



A Health & Wellness Conversation

August 2021



Purpose

To share the latest health and wellness updates with our community.

- + Introductions and welcome
- + Updates on Covid 19 in our community...

A Message From Candice Davenport, RN, BSN, MPH, MCHES, HO

Health Officer, Public Health Nursing Supervisor, Health Educator
Maplewood Health Department



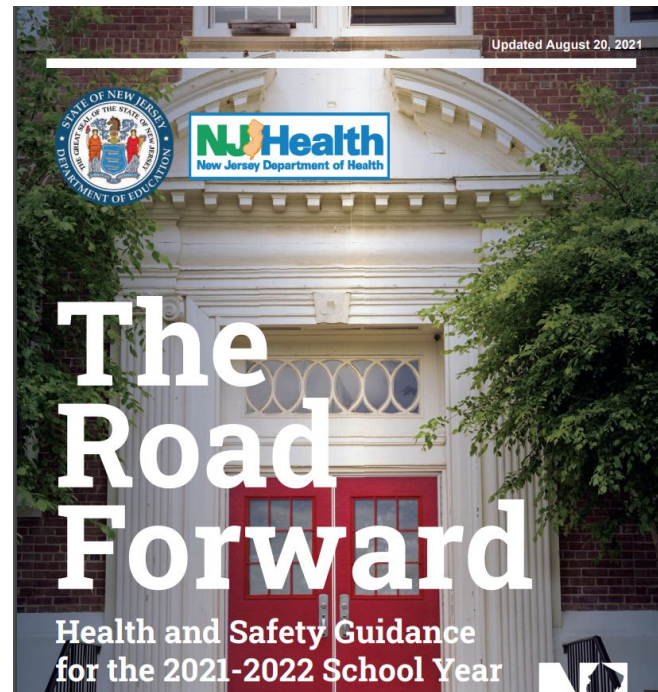
We are excited to start school in the next few weeks. We have heard from a few families asking about Covid testing for students who are not yet of age to receive vaccinations. What is the current guidance on Covid testing for students age 12 and under?



Guidance from NJDOE and NJDOH

At all levels of community transmission, NJDOH recommends that schools work with their local health departments to identify rapid viral testing options in their community for the testing of symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals who were exposed to someone with COVID-19.

- + The NJDOE/ NJDOH “Road Forward” Document:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/roadforward/docs/HealthAndSafetyGuidanceSY2122.pdf>



NJDOH Guidance: Who should get tested?

Referral for testing due to symptoms or contact tracing or travel in combination with isolation and quarantine are key strategies to identify cases and decrease transmission

- + All individuals with COVID compatible symptoms**
 - Stay home if you are sick
 - Test immediately
 - Isolate if you test positive
- + Unvaccinated individuals who have been identified as close contacts of a COVID positive case through contact tracing**
 - Quarantine
 - Test on day 5-7 after exposure (current guidelines)
 - Isolate if you test positive
- + Unvaccinated individuals who have travelled outside of NJ, NY, PA, DE, CT for more than 24 hours (This is guidance from NJDOH who refers us to CDC)**
 - Quarantine
 - Test on day 3-5 after return from travel
 - Isolate if you test positive

We know that the vast majority of districts in our County and the State as a whole are not mandating testing of asymptomatic students.



Where to Get a Test

The District through our partners is providing several onsite opportunities for individuals to get tested or vaccinated before school begins...

1) MediMobile Testing Clinic: Monday, August 30, 9 am - 1 pm

- + **Location:** CHS Gymnasium Parking Lot (Valley Street Entrance)
- + Nasal swab PCR, Rapid and antibody testing will all be available to anyone over 6 months old.
- + There is NO out-of-pocket cost to anyone.
 - Those with health insurance must bring proof of insurance and valid identification.
 - Those without health insurance please bring valid identification and a form will be provided for you to complete.



+ **No appointment necessary**

Where to Get a Test AND a Vaccination

2) Essex County Mobile Vaccination & Testing Clinic at CHS Parking Lot:

- + **Tuesday, September 7, 10am - 2pm**
- + **Location:** CHS, Gymnasium Parking Lot (Valley Street Entrance)
- + Vaccination AND testing will be available to all District Staff, Students, and Essex County residents.
 - Note: Saliva testing for those 8 years and older. Please do not eat or drink anything 30 minutes prior to saliva testing for COVID.
- + The Essex County Mobile Clinic are here to administer the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine to individuals who were vaccinated on August 17th.
- + They will also administer the first Pfizer and the (first and only) J&J vaccine. Recipients are responsible for their own follow-up vaccines at another site in 3 weeks for Pfizer.



Walk ups welcome. No appointment is needed for testing

Where to Get a Test

More opportunities to get tested before school starts are consistently available through:

- + Essex County**
 - <http://covid19.nj.gov> and / or www.essexcovid.org
 - Test Site Finder
 - 400+ testing sites across NJ
 - Includes local Walgreens, CVS, and other nearby pharmacies
- + Your Healthcare Provider**
- + Federally Qualified Health Care Centers**
- + Home test kits available at local pharmacies**



More Upcoming Testing and Vaccine Clinics

SOMSD Testing & Vaccination Webpage: bit.ly/C19Test_Vaccine

SOMSD plans to partner with Saint Barnabas Health for a vaccination clinic

- + September 19 and October 10
- + Pfizer Vaccine (ages 12 and up)
- + CHS Valley Street Parking Lot
- + Times to be determined

SOMSD will partner with MediMobile for a testing clinic

- + Every Saturday beginning September 11 through October 30
- + CHS Valley Street Parking Lot
- + 9am to 1pm



Some Health Updates

- + Vaccination for those 5-11 years of age is coming, which is another layer of protection we didn't have last year.
- + The latest information from our SOMA health departments show that we have a high percentage of vaccinated individuals and among the 12 and over age group, over 80% are vaccinated
- + Essex County COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) is currently moderate
- + Our COVID numbers from the District's summer school programming which was attended by 1,151 students grades Pre K to 12 over 8-weeks resulted in:
 - **7 positive cases**
 - School closure for one day at one school
 - 65 individuals (~6%) quarantined for 14 days of their several week session
 - 1,086 students (~94%) participated in the full program
- + There has been no evidence of in school transmission

In lieu of school based Covid testing, what are the safety measures that our parents/students should be aware of?



Range of Mitigating Strategies to be implemented

In accordance with CDC guidance, we will implement a multi-layer health and safety protocol that includes multiple strategies to protect school community members from COVID-19, including:

- + Vaccine promotion
- + Use of masks
- + Physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable as well as structural interventions
- + Cleaning and disinfecting
- + Frequent hand-washing and respiratory etiquette
- + Improved ventilation
- + Contact tracing of close contacts in combination with isolation and quarantine
- + Staying home when sick and referral for testing
- + Increase use of outdoor opportunities including lunch



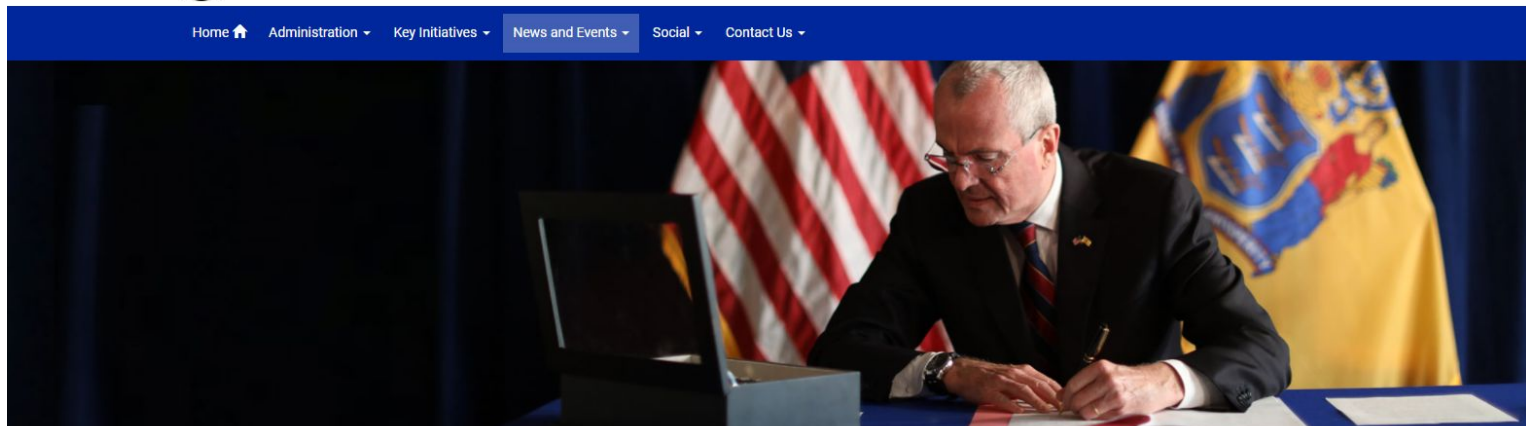
More on Promoting Vaccination from the Governor

To share the latest health and wellness updates with our community.

- + Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Instituting Vaccination or Testing Requirement for All Preschool to Grade 12 Personnel
 - <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210823b.shtml>



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY



Governor Murphy Signs Executive Order Instituting Vaccination or Testing Requirement for All Preschool to Grade 12 Personnel

08/23/2021

Governor Murphy Also Announces Vaccination and Testing Policy for All State Workers

All Preschool to Grade 12 Settings and State Entities Will Have Until October 18, 2021 to Come into Full Compliance With the Vaccine or Testing Requirement

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 253, requiring all preschool to Grade 12 school personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week. This requirement will strengthen protections against the spread of COVID-19, including the highly transmissible Delta variant, to children in school settings, many of whom are under 12 years old and not yet eligible for vaccination.

Governor Murphy also announced that all State employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week. State employees in certain healthcare and correctional facilities are already subject to the vaccination or testing requirement under previously issued Executive Order No. 252. Today's announcement extends the scope to all workers of state agencies, authorities, and colleges and universities. The State will work with impacted agencies and



Any other messages for our families on this topic?



COVID-19 Parent Agreement Letter

Parents/caregivers are the front line for assessing illness in your children

- + Read and sign the Parent Agreement Letter that will be available on the Parent Portal when it opens for the community (message will come under separate cover).
- + Monitor your children for signs of illness every day
- + Know the signs and symptoms of COVID 19
- + Send your healthy children to school wearing a mask
- + If your children become ill during the school, have them picked up immediately
- + Please avoid unnecessary travel. If you do travel, follow the DOH travel quarantine guidance

Email the principal if your child tests positive for COVID19 (this ensures prompt contact tracing)



Lunch Update



Update on in-person Lunch

We understand that ‘in-person’ lunch has been an ongoing concern for some families...

- + Anticipating this need, we utilized our elementary summer programing to attempt (and review) an outdoor lunch approach that was deemed a success.
- + We held Subcommittee meetings with our Principals to serve as ‘thought partners’ to solve this complex issue. Many creative logistical solutions have been considered, including... shorter lunch periods, ‘to-go’ lunch containers from our food vendor (not trays) for easier student transport, working with our Township Partners for support (more space), etc.

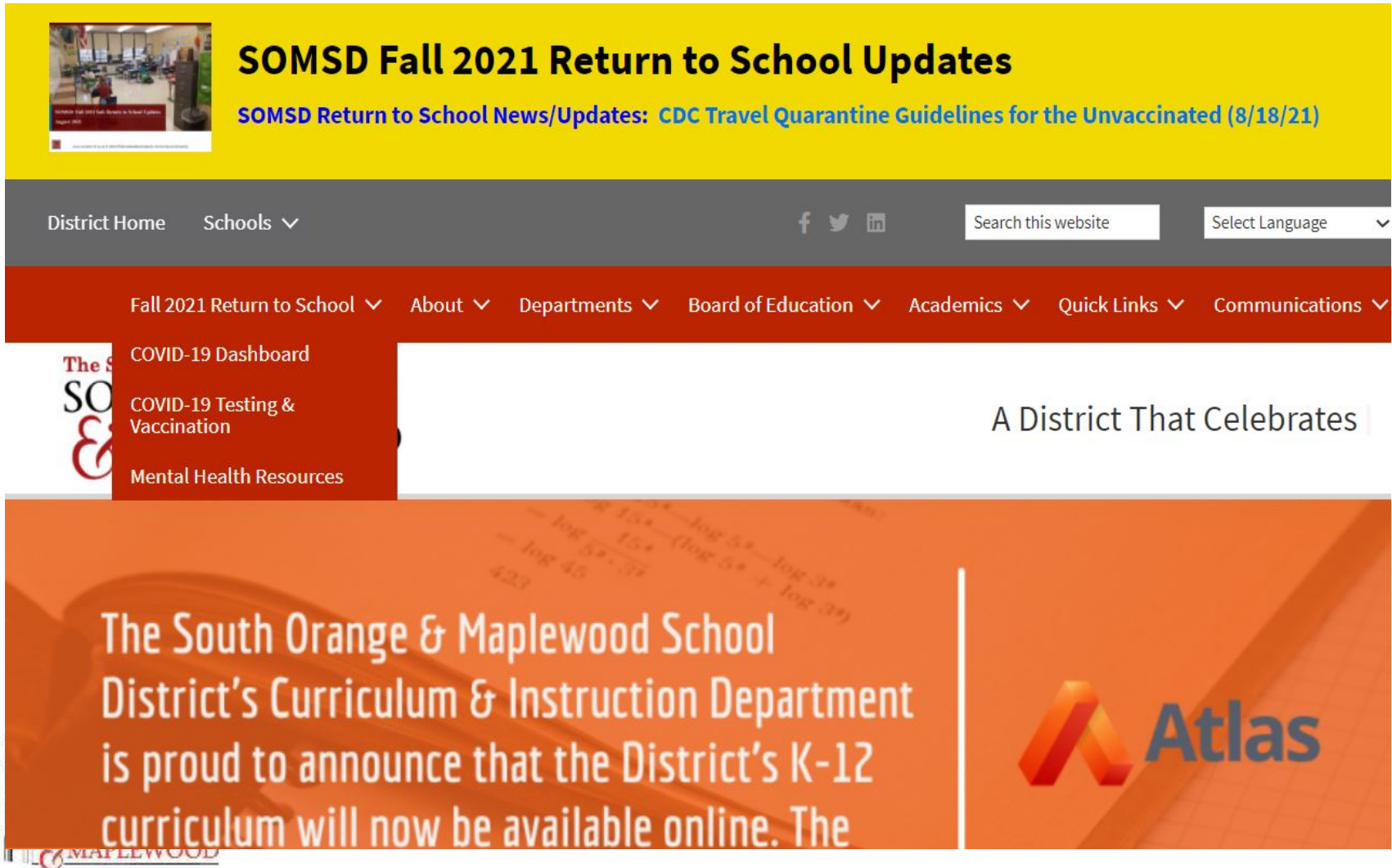
Update on in-person Lunch (cont.)

- + We have worked with our Principals to ensure that students in our elementary schools will have outdoor lunch daily utilizing plans that are customized for each school's unique design and circumstance. We have also worked with them to develop socially distant indoor contingency plans for inclement weather days.
- + Our Middle School Facilities do not have the capacity to have exclusively 'outdoor lunch periods' while maintaining their traditional academic scheduling. In response to this challenge, the Principals of our Middle Schools have developed socially distanced lunch plans that do include outdoor space.
- + If you have questions about the specificity of your school's lunch plan you are free to contact your Principal. We ask for your patience and understanding as this is a new endeavor and many 'outside the box' ideas have been considered. There may need to adjust as we observe the logistics of the first few days of school.



For All District Reopening Information:

bit.ly/SOMSD21-22Reopening



The screenshot displays the homepage of the South Orange & Maplewood School District's website. The header is yellow with the title "SOMSD Fall 2021 Return to School Updates" and a link to "SOMSD Return to School News/Updates: CDC Travel Quarantine Guidelines for the Unvaccinated (8/18/21)". Below the header is a dark grey navigation bar with links to "District Home" and "Schools", social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, a search bar, and a language selector. A red navigation bar contains links to "Fall 2021 Return to School", "About", "Departments", "Board of Education", "Academics", "Quick Links", and "Communications". A sidebar on the left lists "COVID-19 Dashboard", "COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination", and "Mental Health Resources". The main content area features a large orange banner with the text: "The South Orange & Maplewood School District's Curriculum & Instruction Department is proud to announce that the District's K-12 curriculum will now be available online. The" and the Atlas logo.

SOMSD Fall 2021 Return to School Updates

SOMSD Return to School News/Updates: [CDC Travel Quarantine Guidelines for the Unvaccinated \(8/18/21\)](#)

District Home Schools ▾

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Search this website

Select Language ▾

Fall 2021 Return to School ▾ About ▾ Departments ▾ Board of Education ▾ Academics ▾ Quick Links ▾ Communications ▾

The South Orange & Maplewood School District's Curriculum & Instruction Department is proud to announce that the District's K-12 curriculum will now be available online. The

COVID-19 Dashboard

COVID-19 Testing & Vaccination

Mental Health Resources

A District That Celebrates

Atlas

We will be sharing our Fall 2021 Reopening Guidebook
with the SOMSD Community early next week

We look forward to seeing our **PreK - 7 & 9 students back in schools starting on Thurs., Sept. 9** and our **8 & 10 - 12 students back on Fri., Sept. 10**

