



James A. Fazzone, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent

August 23, 2021

Dear MCSSSD Community,

I hope you had a great summer. As we look toward the start of the 2021-2022 school year, I invite you to view the latest version of our plan: [Safe Reopening Plan - 2021](#). Please keep in mind that this plan is subject to change as we receive further guidance from the Governor, CDC, and Mercer County Department of Health. We are excited to welcome all MCSSSD students and staff for five full days of in-person instruction in September.

As of today, our plan includes the following:

**Schedule:**

- MCSSSD will operate five full days of in-person instruction per week.
- Per Governor Murphy, there will be no remote option for class; all classroom instruction will be in-person.
- There will be breakfast and lunch available daily for ALL students (Lunch period details are being finalized.)

**Health and Safety Measures:**

- Masks will be mandatory for all individuals in MCSSSD as per Executive Order (EO) 251 dated August 6, 2021. We strongly recommend that all eligible students and staff be vaccinated. Being vaccinated against COVID-19 will help to better ensure a student's education is not disrupted by the need to quarantine.
- Temperature checks will no longer be required prior to entering the buildings.
- Students will be required to wear masks on buses. Students being transported by their sending district buses will be subject to the mask protocols of those bus companies.
- All classrooms will accommodate all students registered for scheduled classes to meet there, with reasonable social distancing in effect (approximately 3 feet, for example). Student desks will face forward and group work in classrooms will be structured according to current social distancing guidelines. Masks will need to be worn at all times.
- Students and staff will have access to water fountains and bottle filling stations.
- Contact tracing will occur with requirements for quarantine if there is close contact with a COVID-positive individual (defined as being within 6 feet for a period of 15 minutes or longer). Student seating charts will be maintained to monitor masks in the event of a positive case and necessity for quarantine for unvaccinated individuals. Per the NJDOH guidelines, all vaccinated students/staff identified as a close contact DO NOT have to quarantine if they are symptom free.
- School officials will continue ongoing consultations with the Mercer County Health Department.
- If there is a positive case in school, a contact tracing notification letter will be shared with parents and staff.
- For more information on COVID-19 protocols and procedures, please refer to the MEMO published on our website by the MCSSSD nurses.

- All staff must be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021 as per Executive Order No. 253, or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week.

**Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

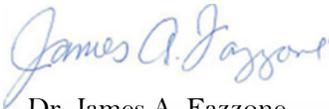
- Hand sanitizer stations are found throughout the buildings and in classrooms and will continue to be used throughout the day.
- We will continue to follow a routine cleaning schedule and high touch areas will be monitored for additional cleaning during the day.
- Disinfecting protocols will remain, and in the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, other deep cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.

Vaccinations are available, free of charge, to individuals 12 years of age and over. Please visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 site for information on where to locate a vaccine site: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>

While this past school year was challenging, we have learned much and stand ready to continue supporting our students through the implementation of social and emotional learning and new technologies for extended learning. We are fortunate to have created an environment to place the appropriate technology in hands of students, though there is no substitute for in-person learning. We ask that parents notify the administration if Wi-Fi options are needed at home for students to complete work outside of the classroom. We plan to continue to maintain ongoing communication with our school community. Your assistance over the past school year helped students stay engaged and focused while learning remotely and helped us identify ways to improve teaching and learning.

If questions arise before our next communication, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,



Dr. James A. Fazzone  
Interim Superintendent of Schools