



Brielle Board of Education “Road Forward” 2021/2022 - School Operations Plan

This operations plan was developed in adherence to the guidance, and structure of the [NJDOE/NJDOH ‘Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance’](#), the [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), and in compliance with NJ [Executive Order 251](#) & [Executive Order 253](#).

The plan is subject to revisions in order to remain in compliance, and in response, to changing guidance as the COVID-19 pandemic continues into the new school year.

Date of initial release: This plan was shared at the Brielle Board Meeting that took place Thursday, August 26, 2021.

Date(s) of revision: 8/25/21

Background and Key Dates

In late June, 2021, we closed Brielle Elementary School to students after having remained open to in-person instruction for the entirety of the 2020-21 school year . We also concluded operations of school programming as described in our original Brielle School District ReEntry Plan,

[Brielle School District Re-Entry Plan](#)

- On June 21, 2021 we published, and made available through our school website, the original draft of this plan entitled the, Brielle Elementary School: Plan for Safe Return, [Brielle Elementary School](#)
- The original draft also called for public comment. (All comments were considered in the development of this School Operations Plan.)
- On August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 251 essentially calling on all students, faculty, support staff, and visitors to wear face coverings whenever indoors in a K-12 public school setting, and regardless of vaccination status
- On August 9, 2021, the Executive Order began to be enforced
- On August 20, 2021, the NJDOE, in conjunction with the NJDOH, released the most recently revised copy of, “The Road Forward”
- On August 26, 2021, the Superintendent of Schools in the Brielle Elementary school released this plan to the public and called for its posting on the school district website

21/22 School Calendar and 3- Stage Opening Plan

Brielle Elementary School is scheduled to reopen to students for the 21/22 school year on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 and is to remain open to in-person instruction in accordance with the 2021-22 School Calendar.

[Brielle Elementary School 2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

The school will operate under a 3-Stage Opening Plan:	
Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% In-Person instruction following a full day schedule (8:10 am - 3:00 pm) • 9 period day / 40 minutes per period • Limited remote instruction opportunities for school issued quarantine • Pandemic restrictions remain in place (ie. face coverings, quarantines for contact tracing, travel, etc)
Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% In-person instruction following an early closing schedule (8:10 am - 12:50 pm) / Remote instruction from 2:00 - 3:00 pm daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (PreK AM 8:10 am - 10:20 ○ PreK PM 11:22 am - 12:50 pm) • 8 period day with no time devoted to an in-school lunch/recess time • Remote instruction for school issued quarantine • Pandemic restrictions remain in place (ie. face coverings, quarantines for contact tracing, travel, etc)
Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% Remote Instruction (8:10 - 3:00) • All students in grades 4-8 will be expected to log-in to all of their scheduled classes at the start time as if they were in school for in-person instruction • All students in grades PK-3 will be expected to work with a parent/guardian/sibling in logging on to a select number of group meeting in accordance with the instruction of the classroom teacher

Screening: Daily Screening for Students, Faculty & Support Staff

Parent/Guardians, faculty, and support staff are required to complete a COVID symptom check questionnaire once at the beginning of the school year. Brielle Elementary School will send out a bi-monthly reminders for all to watch for symptoms and stay home if sick.

Any data collected is confidential to the contact tracing team who will monitor and be in touch with families and staff members who must be out as a result of recorded symptoms.

Face Coverings for Students, Faculty & Support Staff + Exemptions

Face Covering Order

As per NJ Executive Order 251, *“all staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the indoor premises of school buildings. This requirement applies to all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools. As outlined in the Executive Order, there are limited exceptions to this requirement.”*

- *The most effective fabrics for cloth masks are tightly woven such as cotton and cotton blends, breathable, and in two or three fabric layers.*
- *Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and ones that do not fit properly are not recommended.*
- *Masks should be washed after every day of use and/or before being used again, or if visibly soiled or damp/wet.*
- *Disposable face masks should be changed daily or when visibly soiled, damp or damaged.*
- *Students, teachers, and staff should have access to additional disposable or cloth masks in case a back-up mask is needed (e.g. mask is soiled or lost during the day).*

- *Clear masks that cover the nose and wrap securely around the face may be considered in certain circumstances including for the teaching of students with disabilities, young students learning to read, or English language learners. School nurse will stock disposable masks in the event a backup is necessary.*

Exemptions

NJ Executive Order 251 lists the following exemptions with regard to face coverings,

“Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some individuals, however mask use is required for all individuals in indoor school settings with the following exceptions:

- *When doing so would inhibit the individual’s health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;*
- *When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;*
- *When a student’s documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;*
- *When the individual is under two (2) years of age;*
- *When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;*
- *When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;*
- *When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or*
- *When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.*

As per Executive Order 253:

- *It is hereby clarified that the policy of public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, regarding mandatory mask wearing in the indoor portion of school district premises, as outlined in Executive Order No. 251 (2021), must require individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask wearing under Paragraphs 1(a) – (c) of that Order to produce written documentation from a medical professional to support the exemption. Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient for this purpose.*

All requests for exemptions must be addressed, in writing and with support documentation, to Mrs. Looney, Brielle Elementary School’s School Nurse - klooney@brielleschool.org .

Maintaining Physical Distance

The administration at Brielle Elementary School will work closely with the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission in monitoring regional transmission as Physical Distancing restrictions will fluctuate in response to local transmission.

In part, transmission is monitored via the state Department of Health’s weekly COVID-19 Activity Level Index ([CALI](#)) updates.

Physical distance will be maintained as per the NJDOE Road Forward guidance:

- *During periods of low or moderate community transmission, LEAs should implement physical distancing recommendations to the maximum degree that allows them to offer full in-person learning.*
- *During periods of high community transmission, if maximal social distancing recommendations cannot be maintained, LEAs should prioritize other prevention measures including screening testing and cohorting.*
- *Within classrooms, maintain 3 feet of physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable, while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students.*
- *Outside of classrooms including in hallways, locker rooms, indoor and outdoor physical education settings, and school-sponsored transportation, maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable.*
- *As feasible, maintain cohorts or groups of students with dedicated staff who remain together throughout the day, including at recess, lunch times, and while participating in extracurricular activities.*
- *Facing desks in the same direction.*
- *Avoiding grouped seating arrangements*

Arrival / Dismissal

Arrival: *students should arrive in designated window at the following locations*

- Grades PreK AM: (8:10) East Side Reading Theater - Door labeled G
- Grade PreK PM: (12:53) East Side Reading Theater - Door labeled G
- Grades K-1: (8:10) East Side Reading Theater - Door labeled F
- Grades 2-5: (8:10) Library Entrance - Door labeled C
- Grades 6-8: (8:10) All Purpose Room - Door labeled S

Dismissal: *students will be dismissed and may not linger on campus:*

- Grades PreK AM: (11:24/12:07) East Side Reading Theater - Door labeled G
- Grade PreK PM: (3:00) East Side Reading Theater - Door labeled G
- Grades K-1: (3:00) East Side Reading Theater - Door labeled F
- Grades 2-5: (3:00) Library Entrance - Door labeled C
- Grades 6-8: (3:00) All Purpose Room - Door labeled S

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

As per the guidance in the NJDOE Road Forward,

- *The faculty will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds*

- *If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).*
- *Students and staff are encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue during those limited instances when the individual may be unmasked.*
- *Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately.*
- *The district will maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.*
- *Faculty and support staff will assist/observe young children to ensure proper hand washing*

Snacks and Lunch

During all stages of programming, snack consumption may occur in Preschool through Grade Five inside the classroom classroom if:

- *Inclement weather prevents the class, cohort, or small groups to eat snack outside*
- *Students consume snack at their desk*
- *Any food consumed in the classroom must be nut free*
- *Additional allergy considerations made on a case by case basis*

Lunch

- *Grades 6 - 8: 11:27 - 12:07*
- *Grades K - 2: 12:10 - 12:50*
- *Grades 3 - 5: 12:53 - 1:33*
- *Every attempt will be made to have the students eat outside*
- *If inclement weather, students will eat in the All Purpose Room and return to their Homeroom for the Recess portion of Lunch.*

Cleaning and Disinfection

As per the guidance in the NJDOE Road Forward,

- *The BES custodial staff will follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA-registered product for use against SARS-CoV-2.*
- *This means at least daily cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys*
- *If a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building, school staff should clean and disinfect the spaces occupied by the person. Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be reopened for use.*

- *Areas used by the person who is sick or positive will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfecting.*
- *If possible, the custodian will wait as long as possible (at least several hours) after the person has exited a space before cleaning and disinfecting.*
- *Doors and windows should be opened and use fans or HVAC settings to increase air circulation in the area.*
- *Use of products from EPA List according to the instructions on the product label.*
- *Employees should wear a mask and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.*

Improving Airflow

As per the guidance in the NJDOE Road Forward,

- *District will Improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. This can be achieved through several strategies:*
- *Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.*
- *If safe to do so, open windows and doors. Even just cracking open a window or door helps increase outdoor airflow, which helps reduce the potential concentration of virus particles in the air. If it gets too cold or hot, adjust the thermostat.*
- *Do not open windows or doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (such as falling, exposure to extreme temperatures, or triggering asthma symptoms), or if doing so would otherwise pose a security risk.*
- *Use child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows.*
- *Safely secure fans in a window to blow potentially contaminated air out and pull new air in through other open windows and doors.*
- *Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. Position fans securely and carefully in/ near windows so as not to induce potentially contaminated airflow directly from one person over another (strategic window fan placement in exhaust mode can help draw fresh air into the room via other open windows and doors without generating strong room air currents).*
- *Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.*
- *Faculty should consider having activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.*

Individual Response to Symptoms, Confirmation, Exposure

Multiple COVID Symptoms OR Positive test OR Close Contact with Confirmed Case:

- At home, pre-screen will prompt the guardian to keep students or staff members to stay home. If at school, students or staff members will discreetly be referred to the nurse to determine status.
- Case reported to Monmouth County Regional Health Commission, contract tracing protocols initiated at the school or Health Commission level (See K-12 Exemption for contact tracing)
- Risk assessment implemented to determine impact on district programming

Quarantine

- Student(s) or staff will be required to quarantine for up to 14 days, depending on whether close contact, symptomatic, or confirmed positive case
- Further guidance will be given by school nursing staff and Department of Health

Return to Campus

- Nurse and parents will remain in communication during any quarantine and will agree to a return date
- A negative test, does not speed reentry to school based on current DOH guidance

Exclusion

In accordance with the NJDOE Road Forward:

Definition of COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- *At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR*
- *At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder. For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.*

When Illness Occurs in the School Setting

Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated away from others until they can be sent home. Ask ill student (or parent/guardian) and staff whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days meeting the definition of a close contact.

- *Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider. Persons with COVID-19-compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing.*
- *If community transmission is low, ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school. No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.*
- *If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure OR if community transmission is moderate or high, they should continue to be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria.*
- *Schools with testing capacity should test ill students and staff, consistent with any federal and state requirements, including requirements regarding parental consent.*
- *Ill individuals who test positive should be reported to the LHD and contact tracing should begin.*
- *Ill individuals that test negative should be referred to a healthcare provider, who may consider additional COVID-19 testing.*
- *LEAs should notify LHDs when students or staff:*
 - *Are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure;*
 - *When they see an increase in the number of persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms.*
 - *Test positive for COVID-19 (when in-school testing is performed).*
- *LEAs should be prepared to provide the following information when consulting with the LHD:*
 - *Contact information for the ill persons;*
 - *The date the ill person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building;*
 - *Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations;*
 - *Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school; } Vaccination status if known*

- Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.
- LEAs are encouraged to report weekly student and staff case counts to NJDOH through the Surveillance for Influenza and COVID-19 (SIC) Module in CDRSS.

Regardless of vaccination status, if a student or staff experiences COVID-compatible symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2.

Exclusion

COVID-19 exclusion criteria for persons who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19:

- Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

Exception: During periods of low community transmission, ill individuals excluded for COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure may follow NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school.

The COVID-19 Exclusion List described in NJDOH guidance for Local health departments can be used to determine the need for and duration of school exclusion based on the level of COVID-19 community transmission in their region. In order to facilitate rapid diagnosis and limit unnecessary school exclusion, schools may consider implementing school-based diagnostic testing for students and staff.

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts

CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period— and thus the preferred school exclusion period – regardless of the community transmission level, it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in NJDOH quarantine guidance.

To that end, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission levels as follows:

High (orange) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.

Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)

Contact Tracing

Per the NJDOE Road Forward Plan:

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at

higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus.

Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where 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.

School staff should identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school.

- *As with any other communicable disease outbreak, schools will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the LHD.*
- *With guidance from the LHD, schools will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.*

The LHD contact tracing team will notify and interview the close contacts identified by the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements.

Learning Model Transitions

Long Term Remote - This was a distinction employed by the Brielle Board of Education during the 2020/21 School Year only. This was the term used to describe any student who had elected to be on remote as opposed to in-person instruction. Optional remote instruction is no longer provided to any students in New Jersey's public schools.

Short Term Remote - Students may need to be placed on Short Term Remote due to a COVID inquiry for any of the following situations:

- State Travel Advisory - As of the writing of this draft of the plan, August 25, 2021, there are no travel restrictions.
- COVID positive and Asymptomatic OR Close Contact of COVID Positive individual
- In the process of COVID Inquiry - working to confirm exposure possibility
 - Household member has symptoms consistent with COVID, awaiting symptoms improve or testing results
 - Close contact shows symptoms consistent with COVID
 - Waiting on a close contact or household member's COVID test results
 - New or existing high risk medical diagnosis with immunocompromised student or household member

How to Initiate Short Term Remote

Contact (email) School Nurse - include as many details as possible. School Nurse will alert the teacher and administration of the need to initiate a Short Term Remote learning model.

- Day one is treated like a sick day.
- Grade K-8 teacher sets up remote, synchronous, learning within 24 hours (*transition may take up to 24 hours, could be less*)
- Some subjects will follow a more Asynchronous learning plan where staff will post their lessons to their Google classroom. These subjects include Physical Education/Health, STEM, Robotics, Art, Music, Spanish (K-4), Band (4-8), and Science (K-3).
- Teacher alerts student and parent by email with instructions on how to join remotely when ready

Absence Reporting

Guardians must contact Mrs. Looney to report student absence

- If guardian reporting student is sick or otherwise will be absent:
 - considered "sick day"(student does not attend programming virtually)
 - could be one day, or a few days
- If the reason to stay home is due to COVID Inquiry (see above)
 - student placed on Short Term Remote