



SOMSD Restart & Recovery Plan Summary

August 8, 2020

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Message from Superintendent Taylor

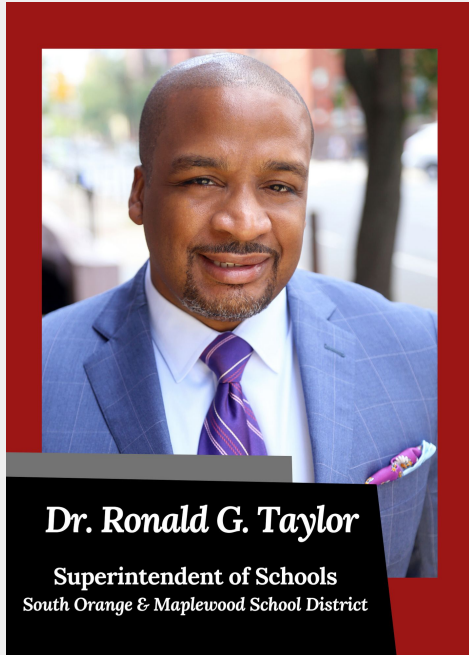
Dear SOMSD Community,

As we head into the 2020-21 school year, we are excited to welcome our students and staff back to school in September, whether we see you in-person or virtually. We are working to ensure a safe and productive environment for all. We shared our reopening plan, however, we also wanted to share a shorter communication that highlights some of the key information regarding plans for reopening schools. This presentation includes information on safety measures, instructional models, schedules, the new learning environment, health screenings and more.

We are living in unprecedented times and must remain flexible. As guidelines and orders change from local, state and federal authorities, our District will adjust. But rest assured, our focus will always remain on doing what's best for students and staff.

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor



Key Content

- SOMSD Reopening Mandate
- What Returning to School Will Look Like
 - Two-week Virtual School Start
- Instructional Model Choices & Childcare Considerations
- Curriculum & Assessment
 - Special Service
- Health & Wellness
- Next Steps & Key Dates
- Appendix



SOMSD Reopening 2020 - 2021

The NJ Department of Education has charged every NJ Public school district with developing in collaboration with community stakeholders a Restart and Recovery Plan to reopen schools for 2020-21 that will address the needs of ALL students.

+ Mandates

- To provide an instructional program for all students across all cohorts safely
- Ensure all families have access to an all virtual instructional option

+ Goals

- Provide a reopening plan and strategy to address students' developmental and learning needs in either a hybrid or virtual environment while preserving the safety of all students and staff and adhering to behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Plans are guided by the provision of the New Jersey Department of Education as well as recommendation from the NJ Department of Health and are informed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention guidance



What Returning to School Will Look Like



Back to School Transition: Two-Week Virtual Start

- + **All District students will begin the school year with a two-week virtual start,** from September 8 to September 18
- + On Monday, September 21, in-person learning at schools will begin (virtual only students will continue their instruction online)
- + The District believes that introducing a two-week virtual start will support the physical and mental health as well as learning needs of our community by allowing:
 - *Orientation to the online (Canvas) platform for staff, students and families;*
 - *Staff that are coming in-person to be able to teach from their school buildings and schools to be able to practice together entry, exit and bathroom schedules, etc.;*
 - *Schools to run daily health messages to staff and students;*
 - *Two-week period for students and families to be home and not travelling to areas of high incidence of COVID-19; and*
 - *Time for Parent/Guardian and Staff agreement letters collection, organization and follow-up*



At a Glance: What Returning to School Will Look Like

Students and staff will return to campuses with increased health and safety measures in order to combat the effects of COVID-19 in our schools. District leadership has received input from all stakeholders and engaged in meaningful conversations with health authorities to create a reopening plan with safety and health at the forefront.



1. Transportation



2. Cleaning Stations



3. Social Distancing



4. Controlled Movement



5. Lunch Modifications

At a Glance: What Returning to School Will Look Like

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required for students and staff in SOMSD buildings or on the school bus, unless it will inhibit the individual's health. Short face covering breaks for students may be incorporated into the schedule as feasible, but only when social distancing can be maintained. Recommended time for face covering breaks is no more than five minutes indoors, ideally with windows open, and no more than ten minutes outdoors. Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth. If an individual refuses to wear a face covering for a non-medical reason, that individual may not enter the building. A student who refuses to wear a face covering for a non-medical reason may learn virtually. Have multiple cloth face coverings so you can wash them daily and have back-ups ready (if possible, at minimum have at least 2 reusable face masks ready for your child for back to school)

Social Distancing

Schools in the district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. All instructional and non-instructional rooms in schools and district facilities must comply with social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable. Instructional staff will reinforce social distancing protocol with students and co-teacher or support staff. Social distancing protocols will be implemented in classrooms, during transitions, and in common areas, and will include the following:

- Facial coverings;
- Six-feet social distancing, when possible;
- Plexiglass shields in high-traffic areas such as front offices;



What Returning to School Will Look Like (cont.)

Classroom Modifications & Common Area Modifications

Schools in the district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. This will be achieved by ensuring students are seated at least six feet apart. Students will be monitored in all common area locations to encourage social distancing practices. Install plexiglass shields in main offices and security desks.

Controlled Movement Patterns

Students will have assigned entrances and exits. Facial coverings are required. Schools will provide physical guides such as tape on floors and sidewalks and signs on walls as applicable, to help ensure that staff and students remain at least six feet apart in lines and at other times (i.e., guides for creating one-way routes in hallways).

Additional Hand Sanitizing Stations

Hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based sanitizer/wipes (60% alcohol) will be prepared: in each classroom (for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer); at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets. In addition, to hand sanitizing stations - for classrooms that have existing sinks/handwashing stations – soap and paper towels will be prepared.



What Returning to School Will Look Like (cont.)

Health & Wellness Protocol

Parents will screen students before their children leave the house for in-person instruction. This includes temperature and symptom checking. A Parent Agreement Letter of Compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines will be sent to each district family. The letter will include: signs and symptoms of COVID-19; what to do when a child is ill; medical, health department and health insurance resources; travel advisory information; how to update emergency contact information on PowerSchool; the importance of sending healthy children to school with a facial covering; and the necessity of picking up ill children from school promptly.

Extracurricular Activities & Athletics

All extracurricular activities, with the exception of some athletics will be significantly diminished to the fullest extent possible to allow for proper cleaning time; social distancing and hygiene protocols will be maintained by these groups under the supervision of their coaches and activity leaders. In addition, SOMSD will cancel field trips, assemblies, and/or other large gatherings. Finally, external community organizations that use school/district facilities will not be allowed. Virtual group events, gatherings , or meeting in lieu of field trips will be pursued.



What Returning to School Will Look Like (cont.)

Recess & Physical Education

Recess, if an option will be staggered. If 2 or more groups participate in recess at the same time, there will be at least 6 feet of open space between the groups. Cones, flags, tape or other signs will be used to create boundaries between groups. Students/staff will be required to wash hands immediately after outdoor time. Locker rooms for secondary schools will be closed and students will not change for physical education. Students may be encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and footwear to allow for safe movement and is appropriate for the weather in order to participate in physical education without the use of a locker room. The District will mitigate risk, limit and/or eliminate direct contact with equipment and will not allow sharing of equipment. If equipment must be shared, the equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between each use.

Meals & Food Services

In schools with **breakfast programs** individual schools may decide to use cafeteria and/or group dining area and/or classroom and/or outside space as feasible. Family style, self-service, and buffet shall be discontinued and students will be spaced at least 6 feet apart. **No** sharing food is allowed. Proper hand washing before and after eating will be encouraged and disposable food service items will be used as feasible. An allergy-aware table/area for students with food allergies will be provided. For **lunch programs**, prior to dismissal, bag and go lunch will be made available to all students and will be sent home with the students. On any day that a student is not on-site, families can pick up meals at a designated location each day. Food celebrations, including birthdays, holidays, or achievement will be discontinued in the classroom. In all areas where food is prepared or consumed, surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized regularly.



What Returning to School Will Look Like (cont.)

Transportation

If the school district is providing transportation services on a school bus, a face covering must be worn by all students who are able to do so upon entering the bus. Students will follow the same protocol when boarding a bus as required to enter a school building. A transportation aide will be assigned to each bus and will be responsible to ensure students are following safety protocol and to periodically wipe down seats, seat belts and handrails. Students refusing to wear masks may lose their transportation privileges. Buses will be disinfected each time they return to the bus yard after morning routes are complete, and after the afternoon routes are completed.

Cleaning

School officials will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. Cleaning/disinfecting schedules will be established and surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g. door knobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops) will routinely be cleaned and disinfected. Bathrooms will be sanitized daily using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). HEPA filters will be used in air ventilation systems and sanitizing devices will be installed in rooms (where feasible) which will run continuously to help remove viruses and bacteria from the air. The custodians will disinfect all rooms every night.



What Returning to School Will Look Like (cont.)

Canvas: New Learning Management System

All grades and classes will use Canvas as the primary Learning Management System (LMS) while in person and remote learning takes place. Both elementary and secondary schools will use consistent Canvas modules and layouts across classes and grades. Students and parents will have access to Canvas accounts that will organize all their learning by subject each day. Students, families, and teachers will use Canvas to communicate with each other, conduct office hours, and students will also be able to work independently or as part of a team.

Visitors

Visitors are not permitted to enter the building, unless they are essential visitors such as emergency and law enforcement personnel in their official capacity, DCP&P personnel and Health Department personnel. The principal may admit a visitor by appointment if the principal determines that it is necessary. In all such cases, the visitor shall submit to the screening procedure before entering the building (i.e., temperature and exposure questionnaire) and shall be required to wear a face mask. Food delivery and other non-essential deliveries will not be allowed.

SOMSD Student Virtual Code of Conduct

The SOMSD Virtual Code of Conduct is intended to give our students, families and staff members clear guidelines around what is expected of our students in a virtual setting.



Instructional Models & Scheduling Childcare Considerations



Instructional Models



PreK -12 families will have a choice between hybrid (in-person/virtual) or an all virtual instruction model. Families must respond to the [“Return to School Preference” form by Friday, August, 14.](#) After the the two-week virtual school start for all students, the District will introduce in-person learning.

Hybrid Instruction



or



Virtual Only

Preschool, Elementary & Middle Schools

- Hybrid students will attend school in person 2 days per week (4 hours in in the morning) and virtually 3 days per week (Friday will be virtual for all)
- Students will attend school for in-person hybrid instruction in two cohorts (A and B) that will be composed of students separated alphabetically based on actual # of students per alphabet.
 - *Cohort A* - Students with last names beginning (example: *X - Y)
 - *Cohort B* - Students with last names beginning (example: *Y - Z)
 - Consideration will be given to keep families together and should siblings or family members with different last names need to be placed in the same cohort, parents should contact their building administration to discuss.

Special Services/ELL

- Subset of Special Services/ELL student population will attend in person 4 days per week, 4 hours per day in the morning
- One day per week, all students will learn virtually

Virtual Only

- Virtual students will attend virtually 5 days per week via Canvas



Instructional Model Summary by Groups



Hybrid Model (PreK, Elementary & Middle Schools)

Students will be split into 3 groups - A, B, and C. Each group will have at least 2 days of **in-person learning** and 3 days of at least 60 minutes of live virtual interaction with a teacher along with 3 additional hours of remote learning activities. Group C will have additional in-person learning opportunities per English Language Learner and Special Education programming needs.

Hybrid Model: Mostly “Virtual Phase-In”: High School Only

CHS students will begin the school year with a “mostly virtual” phase-in approach. Students will have synchronous, direct instruction with teachers every day when not in the building. Students will be divided into cohorts, and will have check-ins to meet with their teachers in person once every two weeks. Group C will have additional in-person learning opportunities per English Language Learner and Special Education programming needs. ***The CHS schedule will be shared separately with families/students.***

Special Services (special needs and ELL learners)

(Group C) - ELL and select special education programs will receive 4 days of in-person learning 4 hours a day and 1 virtual day with at least 1 hour of live interaction with a teacher along with 3 additional hours of remote learning activities.

Virtual Only

Students will have 5 days of **virtual instruction** which will include a mix of: live virtual instruction, pre-recorded instruction, teacher led small-groups and independent practice.



Hybrid Model (In-Person/Virtual)




Hybrid Model - (A/A & B/B) Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In-Person / Virtual Instructional Days	Group A 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group A 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group B 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group B 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group A Group B Group C 4 Hours All Virtual Instruction (mix of live, pre-recorded and independent work)– Morning Session
	Group B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Hours *virtual instruction in the morning • 1 Hour live with a teacher in the afternoon 	Group B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Hours *virtual instruction in the morning • 1 Hour live with a teacher in the afternoon 	Group A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Hours *virtual instruction in the morning • 1 Hour Live with a teacher in the afternoon 	Group A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Hours *virtual instruction in the morning • 1 Hour Live with a teacher in the afternoon 	
English Language Learner and Select Special Needs Programs 4 Day In-Person Instruction	Group C 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group C 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group C 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	Group C 4 Hours of instruction in school - in the Mornings	



Virtual Only Model



Virtual Only Model					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Virtual Only Students	4 Hours of instruction, which may include a mix of: Live virtual instruction Pre-recorded instruction Teacher led small-group instruction Independent practice 1 hour live with a teacher in the afternoon 				All District Virtual Day 4 Hours All Virtual Instruction (mix of live, pre-recorded and independent work)– Morning Session

IMPORTANT: Changing Instructional Model Options

1. Hybrid Instruction

- a. Once school begins, parents selecting hybrid only instruction who want to switch to all virtual instruction should contact their building principal.

2. Virtual Only Instruction

- a. Once school begins, parents selecting virtual only instruction can only request a switch to hybrid instruction during the following windows:
 - i. Mid-quarter - October 9th
 - ii. End of quarter - November 12th
- b. All requests will be handled at the school level



Childcare Considerations: YMCA Partnership



District Administrators along with the South Mountain YMCA Team working to developing plans and analyzing resources to be able to offer childcare for families that need it most as school reopening plans are announced. We know that many families will need a place for their child to have access to technology for Virtual Learning, to be able to participate in STEAM based enrichment activities, a place for physical play and important social interactions, all under the supervision of strong mentors.

It is our priority to ensure equitable access to programming and the Y for All Financial Assistance Program is available to ensure scholarships are available to families who need our programs and services the most. We are happy to announce that the process to apply is now online. The Y has been providing childcare since the beginning of the pandemic and is well prepared to implement health and safety protocols in its school-age childcare programming. Capacity will be limited to keep group sizes low and to allow for implementation of these protocols.

The South Mountain YMCA's preliminary plan consists of am and pm half day care for Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and full day care programs, specifically on Fridays.



Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Special Service



Canvas: Learning Management System

For fall 2020, Canvas will be the new learning platform that all SOMSD students will use. This will enable us to support virtual learning, live instruction and shift to fully virtual instruction if additional school closures are required. Canvas will be for every student, every day regardless of their mode of instruction.

K - 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ All K-12 staff will use the Learning Management System, Canvas, to assign, organize, and create lessons whether delivering lessons in person or virtually.+ Students and parents will have access to Canvas accounts that will organize all their learning by subject each day.+ All core content, as well as electives and specialized courses will be housed in Canvas. The platform will allow students to interact during classes, actively engage in assignments, take quizzes, collaborate with peers, communicate with teachers, and more.+ Students, families, and teachers will use Canvas to communicate with each other, conduct office hours, and students will also be able to work independently or as part of a team.
PreK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ The preschool curriculum (Tools of the Mind) has created a web-based portal that enables children in Tools programs to engage virtually in core Tools daily activities aligned with in-school curriculum, so they will maintain the learning in the classroom when at home.+ This portal includes options for a teacher/family messaging system, familiar PreK learning activities, and a Parent Center with offline activities & guidance to supporting children's learning at home.



Curriculum: Virtual & Hybrid Learning Environment

In planning curriculum, instruction, and assessment for reopening, school officials will focus on building staff capacity to deliver highly effective instruction in hybrid environments as well as preparing them to address any learning gaps that might prevent students from meeting grade-level New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS).

- Educators will be tasked not only with delivering curriculum, but also structuring the curriculum to account for the loss of learning that may have resulted from the extended school building closures.
- To accelerate students' progress during the upcoming school year, administrators and educators will be tasked with identifying what unfinished learning needs to be addressed.
- Accelerated learning focuses on providing students with grade-level materials, tasks, and assignments along with the appropriate supports necessary to fill the most critical gaps in learning. Accelerated learning seeks to help educators utilize classroom time as efficiently as possible.



Assessment: Learning Gaps

All District Students	All students will be given benchmark assessments in person and remotely at the beginning of the year to find gaps in learning that may have been a result of the transition into distance learning in the spring. Students who qualify for support/intervention services will be given these supports/programs in-person and virtually.
Students Showing Signs of Regression or Gaps in Learning	Students who have shown signs of regression or gaps in learning may be brought to the Intervention and Referral Team (I&RS) to create an individual I&RS Action Plan.
Preschool Students	Preschool Students showing delays in learning will be referred to the Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT) to create a PIRT Action Plan.
New Students	Newly registered students who might qualify for ESL services, based on the language survey, will be assessed in-person using the State approved assessment
Special Services	<i>Compensatory Services:</i> The IEP team will utilize a compensatory checklist to review student data and progress to determine whether critical skills were lost during remote instruction. IEP teams will be meeting to determine the need for possible additional services to address learning loss, regression and recoupment of skills within a reasonable length of time.



Special Services: Continuity of Learning

Students with disabilities will have their IEPs implemented to the greatest extent possible. The focus on IEP implementation is to provide as many in-person opportunities as possible for our most vulnerable students. All related services will continue being provided either in-person or virtually.

Medically Fragile Students

In order to address the return to school of medically fragile students and students with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of a 504, the district will ensure home instruction procedures are followed. The Board of Education shall provide instructional services to an enrolled student whether a general education student in Kindergarten through grade twelve or a special education student age three to twenty-one when the student is confined to the home or another out-of-school setting due to a temporary or chronic health condition or a need for treatment that precludes participation in their usual education setting, whether general or special education. All Individual Health Plans will be monitored by the School nurse with input from the School District physician as needed.



Special Services: Continuity of Learning (cont.)

Students with disabilities will have their IEPs implemented to the greatest extent possible. The focus on IEP implementation is to provide as many in-person opportunities as possible for our most vulnerable students. All related services will continue being provided either in-person or virtually.

Evaluations/ Mandated Meetings

- The Supervisors are working to ensure overdue and/or incomplete evaluations to determine eligibility for special education services are completed during the summer. The district has contracted out with agencies to bring in additional evaluators and case managers.
- The school guidance and Child Study Team will review all students on their caseloads whose post-secondary plans may have had their post-secondary plans adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Guidance and Child Study Teams will be providing support, resources, and assistance, which may include facilitating connection to community organizations, scholarship programs, county, State and Federal opportunities to access support.
- Parents will be informed to continue utilizing the referral process currently in place. Parents will also be requested to sign off on the in-person evaluation acknowledgement form indicating COVID precautions prior to evaluations being conducted. Communication will be ongoing to the parents of the procedures for student referrals and evaluations to determine eligibility for special education and related services or a 504 Plan as required by Federal and State Laws.



Health & Wellness



Health and Wellness



To ensure consistency with respect to the health and safety of school communities across the State, the NJDOE Guidance speaks specifically to health and safety measures identified as "anticipated minimum standards" and recommends a school district incorporate into the Plan as definite components related to health, safety, and operations. The "anticipated minimum standards" are listed and have been incorporated into the district's Plan.

The Health and Safety Section of the Board's Plan identifies Ten Critical Areas of Operation which the Board has addressed in the Plan:



- ☐ General Health and Safety Guidelines
- ☐ Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas
- ☐ Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms
- ☐ Contact Tracing
- ☐ Facilities Cleaning Practices
- ☐ Meals
- ☐ Recess/Physical Education
- ☐ Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities Outside School Hours.



Social-Emotional Wellness

SOMSD recognizes the importance of providing wraparound services to address the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students with interventions both inside and outside of the school environment. The district will:

- + Utilize social work interns to provide executive functioning support to students in need;
- + Provide a directory of mental health resources for students and families to access, and this will be housed on our district website;
- + Develop workshops, where subject matter experts in relevant and varying areas will conduct virtual workshops for students, families and staff to address some of the challenges faced during this unprecedented time in our world/community as well as the disruption to the learning experience.



Screenings for Children / Teachers & Staff

Teachers / Staff

Teachers and staff will screen themselves daily before leaving the house for in-person-instruction. This includes temperature and symptom checking. A Staff Agreement Letter of Compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines will be sent to each staff member. The letter includes signs and symptoms of COVID-19; what to do when they feel ill; health department resources; travel advisory; and the importance of attending school with a facial covering.

Staff will be encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness to stay home when they are sick.

Children

Parents will screen students daily before their children leave the house for in-person instruction. This includes temperature and symptom checking. A Parent Agreement Letter of Compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines will be sent to each family one time.

Staff members will be instructed on signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Those who greet the children at the entrance doors will visually check for symptoms of illness (i.e., coughing) and send children who are acting ill to the nurse for evaluation. Teachers will be instructed on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and send students who are acting ill to the nurse for evaluation.

Visual symptom check will be conducted safely and respectfully by staff members greeting students at the door and teachers observing student behavior, in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations. The school nurse will document results of evaluation when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.

Parents will be encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness and to keep their children home when they are sick.



1. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others.
 - a. Staff members will be sent home;
 - b. students will remain in isolation in the nurse's office with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
2. Parents/staff will be instructed by the school nurse about continuous monitoring of symptoms, and encouraged to consult their Health Care Professional. A COVID-19 test may be recommended. Written guidance will be provided.



Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance:

- Fever (100 F or greater)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



District Procedures for COVID-19 Test Positivity

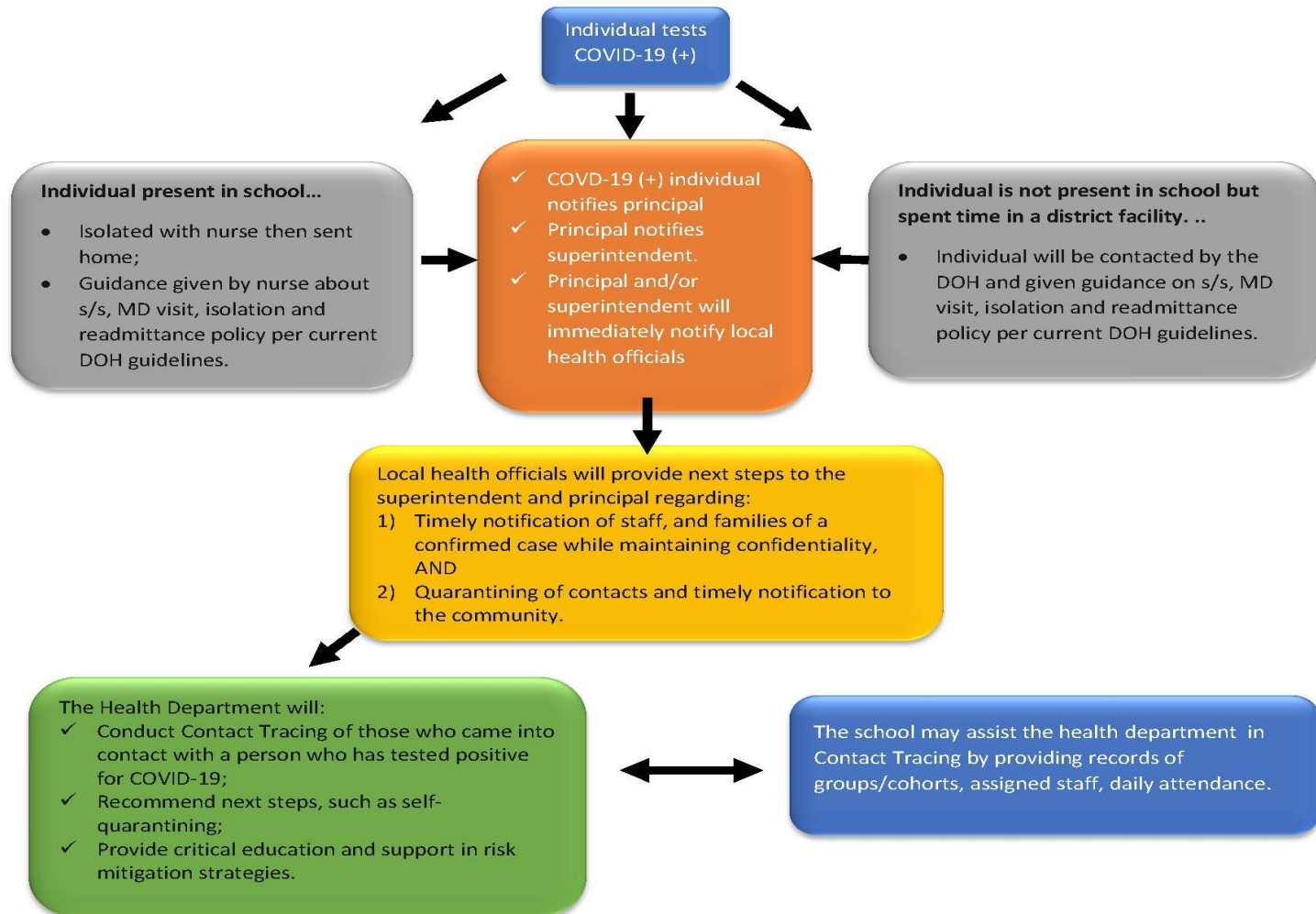
- If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, the principal and superintendent will immediately notify local health officials, who will provide next steps as to the timely notification of staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.
- The Health Department shall conduct Contact Tracing of those who came into contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 to recommend next steps, such as self-quarantining, and to provide critical education and support in risk mitigation strategies.
- The Health Department will provide next steps to the superintendent and principal regarding quarantining of contacts and timely notification to the community.
- Methods for the school to assist in Contact Tracing include records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, daily attendance.
- Readmittance policies will be consistent with local and state health department guidance and include:) being free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for the period of time directed by the local Health Department's current guidelines; and, 2) being isolated or quarantined for the period of time directed by the local Health Department's current guidelines.



Contact Tracing



SOMSD PROCEDURE IF AN INDIVIDUAL (STAFF OR STUDENT) TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



General Health & Safety Guidelines



Protocol for High Risk Staff

- General Health and Safety Standards aim to protect and support all staff, as well as consider reasonable accommodations for individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Staff members should reach out to their building principal or department administrator. Collaboration with individual staff members will give important information about: (1) an individual's condition being a health risk in school; and (2) a plan for an individual who may require special accommodations. A note from an individual's Health Care Provider (HCP) may be requested.

Protocol for High Risk Students

- General Health and Safety Standards aim to protect and support all students, as well as consider reasonable accommodations for individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Families should reach out to school administrators and school nurses. Collaboration with families will give important information about: (1) a student's condition being a health risk in school; and (2) a plan for a student who may require special accommodations. A note from an individual's Health Care Provider (HCP) may be requested.

Resources that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>



Next Steps & Key Dates

- **Monday, August 10:** The “Return to School Preference” form will be sent to families/students
- **Friday, August 14:** Deadline for families/students to submit their “Return to School Preference” choice (hybrid or virtual)
- **Week of August 14:** District’s Reopening & COVID-19 microsite will launch (will include parent FAQs)
- **September 8 - 18:** District schools open, starting with a two-week virtual start for all students
- ***September 21:** Hybrid (in-person) instruction model begins for all schools (virtual students will continue their learning remotely)

The full SOMSD “Restart and Recovery Plan” can be found on the district website:
www.somsd.k12.nj.us



Appendix



Glossary of Terms

The following terms are used throughout this document as well as in the District's Restart & Recover Plan.

Asynchronous: Asynchronous, or async, classes have no live instruction. Students work from a plan written by a teacher, who is available to assist through email and other communication methods. Based on the teacher's plan, students read textbooks, view videos, complete assignments, and take assessments. Because there is no live element to class, students in asynchronous classes can finish their plans within the schedule or due date provided for an assignment;

Cohort: Students who are educated at the same period of time—a grade level, a group of students or a class of students;

Distance Learning: (See virtual below) A method of studying in which classes are pre-recorded and broadcast or classes are conducted and streamed live by a teacher via the Internet, without the student's needing to attend a school in person;

Hybrid: Blended learning where students will have a combination of in-person learning, live virtual interaction with a teacher and remote learning activities; hybrid students will attend classes in-person on some days and receive instruction at home via the internet;

Pre-recorded: A lesson that has been recorded in advance so that it can be played later for student instruction;

"Live" learning: Students will receive live virtual instruction streamed via the internet;

Live streaming: Instructional lessons that are transmitted or received via live video and audio via the internet;

Remote Learning: Learning in a way in which the student and the teacher are not physically present in a traditional classroom environment. Information is relayed through technology, such as discussion boards, video conferencing, and posted assignments.

Synchronous: Synchronous, or sync, classes have live instruction from a teacher through online classrooms. Students can see their teachers through a webcam, interact with their classmates through a chat box, and participate with a microphone and whiteboard privileges. During live class, students have the opportunity to befriend their classmates and complete group assignments.

Virtual: Students will receive live virtual instruction, pre-recorded instruction, teacher led small-groups and independent practice; students in virtual settings do not attend in-person school buildings;



Establishment of the Rethink-Reopen Taskforce

Taskforce Structure and Goals:

+ Structure

- 14 Sub-Committees comprised of over 100 District staff members

+ Goals

- Review the recommendation from NJ Department of Education
- Identify reopening strategies across the country and the world
- Identify community concerns and needs
- Make recommendations for a reopening instructional option for families



Sub-Committees

- + Cleaning & Disinfecting
 - Meals/Food Services
 - Recess/Physical Education
- + Communications
- + Curriculum & Assessment
- + Scheduling/ Elementary Schools
- + Emergency Closing Plan
- + Health/Wellness
- + Policy
- + Pre-K
- + Special Education
- + Sports & Co-Curricular
- + Staffing
- + Transportation
- + Virtual/In-Person Learning



Communications



- + Microsite Landing Page for Parents/Families will launch the week of August 14, and will offer a more streamlined and user-friendly experience to navigate all things related to school reopening and Covid-19

