



The New School

School Operations During Covid-19 Pandemic

Revised 3/31/2022

Other than for individuals returning from isolation or quarantine (see below), masking is optional at The New School effective Friday, April 1.

Definitions

Isolation

- Isolation is the process of separating individuals who are infected with COVID-19 from others.
- All students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 shall isolate until they meet the U.S. CDC criteria for release from isolation, regardless of vaccination status.
- If a student or staff has access to a test and wants to test during isolation, they should use an antigen test toward the end of the 5-day isolation period. Follow U.S CDC guidance for details on testing. If the test result is positive, continue to isolate until day 10. If the test result is negative, isolation can end (on or after day 6), and the student or staff can return to school.
- **When returning to school after isolation, wearing a well-fitting mask for an additional five days (until day 10) is required at all times when around others indoors, except when eating or drinking.**

Quarantine

- Quarantine is the process of separating and restricting the movement of persons who were in close contact with someone infected with or had symptoms of COVID-19.

Quarantine Exceptions

Students/faculty/staff who are close contacts should quarantine. However, if at least one of the following conditions applies, students/faculty/staff can be exempt from quarantine (provided that the close contact is asymptomatic):

1. The close contact is 18 or older and has received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people; or
2. The close contact is 5-17 years and completed the primary vaccine series of COVID-19 vaccines but who have not yet received all eligible boosters; or
3. The close contact had COVID-19 within the last 90 days

Vaccinated & Boosted. Individuals have completed either the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, **AND** have received a Booster.

Vaccinated. Individuals have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the **last 6 months** OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within **the last 2 months**.

Close Contact. Exposure, with or without a mask, within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period OR any direct physical contact.

No Fever. No fever for 24 hours AND no use of fever-reducing medication.

The New School Operations During Covid-19 Pandemic – Revised 3/31/2022

Situation	I am Vaccinated & Boosted	I am Vaccinated	I am not Vaccinated
I have tested positive for Covid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate at home for 5 days. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves If you have no symptoms, or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school. You MUST wear a mask for five days upon returning to school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate at home for 5 days. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves If you have no symptoms, or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school. You MUST wear a mask for five days upon returning to school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate at home for 5 days. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves If you have no symptoms, or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can return to school. You MUST wear a mask for five days upon returning to school.
I have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask around others for 10 days Recommended to test on Day 5. If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine at home for 5 days. After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. If you can't quarantine, you must wear a mask for 10 days. Test on Day 5 if possible. If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine at home for 5 days. After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. If you can't quarantine, you must wear a mask for 10 days. Test on Day 5 if possible. If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

Before coming to school, please continue to conduct at-home symptom screening. DO NOT come to school if:

1. You have had a fever or taken fever reducing medicine within the past 24 hours.
2. You feel sick, had vomiting/diarrhea, fever, sore throat, or felt unwell.
3. You have been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to Covid-19 exposure.

If you contract Covid-19 OR have had close contact with someone with Covid-19, please notify the school.

Medical Isolation Space/access to health care at school

- If during the day a student begins to feel ill, they should inform a staff person in the building. A symptom screening (including a temperature check) will be performed and the parent/guardian will be contacted to collectively determine whether the student needs to go home or rest in our designated medical isolation room.
- Per our normal wellness policy, if a student has a temperature over 100 degrees or has vomited or had diarrhea, they will be sent home and cannot return to school until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours without medication.
- If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case within the school (student/staff) The New School will contact the CDC and follow their guidance.

Distancing policy/guidelines

- Everyone in school will maintain a distance of at least 3 feet between each other whenever possible.
- We have several outdoor classroom spaces which we will utilize for as long as the weather permits. Staff and students are encouraged to dress for being outside.

The New School Operations During Covid-19 Pandemic – Revised 3/31/2022

Hand hygiene

- Students and staff will thoroughly and frequently wash their hands throughout the day (minimum 20 seconds with soap).
- Direct teaching about handwashing will occur in the first weeks of school.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are located throughout the building and people are encouraged to use hand sanitizer as they exit/enter rooms and periodically throughout the day.
- People are encouraged to bring their own personal supply of hand sanitizer.
- Hands should be cleaned after touching masks and before/after touching common surfaces.

Cleaning stations, cleaning protocols

- At the end of every class block, the students & staff in each classroom will clean surfaces, sweep, and remove trash to maintain classroom cleanliness
- Staff will work with students to create a plan to clean the rest of the school

Outdoor Learning Spaces

- As weather permits we will utilize outdoor learning spaces as often as practical.

Ventilation

- As weather permits, windows in the school will be open in the building for cross ventilation
- The school has two air exchange systems that recycle the air in the building every 15 minutes. These will be used in accordance with industry standards.

Vans

- Maximum air circulation will be maintained using the windows and fans in the vans.

Shared supplies

- We encourage students to bring their own school supplies. A supply list was issued at the beginning of the school year.

Mask Policy

- **Other than for individuals returning from isolation or quarantine (see below), masking is optional at The New School effective Friday, April 1.**
- Students/faculty/staff will need to wear face coverings when returning from isolation or quarantine.
- For individuals required to wear a mask, mask breaks will be allowed outside. People will go outside, keep a 6-foot distance from one another, and wash/sanitize hands after touching masks.
- Face coverings:
 - **Acceptable** face coverings include: disposable non-surgical masks, homemade and store-bought cloth masks that tie or have elastic ear loops.
 - **Unacceptable** face coverings: Additional research has recently come out that suggests the listed face coverings below are ineffective in preventing particle spread.
 - Scarf, bandana, neck gators, valve masks, plastic face shields (unless it is used together with an acceptable face-covering listed above). To use a plastic face shield alone requires a doctor's order.
 - The school has a limited supply of masks if people need a replacement during the day.
- Everyone should still bring at least one spare mask to school in the event that field trips go to places where masks are still required.
- Masks should be changed if they become damp.
 - Used reusable masks should be placed in a sealed container and taken home to be laundered.
 - Disposable masks should be thrown out in one of the 4 trash cans with lids in the school (located in bathrooms, science room, and Discovery room).
 - Clean hands after changing masks.

The New School Operations During Covid-19 Pandemic – Revised 3/31/2022

- Masks must cover the nose and mouth. A well-fitting mask should cover your face from the bridge of your nose to under your chin. It should be loose-fitting but still secure enough to stay in place. People should make sure they can talk with their mask on and that it doesn't irritate them, so they are not tempted to touch it or pull it out of place, which could limit its effectiveness.
 - <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-face-masks-what-you-need-to-know>

Kitchen Policy:

- The kitchen is open this year. Community dishes are available. Students and staff are required to rinse their dishes and put them in the dishwasher to be sanitized.
- Everyone should have a water bottle and/or travel mug (hot beverages) that stays with them throughout the day.
- Food may be stored in the refrigerators in labeled containers.
 - All appliances are available for use. Before and after using shared resources (like the microwaves) people must wash hands.

Visitors:

- Visitors are strongly encouraged to call ahead before making a trip into the school.
- Visitors should enter only through the front door and check in at the front desk.
- Visitors must wear a mask when in the building.
- Visitors will be expected to follow all safety protocols while in the building.
- Parents and Guardians are welcome to come to the school provided they follow the above guidelines and adhere to the other protocols in the building (masks, hand hygiene, health checks, etc.)

Learning Plans for sick or quarantined students

- If a student is ill or has to self-isolate, teachers will work with each student individually to best meet their needs depending on their situation.
- We have seen that hybrid and remote learning models are no substitute for in-person learning and will not be offering hybrid learning for extended periods of time this year.
- Teachers will create alternative assignments when appropriate.

Sick or Quarantined Teachers

- If a teacher is unable to teach in person at school while in-person learning is happening, we will work with them and their classes to establish whether we will hire a substitute teacher or they will teach from home via Zoom, or some combination of these options.

Online platforms

- All teachers will use Google Classroom for posting class materials and assignments
 - All assignments should be submitted via Google Classroom
- Students all have Gmail accounts with a tnsk.org address which enables them to access the Google suite of applications
- Direct instruction for use of Google Classroom will be given during Advisory in the first weeks of classes
- We will be using Zoom for video conferencing.
 - Each teacher has their own Zoom Account through the school. Paid Zoom accounts have increased security measures and unlimited time.

Psycho-social supports

There is a great deal of research available indicating that relationships and personal connection are crucial to student well-being in general and specifically during the uncertainty of this pandemic. The nature of how we educate students at TNS has multiple support systems embedded within it. These include:

- Advisory
- Direct communication with families about student well-being

The New School Operations During Covid-19 Pandemic – Revised 3/31/2022

- Flexible, individualized approach to education where we modify expectations according to student needs.
 - Using the COVID Practices outlined in this document, we will strive to ensure safe, in-person learning whenever possible.
- If we have to switch to Remote Learning again, we have built-in supports including daily check-ins.
 - Our holistic approach to working with adolescents includes implementing mindfulness moments throughout the day, encouraging physical activity, and discussing health, nutrition, and mental/physical wellness in advisory and as a whole school.

We do not have a counselor or a social worker on staff, but encourage families to access services if they need them. We have found NAMI Maine to be a valuable resource: <https://www.namimaine.org/>