5. The August 17 BC DoH TTM Guidance to follow CDC recommendations in Bucks County
6. The Revised Neshaminy Health & Safety Document

Below are my recommended adjustments to the existing Health & Safety Plan.

Executive Summary of Revised Health & Safety Plan (*pending Board Approval*):

- The revisions will be effective September 1, 2021 and end October 1, 2021.
- Neshaminy will normalize the School Setting with the existence of COVID.
- There will be two instructional options: In-person Learning and Neshaminy School District Virtual Academy. Live-Streaming (Option D1 from last year) will not be available.
- Masks will be required in Grades K-8 for all students and staff, when inside and on buses, through October 1, 2021.
- Athletic and Co-Curricular Programs will return to pre-pandemic operations.
- As per the Bucks County Department of Health, COVID Isolation, Quarantining, Contact Tracing will not occur as in the past.
- Neshaminy will work closely with the BC DoH to monitor Neshaminy Community and School-level transmission.
- Neshaminy will add Targeted Temporary Mitigation (TTM) layers at the recommendation of the BC DoH or deemed necessary by the Superintendent; specifically, all TTM recommendations below from 8/15/2021 and, in part, the 8/17/2021 recommendation.
- Neshaminy will change the instructional model as necessitated by local conditions.

Targeted Temporary Mitigation recommended by BC DoH for the entire County:

- 8/17/2021: Follow the CDC recommendation for masking in schools.
- 8/15/2021: Students/Staff exhibiting COVID-like symptoms should not attend school/work until symptom free for 24-hours.
- 8/15/2021: Students/Staff who test positive for COVID and are asymptomatic may return to school/work three days after the specimen date.
- 8/15/2021: Upon returning to school after a positive COVID test, Students/Staff will be required to wear a mask for seven days from the date of the specimen or the onset of symptoms – whichever was earlier.
- 8/15/2021: Asymptomatic Students/Staff with a continuing Household Positive COVID Contact will be required to wear a mask for seven days from the date of the Household Member's first symptoms.
- 8/15/2021: When the School is voluntarily informed of a positive COVID test result of a student or staff member, the school may notify the parents of the other students in the same classroom(s) and/or bus.

Academic Model:

The Primary Academic Model is in-person instruction, 5 days a week in classrooms configured to utilize the best-practices for student success including plenty of social interactions and collaboration. Think Pre-pandemic classrooms. For parents who are not comfortable with the traditional academic model, we will continue to offer the Neshaminy School District Virtual Academy (NSDVA). Daily Synchronous Live-streaming from the Classroom will not be available. While a necessity last year, the simultaneous dual model significantly complicates the in-person instructional model thereby lessening the effectiveness.

Parents of students who participated in NSDVA last year will be (have been) contacted by the District as to their preference for 2021/2022. All other students will default to in-person instruction for the time being.

Transportation:

Bus/Van Loads will return to pre-pandemic conditions which is 2-3 students per seat. There is no need to "Opt-out" of Transportation. Other than Walkers, every student will be assigned Transportation.

Co-curricular Activities:

All Sports and Co-curricular Programs will return to pre-pandemic conditions.

Masks:

As a Targeted Temporary Mitigation, Masks are required in Grades K-8 for all students and staff, when inside and on buses, through Friday, October 1. With appropriate documentation from a licensed medical professional, parents may request mask exemptions from the school. Masks will become optional, a personal choice, after October 1, 2021 unless the the School Board extends the requirement.

Attached is the form to request a Mask Exemption for your child. Completed forms should be sent to your school's Principal.

Breakfast/Lunch

Since Masking is now necessary in Grades K-8, it makes little sense placing students in a crowded cafeteria to eat unmasked for a period of time.

Therefore, while masking is necessary, Grades K-4 will eat in their classroom, similar to last year. This will increase distance between students, while unmasked, as compared to traditional cafeteria tables.

Grades 5-8 will sit at classroom desks similar to last year; again, to increase space compared to traditional cafeteria tables. Different from last year, Middle School Students will use the traditional cafeteria lines to purchase (acquire) their food.

School Hygiene/Sanitation:

We learned a lot about Physical Hygiene and Sanitation last year. Neshaminy was the first to install Bi-polar Ionization Systems in each school's HVAC System to 'clean' the air. Hand Sanitizer will continue to be readily available at each classroom door and throughout the hallways. Materials to clean surfaces will continue to be supplied to each classroom.

Isolation/Exclusion/Quarantine/Contact Tracing:

Presently, the Bucks County Department of Health will not be issuing Isolation Orders to those testing positive for COVID. The BC DoH will not be Quarantining individuals in Close Contact with someone testing positive for COVID. The BC DoH will not be Contact Tracing in schools. Therefore, Neshaminy has no basis to exclude students/staff from school/work or to Contact Trace. The plan moving forward is similar to that of most other illnesses. If you are not feeling well: 1) Stay Home; 2) If the symptoms continue, see your doctor; 3) Follow your physician's directions; 4) Return to School/Work when symptom free for 24 hours.

If approved by the Board, Neshaminy will be following the TTM issued by the BC DoH on August 15 addressing students (and households) with a COVID Positive Result. (Details on Page 2)

Notifications:

The extensive COVID Notification System of Close Contact phone calls, School-wide Notifications and Weekly Dashboards will not occur as 1) such communication is no longer required by the BC DoH and 2) such information will no longer exist in any systemic reliable form. The Commonwealth will continue the COVID Dashboard by County.

However, Neshaminy encourages Parents/Staff to notify their Principal of student COVID Positive Results and those in their household so we can give the appropriate instructions as listed in the TTM above. Additionally, with permission from the Parent/Staff Members, the school will notify parents of other students in that classroom and/or bus.

Vaccinations:

There are no plans to require COVID Vaccinations for students or staff at the local level. As you know, there is a list of required vaccinations for students as required by the Commonwealth of PA. Presently, the COVID Vaccination is not on that list of required vaccinations for students.

COVID Testing:

Presently, there are no plans to require COVID Testing of students or staff. Neshaminy will work with the BC DoH and BCIU to re-establish free, rapid COVID Testing for students and staff in the County.

Targeted Temporary Mitigation Changes:

The primary goal is to keep students in school, every day. If conditions change between now and the start of school or in the Fall, we will add the necessary mitigation layers to make certain we can continue to operate school every day. Additional layers would include time-bound and school-specific Mask Mandates, increase physical distancing and/or reduced movement prior to reducing the number of students in schools each day. Such decisions will be made in concert with the BC DoH.

Registering of NSDVA:

Attached is a Registration Form for those wishing to switch to NSDVA for the first month of school or longer. We will reserve a seat in the student's home school to permit a transition back to in-person instruction if deemed appropriate by parents. If you send us the form by Thursday, August 26, we will get your child started by September 1. After August 26, it will take 3-5 days to get your child set up.

Please use the below link to register for NSDVA for the start of the school year.

[NSDVA REGISTRATION](#)

Email and/or call Mr. Paul Mahoney with questions at pmahoney@neshaminy.org / 215-809-6549

Discussion:

Why not a K-12 Mask Requirement?

The Recommendation focuses on schools with students who are not yet eligible to receive a COVID vaccination. Yes, I realize the recommendation now follows none of the advice at any level.

Then why not a Mask Requirement for only those under the age of 12?

Ninety (90) percent of students in Grade 6 will begin school at the age of 11. By June, 90 percent of students in Grade 6 will be the age of 12. On the first day of school, half of our Middle School Students will be under the age of 12. The logistics of managing a Mask Requirement that changes daily moving from 50 percent of the school to 75 percent of the school are impractical and will further disrupt the daily operation of schools.

Why the change since the July 22 Health & Safety Plan?

The circumstances of the continuing pandemic have changed since the plan was originally crafted in early July. I realize the topic of a mask requirement in school is incredibly controversial and polarizing. The decision to require masks in Grades K-8 was based on much discussion and deliberation with many; not personal or Board ideology. Ultimately, the belief that we need to move to the Endemic state of COVID to give students the safest and most effective learning environment possible meeting physical, psychological and emotional needs. In my opinion, this is the first step to get the most students into our schools as possible.

Everybody wants what is best for children; especially their own children. Those we disagree with are not evil or uncaring. They simply have different risk tolerances with their children and see a different path forward. Let's not divide our community with a news worthy public argument on the topic. It's not necessarily "The Right" versus "The Wrong" and most definitely not "The Good" versus "The Bad." It is simply disagreement and debate on the best path forward as a District. Please debate, disagree and listen respectfully so we can emerge stronger as a Neshaminy Community.

Neshaminy will continue to track cases reported to us directly. The BC DoH tracks cases reported from testing facilities. I will meet with my staff every day at 9:00 AM to specifically review COVID data in each school. There will be no less of an effort this year than the effort that got Neshaminy students back to school safely last year. You have my word.

With Neshaminy Pride,

Rob

215-800-6501

Rob McGee, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Neshaminy School District

Bucks County COVID Cases (Roughly 630,000 Residents)

Incidence Rate per 100,00

Week Ending	Incidence Rate per 100,000	Week Ending	Incidence Rate per 100,000
Prior Weeks	Less than 100	07/01/21	06
11/05/20	107	07/08/21	08
11/12/20	221	07/15/21	14
11/19/20	289	07/22/21	30
11/26/20	333	07/29/21	36
12/03/20	439	08/05/21	57
12/10/20	514	08/12/21	67
12/17/20	441	08/19/21	<i>Due out 8/20</i>
12/24/20	351	08/26/21	
12/31/20	320	09/02/21	
01/07/21	341	09/09/21	
01/14/21	311	09/16/21	
01/21/21	233	09/25/21	
01/28/21	227		
02/04/21	179		
02/11/21	185		
02/18/21	147		
02/25/21	126		
03/05/21	130		
03/11/21	127		
03/18/21	146		
03/25/21	195		
04/01/21	235		
04/08/21	243		
04/15/21	238		
04/22/21	206		
04/29/21	151		
05/07/21	105		
05/14/21	80		
05/21/21	42		
05/28/21	42		
.....	...		

I know there are different numbers from different websites; I've been referring to this Commonwealth Website: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>

Neshaminy Municipality COVID Cases (Roughly 60,000 Residents)

<https://bucksgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Media/index.html?appid=89e673a583fc4f44a8139205346a0ab6>

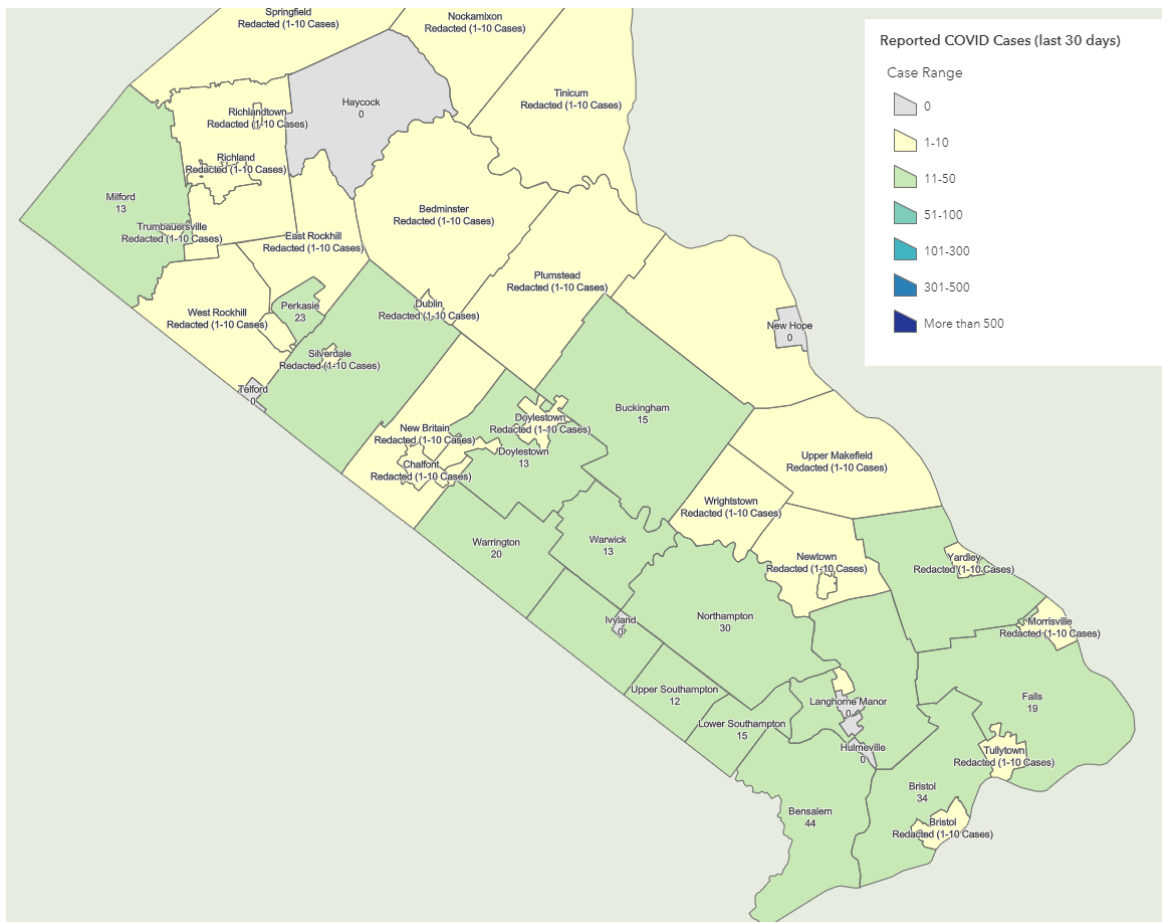
- For the 30-day period prior to August 13, the Neshaminy School District (based on Municipality Cases) has recorded no more than 132 cases of COVID

a. Middletown:	82 Cases
b. Lower South:	23 Cases
c. Langhorne Borough	<10 Cases
d. Langhorne Manor	<10 Cases
e. Penn-del:	0 Cases
f. Hulmeville:	<10 Cases

**This data is no longer viewable on the BC DoH Dashboard as it has been recently converted to a view of the "Past 7-day Period" below.*

- For the 7-day period prior to August 17, the Neshaminy School District (based on Municipality Cases) has recorded no more than 55 cases of COVID

a. Middletown:	31 Cases
b. Lower South:	15 Cases
c. Langhorne Borough	<10 Cases
d. Langhorne Manor	0 Cases
e. Penn-del:	0 Cases
f. Hulmeville:	0 Cases



CDC COVID Community Transmission Level Chart:

COVID Transmission Level	Incidence per 100,000	Incidence Rate as Percentage of Population		Percent Positive Testing
Low	<10	Less than 0.1% of Population	and	<5
Moderate	<50	Less than 0.5% of Population		<8
Substantial	<100	Less than 1.0% of Population		<10
High	100 +	Greater than 1.0% of Population		10+

Bucks County Health Department School Guidance on Masking

News & Press Releases

Posted on: August 17, 2021

Health Department Amends School Guidance After Hospitals Request Masking

Acting on new information from area hospitals, the Bucks County Health Department this afternoon revised the county's school guidance to include a recommendation for masking of all students.

All other [school guidance issued Sunday](#) by the county remains in effect. The statement from Health Department Director Dr. David Damsker announcing the change is below:

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Bucks County Health Department has worked collaboratively with our schools and hospitals to gather data and develop sensible guidance for our community. The guidance issued most recently to the schools was done in partnership with the district superintendents and was designed to allow the districts to make decisions based on data provided to them by the Health Department. While our cases have increased in Bucks over the past few weeks, our hospitalizations and deaths have not risen in a corresponding way. Our hospitals have effectively handled the rise in cases. Just today, however, the partnership we have with our hospitals has given us new information which causes us to update our previous recommendations.

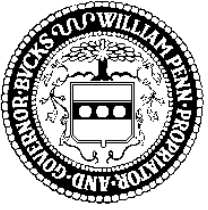
Even under normal circumstances, hospitals in Bucks County have limited ability to treat severe pediatric cases of any type. As our hospitals must refer all serious cases to pediatric specialty hospitals in the region, many of those same specialty pediatric hospitals are already operating at close to capacity because of non-COVID illnesses and staffing issues. While our COVID-19 cases among school-aged children remain very low, hospitals are growing concerned that any pediatric COVID-19 cases could stress the system.

Because of this, hospitals in Bucks County have recommended that schools begin the fall semester with a mask requirement.

As a result of this new information provided by our partner hospitals, we support their recommendation to follow CDC guidance on masking in schools. This is particularly important for students who are unvaccinated, which includes all students under 12. We continue to urge, in the strongest possible sense, that everyone get vaccinated.

The remainder of the county's recently released guidance remains in effect. The Health Department will continue as an active partner with our schools and hospitals as we navigate through this ongoing fight.

Media contact: Larry King, 215-348-6413, lrking@buckscounty.org



COUNTY OF BUCKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Neshaminy Manor Center, 1282 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-345-3318
FIELD OFFICES

Bucks County Government Services Center, 7321 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA 19055 – 267-580-3510
Bucks County Government Services Center, 261 California Road, Suite #2, Quakertown, PA 18951 – 215-529-7000

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Director
DAVID C. DAMSKER, M.D., M.P.H.

8/15/21

2021-2022 SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDANCE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Introduction

As the new school year approaches, the Bucks County Health Department (BCHD) wishes to provide school entities with guidance to assist in their back-to-school planning. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a fluid situation with ebbs, flows, and variants. Accordingly, the BCHD has and will continue to adjust its guidance and recommendations as necessary. In Bucks County, cases have only increased modestly, and are well below their peak in December, 2020. In fact, as of the date this memo was issued, Bucks County as a whole averages 9 cases per day of school-aged children.

While some may be looking for County-wide mandates, neither the Bucks County Commissioners nor the BCHD can dictate to independently-elected school boards or school district superintendents how to manage their schools or students. Further, the BCHD cannot provide legal advice to school districts. Any BCHD school guidance is strictly advisory, though all state and federal guidelines acknowledge and recommend the importance of working in collaboration with local health authorities to create these plans.

Thankfully, all available evidence in Bucks County – and elsewhere – indicates that while serious illness in children with COVID-19 is possible, it is very rare. There is also clear consensus that students learn best while in school, and there is no substitute for the advantages that in-person learning provides. The effects of ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts have led to significant learning loss, mental health issues, and social adjustment difficulties in many students. Understandably, many parents are concerned about these effects in their children.

We understand that some parents also have safety concerns for children under 12 that are still unable to be vaccinated. Parents are empowered to make choices based on those concerns, including masking their children regardless of school district masking policies.

Knowing these facts about COVID-19, school boards, and their administrations have the unenviable task of making decisions about what plans to implement and what guidance to follow. During the 2020-21 school year, school districts and daycares followed guidance from multiple sources, including the BCHD, and under very difficult circumstances educated our children while keeping them safe.

In an effort to provide some clarity for the upcoming school year, the BCHD has put together the following FAQ. These responses are based on science, years of public health policy, 18 months of accumulated local experience with the pandemic, and common sense. Both the Commissioners and the BCHD are aware that a full return to school is a critically important issue for the mental health and educational development of our children. Ultimately, the collective objective for all stakeholders is to keep our children and communities safe. The BCHD continues to be available to review health and safety plans that public-school districts, private schools, or daycares wish to submit, in order to help achieve that goal.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the BCHD's position on CDC guidance?

The BCHD recognizes that school districts must review guidance from federal, state and local health authorities in their decision-making process. In addition to broad CDC guidance that attempts to cover the needs of all 50 states, and guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the entire Commonwealth, schools in Bucks County have the opportunity to work collaboratively with the BCHD, as the local health authority, to incorporate specific localized guidance based on their current data. Even within Bucks County itself, factors such as population density, case counts, and vaccination rates vary, with some areas in the County more impacted by COVID-19 than others. This variability within our County further illustrates the point that a one-size-fits-all approach to disease mitigation may not always be the most prudent approach at any level. Working with the BCHD, school districts can analyze data in order make locally-informed decisions. Indeed, it was through this data-based collaboration and local perspective, which allowed for our successful return to in-person school last year. The partnership between the BCHD and school districts resulted in near daily conversations and consultations that allowed for both safe classroom environments and best practices for mitigation. This collaboration will continue throughout the upcoming school year and beyond.

What is the BCHD's position on vaccines?

The BCHD unequivocally recommends that everyone eligible get vaccinated. The BCHD knows that vaccines are safe, effective, and the best tool we have to mitigate COVID-19. Vaccines are proven to reduce symptoms and substantially reduce death and hospitalizations due to COVID-19. The existing data, both here in Bucks County and nationally, show the overwhelming majority of people getting seriously ill from COVID-19 are those who are unvaccinated. We recommend that school districts consider mandating vaccination for all school staff and teachers, a position supported by National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) nationally. Similar requirements have existed, and been successful, for decades.

What is the BCHD's position on masks/face coverings in schools?

For the start of the school year, we recommend that at a minimum, schools should adopt a "mask-optional" policy. Moving forward, the BCHD only recommends the use of Targeted Temporary Mitigation (TTM), wherein school districts consider making mitigation decisions in consultation with the BCHD based on their local data and for specific situations. "Targeted" means it's not a one-size-fits-all approach, and instead, is in response to individual situations and needs. Mitigation measures should be crafted in order not to affect healthy, non-exposed individuals, when possible. "Temporary" means that all mitigation be time limited to meet the needs of the specific issue at hand, rather than imposed without a defined end. To help inform their TTM decisions, the BCHD will supply each school district with data, such as current COVID-19 cases broken down by zip codes. The BCHD may recommend TTM efforts that include actions such as time-limited mask/face covering requirements for children under 12 years of age, or briefly requiring masks/face coverings for individuals in elementary school classrooms in which there are known outbreaks of multiple cases. The TTM approach mirrors similar and successful mitigation efforts supported by BCHD in schools for decades in response to various diseases. While those diseases and COVID-19 present different challenges, TTM efforts remain the gold standard from a public health perspective. Public health authorities strive to limit their response to the least restrictive action for the least period of time in order to achieve the desired outcomes for public health. Additionally, the BCHD supports enhanced TTM efforts in clinical and healthcare-like school settings, and will discuss further recommendations for those situations with school entities.

What is the BCHD's position on masks/face coverings on school buses?

The CDC has issued an order that requires masks/face coverings to be worn on all forms of public transportation. Each school district must work with their solicitor to interpret this order and its applicability.

What is the BCHD's position on sick or symptomatic students/staff in the classroom?

The BCHD strongly recommends school districts consider that any student/staff exhibiting fever or multiple symptoms should be excluded from school until those symptoms have resolved and are fever-free for 24 hours without medication, in accordance with existing protocols and best practices. School districts may also consider utilizing TTM in other appropriate situations, such as a temporary face covering for an individual displaying symptoms while in school. The BCHD is committed to providing more detailed guidance to support school nurses on these issues throughout Bucks County schools.

What is the BCHD's position on contact tracing and notifications?

The BCHD continues to focus its limited resources by contact tracing in the highest-risk settings that include congregate care facilities, corrections, and nursing homes. However, we strongly recommend that school districts urge parents to report their child's confirmed case of COVID-19 to the school nurse or staff designee, and for districts to send notification to the parents of all students in that child's classroom, specifically in schools with unvaccinated children under the age of 12. The BCHD will closely monitor COVID-19 and its variants, and TTM may include a return to additional contact tracing for a period of time if it becomes necessary.

What is the BCHD's position on isolation and quarantine?

The BCHD strongly recommends that school districts consider requiring any symptomatic students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 be excluded from school until symptoms have resolved and they are fever-free for 24 hours. Infectiousness peaks around the time of symptom onset and declines quickly during the first several days of symptoms. Schools may then elect to require a positive individual to wear a mask/face covering upon return to school through the 7th day from symptom onset, if applicable.

Individuals who test positive but are fully asymptomatic should wait at least 3 days from the test date prior to returning to school in order to ensure they are not just pre-symptomatic (about to become symptomatic.) Based on BCHD case investigations throughout the pandemic, COVID-19 transmission within a household was very unlikely from individuals who, as the first known positive case in the household, remained asymptomatic through the course of the infection. As such, the BCHD believes individuals who have not yet developed any symptoms more than 3 days from a positive test can safely return to school. Schools may then elect to require a positive individual to wear a mask/face covering upon return to school through the 7th day from the test date.

Fully asymptomatic Individuals with a known non-ongoing (i.e. not in their household) exposure to COVID-19 may continue in school normally unless any symptoms develop, in which case they should either remain home, or be evaluated by a school nurse if at school.

Fully asymptomatic individuals with an ongoing household exposure to COVID-19 should be required to wear a mask/face covering at school for a minimum of one week from the symptom onset of the household member. For fully asymptomatic individuals in households with multiple positives, the mask wearing period may be extended. If any symptoms develop during this timeframe, the individual should be immediately excluded.

What is the BCHD's position on social distancing and classroom capacity limits?

The BCHD supports any school district efforts to socially distance when feasible, while still prioritizing the importance of in-person instruction. There is no need to limit classroom capacity at this time.

What is the BCHD's position on testing?

The BCHD is committed to providing assistance, resources, and funding to support rapid testing protocols for symptomatic individuals for stakeholders to keep schools open.

Where can school districts, parents, and stake holders access pertinent data?

Please visit buckscounty.gov and click on the COVID-19 button. For any data not found on the site, the BCHD will work with school districts to provide additional information they can use to establish TTM policies. The BCHD encourage school districts to share data with the community as appropriate to empower parents to make informed choices for their children.

WEEKLY REPORT FOR DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO COVID-19 ISSUED AUGUST 13, 2021

DEATHS REGISTERED: 27,957

This report is based on COVID-19 deaths that occurred in Pennsylvania. This information has been extracted from death records registered with the Department’s Vital Records Program as of 11:59 pm on November 26, 2020. Please see [State Registrar Notice \(SRN\) 2020-13](#) for detailed information regarding the reporting of these deaths. These deaths meet the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics guidance.¹ Death records included in this report include laboratory confirmed COVID-19 deaths and clinically confirmed COVID-19 deaths.²

This death data information is considered provisional information. Due to the time associated with reporting deaths, recent death data is incomplete and only reflected in the figures below if the death record is complete. Death data will continue to be updated as additional COVID-19 deaths are registered and amended with the Vital Records Program.

GENDER

Gender	# of Deaths
Female	13,714
Male	14,243



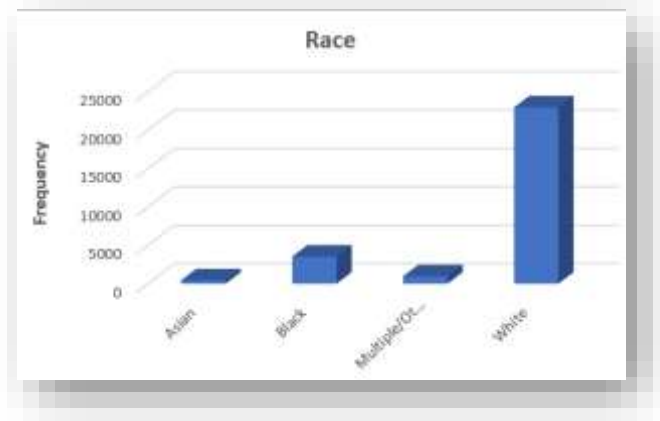
¹ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/tech_notes.htm

Coronavirus disease deaths are identified when coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 are reported as a cause that contributed to death on the death record. These can include laboratory confirmed cases, as well as cases without laboratory confirmation.

² This report only includes deaths among individuals who may have tested positive for COVID-19 if the death record meets the criteria listed in footnote 1 above.

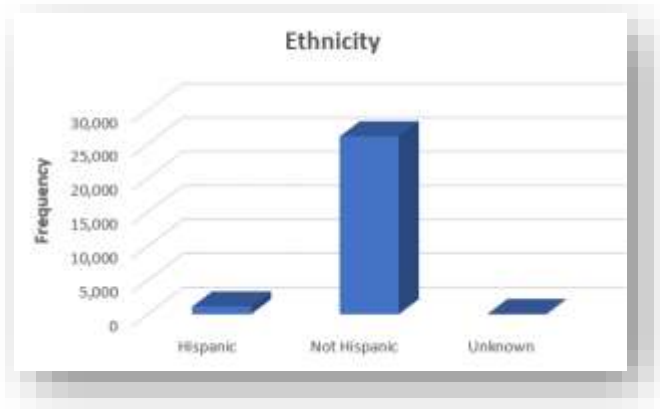
RACE

Race	# of Deaths
Asian	461
African American	3,548
White	22,973
Multiple/Other	975



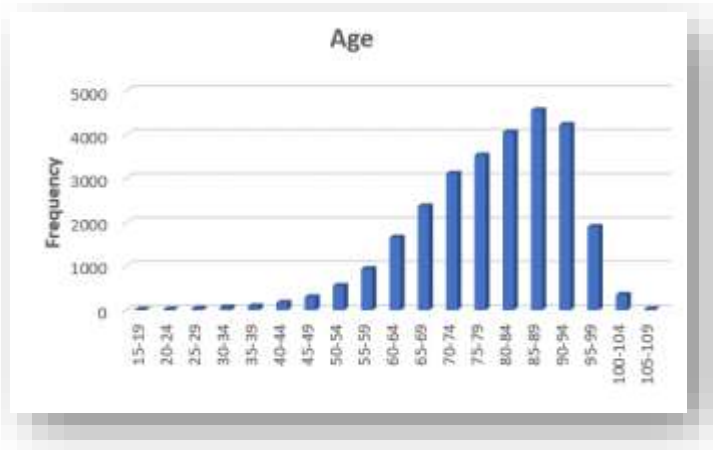
ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	# of Deaths
Hispanic	1,168
Not Hispanic	26,764
Unknown	25



AGE

Age	# of Deaths
<0-4	*
5-9	*
10-14	*
15-19	15
20-24	18
25-29	37
30-34	64
35-39	91
40-44	171
45-49	298
50-54	557
55-59	940
60-64	1,655
65-69	2,368
70-74	3,109
75-79	3,527
80-84	4,050
85-89	4,554
90-94	4,223
95-99	1,899
100-104	351
105-109	27



*Counts less than 5 are suppressed.

PLACE OF DEATH

Based on national standards, the place of death is categorized as shown above. The place of death of the decedent is reported by the medical certifier, such as a physician, CRNP, or coroner, based on the physical location where the death occurred.

Place of Death	# of Deaths
Hospice	484
Hospital	16,154
Long-Term Living	9,578
Residence	1,710
Other	31



COMORBIDITIES

Due to the novel nature of COVID-19, this is a list of comorbidities currently being tracked in Pennsylvania. This subset of comorbidities should not be interpreted as a list of conditions that caused an individual to be more susceptible to the disease. Since an individual may have multiple comorbidities, this count is not mutually exclusive. For instance, a decedent with hypertension and diabetes will be counted in both comorbidity types.

At the time of this reporting, approximately 37% of death records did not include comorbidity data. While medical certifiers are encouraged to include comorbidities that significantly contributed to the death, medical certifiers often underreport comorbidity data.

Comorbidities Grouped by Classification	
Cancer	1,427
Cardio: Congestive Heart Failure	1,709
Coronary Artery Disease	1,942
Hypertension	4,065
Immuno: HIV	30
Organ Transplant	93
Kidney: Chronic	1,745
End-Stage Renal	457
Liver: Chronic	34
Cirrhosis	181
Metabolic: Diabetes	3,057
Obesity	757
Neuro: Dementia	4,177
Parkinson's	498
Respiratory: Asthma	222
COPD	1,963
Sleep Apnea	263

Comorbidities in Descending Order	
Neuro: Dementia	4,177
Cardio: Hypertension	4,065
Metabolic: Diabetes	3,057
Respiratory: COPD	1,963
Cardio: Coronary Artery Disease	1,942
Kidney: Chronic	1,745
Cardio: Congestive Heart Failure	1,709
Cancer	1,427
Kidney: Obesity	757
Neuro: Parkinson's	498
Metabolic: End-Stage Renal	457
Respiratory: Sleep Apnea	263
Respiratory: Asthma	222
Liver: Cirrhosis	181
Immuno: Organ Transplant	93
Liver: Chronic	34
Immuno: HIV	30

Neshaminy School District

COVID Health and Safety Plan

2021/2022 – Revised August 17, 2021

Effective September 1, 2021

- 1. How will the School District, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

The Neshaminy's Health and Safety Plan was developed in cooperation with Bucks County Department of Health and other Bucks County School Districts. It is informed by guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

As articulated by the CDC in early July, prevention and mitigation strategies are not a "One-size-fits-all" situation. School Districts should work with local health authorities on necessary strategies in harmony with circumstances locally.

As such, Neshaminy will continue to work in coordination with the Bucks County Department of Health and other local partners to monitor COVID conditions specific to our locality adjusting the prevention and mitigation strategies as warranted by such conditions.

This document represents the necessary prevention and mitigation strategies – as indicated by the Bucks County Department of Health – based on the conditions in mid-July with 6 weeks remaining until the start of school on September 1.

2. How will the School District ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

The Neshaminy School District will provide in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year very similar to pre-pandemic conditions. The Neshaminy School District Virtual Academy will be available to students who are unable to attend in-person school.

Neshaminy will remain positioned to quickly pivot between in-person instruction, virtual/remote instruction, and hybrid instruction if necessitated by local conditions.

Neshaminy will provide the following academic, social, emotional and behavioral supports:

- Neshaminy will implement with fidelity the MTSS Academic/Social/Behavioral Support Model in Grades K-5.
- Neshaminy will use Universal Screeners in Reading and Math in Grades K-5.
- After and before school academic help will be available at middle schools and high school.
- Neshaminy will continue to provide students and parents access to social workers, counselors, school psychologists and behavior specialists.
- Neshaminy will continue to provide additional supports to meet the needs of special populations, through the IEP/504 process and/or through our multi-tiered system of support.
- Neshaminy will continue to provide training, time, support, and flexibility necessary for staff to prepare for successful instruction via the Staff Developer/Instructional Coach Model.
- Neshaminy will continue to provide proactive, clear communication to all families and staff.
- Neshaminy will continue offering resources to staff such as the Employee Assistance Plan.

3. Explain how the School District will maintain the health and safety of students and staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Funding Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Effective September 1, 2021, as a Targeted, Temporary Mitigation, students, staff and visitors will be required to wear a mask in elementary and middle schools. Additionally, a mask will be required on buses at the elementary and middle levels.</p> <p>Masks are not required outside.</p> <p>Masks will be optional after October 1, 2021 for all individuals in/on Neshaminy Facilities, Schools, Buses and Campuses unless the School Board extends the requirement.</p> <p>With the appropriate documentation from a licensed medical professional, a student may be exempted from wearing a mask.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</p>	<p>Neshaminy will continue to rely on guidance from BC DoH to design safe instructional spaces and workspaces for all individuals.</p> <p>Presently, the plan is to return classrooms, buses, lockers, etc. to the pre-pandemic configuration of September 2019.</p> <p>While the TTM Mask Mandate is in effect, Grades K-4 will eat lunch in their classrooms. Grades 5-8 will sit at classroom desks in the cafeteria instead of traditional cafeteria tables for additional spacing.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>All individuals will continue to be encouraged and reminded to sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be readily available at the entrance to all classrooms/common areas along with being spaced throughout all hallways.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including</p>	<p>Neshaminy has installed Bi-Polar Ionization Ventilation Systems in all schools/facilities.</p>

ARP ESSER Funding Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Each classroom will be supplied with disinfectant and tri-fold paper towels for frequent desk cleaning.</p> <p>Neshaminy staff will continue to clean all surfaces on a daily basis.</p> <p>Transportation staff will perform cleaning of high-touch surfaces on vehicles nightly.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Neshaminy will continue to work with the BC DoH for all COVID-19-related case investigations and contact tracing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and staff are asked to report positive COVID test results to Neshaminy so we may assist in following any TTM in place from BC DoH. • The BC DoH will no longer require Neshaminy to report positive COVID-19 test results of individuals to the BC DoH. • The BC DoH may recommend temporary disease mitigation strategies (such as increased physical distancing, masking, etc.) in an effort to maintain in-person instruction to the maximum extent possible. Neshaminy will follow any such recommendations made by the BC DoH. • The BC DoH will no longer issue isolation orders, quarantine orders, or modified quarantine orders related to COVID-19. • The BC DoH will not require Neshaminy to notify close contacts of any positive case. Therefore, Neshaminy will not make these notifications. • The BC DoH will not require Neshaminy to notify any individual, school, or community of any positive case of COVID-19. Therefore, no such communications will be sent. • A Neshaminy COVID Dashboard will not be maintained. • Students/Staff experiencing symptoms of illness should stay at home and not report to school/work. Students/Staff should follow pre-pandemic absentee/attendance procedures.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The BC DoH, BCIU and Neshaminy will work to reinstate free, rapid COVID testing for students and school staff.</p> <p>Neshaminy will continue to educate all individuals on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</p>

ARP ESSER Funding Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Neshaminy Nursing Staff will assess symptomatic students on an individual basis and advise parents accordingly.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	Neshaminy will assess the need to provide on-site vaccination clinic for students. However, based on the availability of the vaccine and the age of those yet-to-be vaccinated, such an endeavor might best be left in the parents' realm of responsibility.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;	Neshaminy will continue to meet those needs through the IEP/504 process and the multi-tiered system of support model. Neshaminy ensures the individualized health and safety plan for each student via Special Education Supervisory Staff, IEP Case Managers and School Counselors.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Neshaminy will continue to participate in forums facilitated by Dr. Hoffman of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit.</p> <p>Additionally, Neshaminy will work directly with Dr. Damsker, Director of the Bucks County Department of Health as circumstances/conditions change throughout the school year.</p>



Neshaminy School District

Administrative Offices • 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road • Langhorne, PA 19047

We Build Futures

Face Mask Exemption Request

To be completed by parent/guardian:

Last Name: _____

Date: _____

First Name: _____

School: _____ Parent Phone: _____

Grade: _____

Student ID: _____

The school may contact the below licensed medical professional about my child.

Based on the below, my child should be exempt from wearing a Face Mask while at School and on the Bus.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

To be completed by licensed medical professional:

Name of the Practice: _____ Phone: _____

Individual authorizing the Mask Exemption: _____

Condition necessitating the Mask Exemption in School:

Based on the above condition, this child should be exempt from wearing a Face Mask while at School and on the Bus.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Stamp/Seal of the Practice: