

# Newtown Public Schools

## Summer School Opening Plan

JUNE, 2020



**Newtown Public  
School District**

# Anne Dalton, District Compliance Liaison

The Superintendent has appointed Anne Dalton, Supervisor of Student Health Services as the COVID-19 Health & Safety Compliance Liaison

- The Liaison will engage with students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions about the health & safety requirements set out in this document and address questions about compliance
- The Liaison will support the implementation of these requirements, as well as the implementation of other school health & safety measures relating to COVID-19 and any additional guidance provided by the Department of Public Health

Contact Information:

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# Medical professionals

A nurse will be available in each school that is operating a summer school program and will manage, in coordination with local health department, any positive or suspected cases

All summer school health protocols have been reviewed by the Newtown Health Director and the Newtown Public Schools Director of Nursing



# Case protocols

Case protocols will follow guidance from the CDC informing sick procedures and exclusion protocols

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

- Staff and students should stay home if they are ill, have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms
- Staff and students should stay home if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19

Staff or students with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 may only return to school with a documented negative COVID-19 test result or a note from a healthcare provider clearing them to safely return to the school program



# Notifications

If a child or staff member who has been present in school has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the local health department will be notified immediately

In addition, any other persons who may have been in contact will be notified while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

# Attendance monitoring

Staff and student absenteeism will be closely monitored to identify any trends that would suggest spread of illness such as COVID-19

If a student will be absent, parents are asked to contact the program as soon as possible

Planned absences should be reported in advance

# School closure and reopening

Should a positive case occur students and staff will be dismissed for 2-5 days to allow time for:

- Local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school
- Superintendent, in consultation with the local health department, to determine appropriate next steps

Dismissal decisions and possible COVID-19 exposure will be communicated with staff, parents, students, and relevant stakeholders

Recommended CDC cleaning procedures will be followed should there be a confirmed COVID-19 case

Recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis

Decision to suspend or close a school program for some or all participants will be made by Superintendent or designee

Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school should be made in collaboration with our local health department

The Superintendent will work with our local health department following a temporary closure to determine when students and staff can safely return

# Face coverings or masks

All students and school personnel must always use a face mask while on school property or a school bus. Face covering includes cloth face covering or face masks. This also applies to parents dropping off or picking up children when they have exited their cars. The following individuals are excepted from this requirement per CDC guidance:

- Anyone for whom use of a face mask would be contrary to his or her health or safety
- Any child if the person responsible for the child is unable to remove the face mask on the child's face

In addition, educators that can maintain a six-foot distance with students and determine that removing their face mask is critical for instruction, can consider removing their masks

## Other protective equipment:

- N95 respirators will primarily reserved for school nurses who may be involved in aerosol-generating procedures
- Face shields will be used by staff who are involved in aerosol-generating procedures, staff who support students with special healthcare needs or by students during speech and language exercises when face coverings/masks are not appropriate for the activity

[CDC instruction for wearing a mask can be found here.](#)

Students and staff will be provided face covering if they do not have their own

In cases where close contact between educators and students is highly likely (such as when interacting with certain students with disabilities who cannot socially distance), schools will provide high-risk educators with surgical masks, face shields and sterile gloves

For the safety of themselves and others in the school community, students with special healthcare needs who may require suctioning, nebulizer treatments, high-flow oxygenation, or conditions that aerosolize secretions or conditions that create uncontrolled respiratory secretions, must provide medical and treatment authorizations from their healthcare provider on how to provide their safe and effective care while in school, including the PPE that must be used by school staff

# Health screening and attendance monitoring

## Screening



All staff and students are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees. This will be conducted by a health screener upon arrival at the school.

- If any questions arise regarding the health screener's assessment of the observable symptoms or next steps, the health screener should consult the nurse in their district
- Staff and students should also be encouraged to self-report symptoms or exposures

Staff or students who have a temperature greater than 100 degrees will be excluded from school and return with a note from their healthcare provider or with a documented negative COVID-19 test result

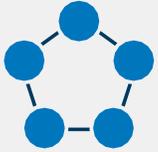
## Safety measures for screening



Screening measures will be as follows:

- Use of **touchless or disposable** (preferred) or oral with single-use disposable covers with disinfection between individual uses
- The health screener (such as school nurse) **must wear a face mask and face shield** while screening for illness
- Any student who develops an elevated temperature, becomes ill or exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID19 will be brought to an isolated room and will be monitored by the school nurse or other adult until a guardian can pick up the child
- Students will never be left unattended in an isolation room

# Class groups



Group size in every classroom should be limited to no more than one teacher and ten additional individuals

- Individual student needs should determine the exact student-to-teacher ratio.
- Both children and additional support professionals should be counted towards the 10:1 group size limit
- 10:1 group size limit assumes that the instructional area is large enough to allow for six-foot social distancing between individuals

If more than one adult is required in a classroom, staff will work in consistent teams to minimize cross-contamination of student groups. Efforts will be made to keep the same group of adults and students together each day when possible



# Social distancing

Physical distancing of six feet should always be maintained. In the few cases where distancing is not possible, appropriate face coverings and other protection (such as face shields) will be available. The only times when distancing may not be possible should be when staff members are:



Accommodating students with special health care needs or disabilities who may require direct contact (e.g. assisting with toileting or ambulation)



Conducting health assessments or screenings (e.g. taking temperature or listening to lung sounds by the school nurse)

In these circumstances, appropriate face coverings and other protection will be available and utilized



To promote social distancing of at least six feet between individuals, the following measures will be taken: willface in the same direction (rather than facing each other)

- Separate entrances for programs
- Monitoring and managing the flow of individuals to avoid groups of people arriving and departing from the school

# Cleaning & Disinfecting

School and program administrators, under supervision of the Superintendent, will communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols as recommended by CDC. These protocols will be adhered to by all summer school staff and students



Areas where summer school operations are used will be cleaned, disinfected and/or sanitized according to CDC guidelines



Cleaning logs will be utilized to track cleaning frequency



Bathrooms will be sanitized at least twice daily. Where possible, separate bathrooms will be designated for different classes, programs or groups



Signs on how to “Stop the Spread” will be posted in all school buildings in easily seen locations

All students and staff will participate in an in-person or video training session covering cleaning protocols, social distancing and hygiene practices



Hand hygiene must be enforced:

- Reinforce to staff and children: regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be provided at every school entrance and in every classroom, kept secured in classrooms where children cannot safely use sanitizer without supervision



Respiratory hygiene must also be emphasized:

- Encourage all staff and children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow
- Dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use

# Summer Bus transportation

*When possible, transportation should be provided by a guardian. It will be made available where students cannot be transported and where it is required as part of an individualized education program or otherwise as required by law. In these instances:*



A bus monitor will be employed by school district to ride on the bus at all times to monitor student density and ensure use of face masks



Face masks will be required for anyone within the bus, except among exempt individuals



Cleaning protocols will be communicated to all staff



Bus Drivers and bus monitors must always wear masks when children are in the bus



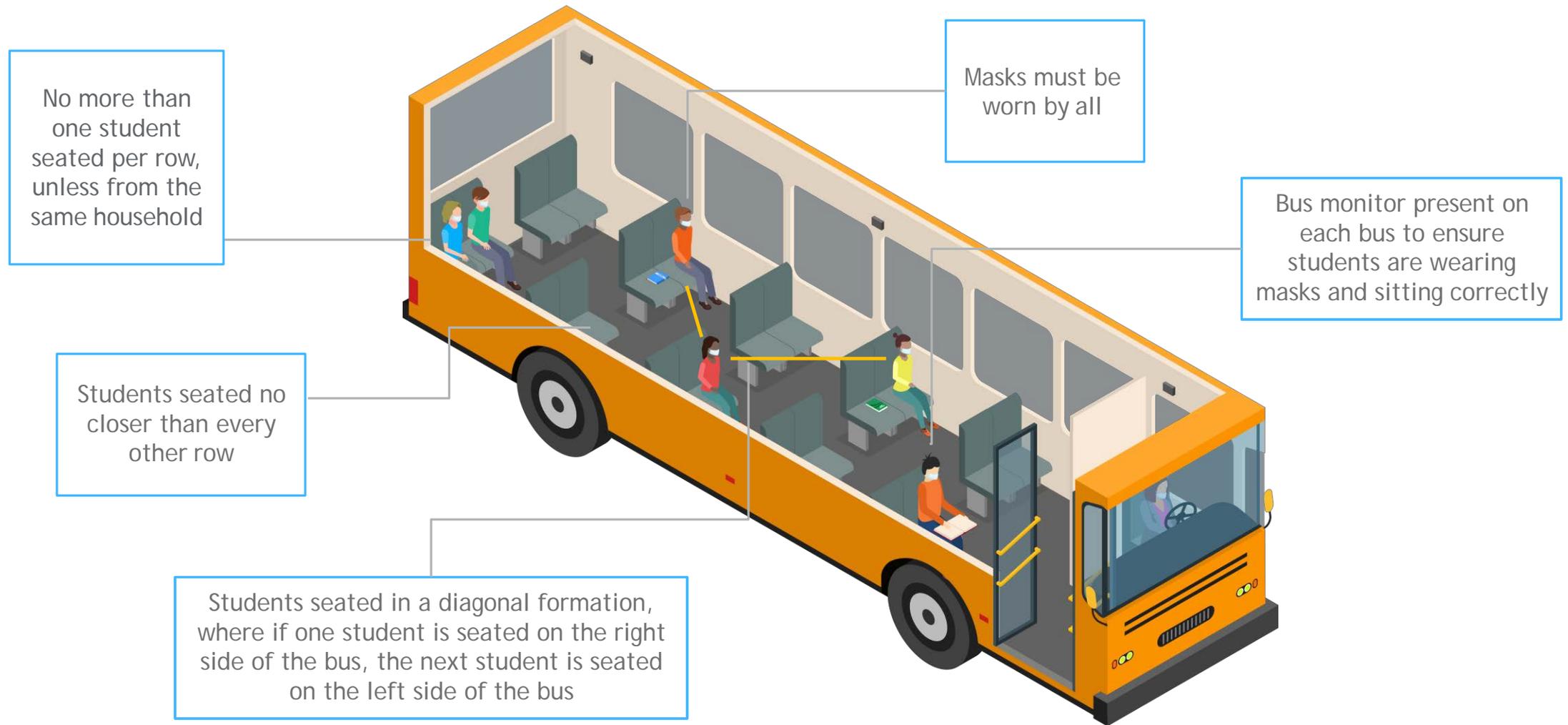
Seating arrangements that allow for social distancing will be implemented

## Seating arrangements

Student seating must adhere to the following restrictions:

- No more than one student seated per row, unless from the same household
- Students seated no closer than every other row
- Students seated in a diagonal formation, where if one student is seated on the right side of the bus, the next student is seated on the left side of the bus

# Summer school bus safety protocols during COVID19



# Materials sharing

Sharing of educational materials between individuals is prohibited

- These materials include (but are not limited to): books, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and arts supplies
- No two individuals will use the same materials in a given school day
- Materials will be appropriately cleaned, disinfected or sanitized, as appropriate, at the end of each school day

