



# Old Tappan Public Schools

## 2021-2022 School Year FAQs

### (Frequently Asked Questions)

Below are answers to Frequently Asked Questions as they relate to the 2021-2022 school year. We aim to maintain as typical of a school year as possible, while also adhering to continued safety protocols and procedures. Please note that anything below is subject to change as new information becomes available.

**We are looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year!**

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b><i>Are masks required?</i></b>	As of 3/7/22, Governor Murphy lifted Executive Order No. 251, making masks optional in schools for students, staff, and visitors.  The Federal Order requiring masks on school buses has been lifted as well.
<b><i>Will there be daily temperature checks and bi-weekly Health and Wellness Forms to complete?</i></b>	No. However, we do remind families that they are expected to keep children home if they are exhibiting COVID-like symptoms or when, in general, children are sick.
<b><i>Will there be a virtual option for full-time instruction?</i></b>	No.
<b><i>Will students return to a typical school day?</i></b>	Yes. We returned to full school days last year, but there were routines that had not returned to normal. This year, all students will be moving around in the schools and will be enjoying their special area classes in those specialized classrooms. For example, students will go to the Art Room for Art class.
<b><i>Will students be socially distanced in the classrooms?</i></b>	Classrooms are being returned to their normal arrangements; however, we will be separating students in their seated areas in an effort to maintain 3-foot* distances between them. <i>(See close contact section below.)</i> Not all arrangements and activities will allow for this, so we will attempt this to the greatest extent reasonable and possible.
<b><i>Will students be able to work in groups and share materials?</i></b>	Yes. When activities permit, students will be able to collaborate and share.

<b><i>Will desk shields be used?</i></b>	No.
<b><i>Will middle school students use lockers and change classes?</i></b>	Yes.
<b><i>Will students return to eating lunch in the lunchroom(s)?</i></b>	Yes. We will use additional tables in the schools' lunchrooms to spread out the students during the regular lunch periods. We may use additional classrooms in the elementary school, when needed, and outdoor spaces, when practicable.
<b><i>Will lunch deliveries return?</i></b>	Yes. Approved lunch vendors will be posted to the Online Summer Packet and to our District website.
<b><i>Will visitors be allowed back in the building?</i></b>	Yes. Visitors will be allowed to make drop-offs, although they should always be kept to an absolute minimum, and will be allowed for approved volunteer events, as well as for individually scheduled meetings. All protocols must be followed by visitors. (Some meetings will remain virtual.)
<b><i>Will families be allowed back in the buildings for in-person special events?</i></b>	Yes. At this point, we are planning to host in-person Back-to-School Nights, and we are planning in-person Parent-Teacher Conferences, as well as concerts.
<b><i>Will school-based extracurricular activities and PTO-sponsored activities return?</i></b>	Yes, with appropriate protocols in place.
<b><i>Are field trips going to be planned this year?</i></b>	Yes. All protocols that are in place at the time of the trip will be followed, including those of the transportation company and the safety measures at the trip's destination.
<b><i>Will we return to having regular snow days this year?</i></b>	Yes, unless the school district is already shut for fully remote instruction.
<b><i>How will the school determine close contacts?</i></b>	According to the updates from the CDC, close contacts in a K-12 classroom exclude students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where students are wearing masks or are vaccinated. <i>(This is a change from last year, which now narrows the scope for contact tracing.)</i> A close contact is now a student within 3 feet* or less of an infected student for 15 minutes or more.
<b><i>What will happen if my child is identified as a close contact?</i></b>	Unvaccinated, unmasked students identified as close contacts, using the criteria above, would have to quarantine.* The CDC shortened the quarantine periods in January 2022. The current, most common, close contact quarantine scenarios are below:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine for 5 days and should test on Day 5 to return to school on Day 6 with a negative result and must abide by strict mask usage for Days 6-10 in school and during extra-curricular activities. If an unvaccinated person chooses not to test, the quarantine period is 10 days and the person may return on Day 11.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine for 10 days, without a test, and return to school on day 11.</li> </ul> <p>*If a family is agreeable to Covid testing for a period of time and masking for a specified period of time, the school nurse will discuss the possibility of the student remaining in school.</p> <p><i>Vaccinated students identified as close contacts do not need to quarantine.</i></p> <p>When quarantining, teachers will share asynchronous, daily work with the child and, at a minimum, there will be one virtual session per day with a staff member.</p>
<p><b><i>What will happen if my child is diagnosed with Covid?</i></b></p>	<p>If your child is diagnosed with COVID-19, we ask that you notify the nurse in your child's school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate for 5 days from symptom onset or day of test swab (whichever came first) and the child may return on Day 6, provided the symptoms have resolved and the child is fever-free for 24 hours. The child must abide by strict mask usage for Days 6-10 in school and during extra-curricular activities.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If symptoms do not resolve within the 5 days, the child must continue to isolate for a total of 10 days from either symptom onset or day of test swab. The child may return to school on Day 11, provided there are longer symptoms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>When quarantining, teachers will share asynchronous, daily work with the child and, at a minimum, there will be one virtual session per day</p>

	with a staff member.
<b><i>What will happen if my family travels?</i></b>	According to New Jersey, the travel advisories have been lifted as of May 17, 2021. If your family travels domestically, quarantining is not necessary. According to the CDC, as of October 25, 2021, if your family travels internationally, quarantining is not required because testing is required for all travelers to re-enter the U.S..
<b><i>Will there still be an emphasis on hand washing and will hand sanitizers be available?</i></b>	Yes.
<b><i>Will students be allowed to use the water-filling stations?</i></b>	Yes. However, the mouthpieces of the water fountains will remain covered.
<b><i>Will there still be an emphasis on fresh air flow and air purification in all rooms?</i></b>	Yes.
<b><i>Will there still be a focus on deep cleaning the buildings?</i></b>	Yes.
<b><i>Will the school community continue to receive e-mail notifications if there are positive Covid cases directly affecting the District?</i></b>	Yes. However, as the 2021-2022 school year concludes, notifications may reflect a period of time.
<b><i>Who should I contact if I have any social, emotional, or academic concerns about my child this school year?</i></b>	School Counselor or Principal. Trained staff are always ready to partner with you. Our District has access to a variety of resources to help your child.