



# LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Little Silver Families.

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying these final weeks of summer. As we prepare for the start of the new school year, I wanted to send this update to inform all of our families about the expectations and protocols we will have in place when the year starts. Here are the key points to be aware of:

- Our district is committed to resuming our normal operations to the greatest extent possible this year. Our staff will report back to work for two days of professional development and planning on September 1st & 2nd. All students will return to school on September 8th, which will be a full-day in both schools.
- As per Governor Murphy's Executive Order, all staff and students will be expected to wear a properly fitted mask throughout the school day. Scarves and gators are not considered to be an acceptable type of face covering. Both schools will have a supply of appropriate masks for students if needed. As per Executive Order 253, exceptions for mask wearing will only be made for documented medical reasons and in the case of special needs students when applicable. Additionally, the mask mandate will apply to any/all visitors to the schools and for all indoor school events until further notice.
- Mask wearing becomes optional during all outdoor activities (except for the Gaga pit and tire swings at PRS) and during indoor P.E. class time when students are engaged in physical activities.
- Masks are able to be removed during snack and lunch time. Students will be expected to put their mask back on immediately after eating in order to help reduce the risk of being a close contact. Both principals will send out notices to their respective school communities with more details related to the logistics of student lunch time.
- Both schools will continue to emphasize the importance of hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer during the school day.
- Social distancing practices will be implemented to the greatest extent possible and practical during the school day. Students will be moving through the hallways in both schools as part of their regular academic schedule.
- The plexiglass barriers that were in place last year have been removed from all regular classroom settings. These items may be used for special services (i.e. speech) when needed.
- Both schools will resume the use of the digital temperature scanners during arrival time each day at the same designated entrances.
- All parents/guardians are expected to complete the Covid symptom check form that is posted in Genesis. ***This is a one-time only requirement.***
- The cleaning practices that were implemented last year will continue to help maintain a safe and healthy setting in both schools.



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- Our district will be implementing the most recent CDC guidance regarding “close contacts” and quarantine expectations. Included in this guidance are the exceptions for fully vaccinated individuals who no longer need to quarantine if exposed to a Covid-positive person. Additionally, there is now an exception in the K-12 indoor classroom setting that states the contact tracing process will no longer expect students to be quarantined provided that both the infected person and close contact individuals were wearing a well-fitted mask during the time of exposure. This exemption does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the classroom setting. The following link will take you to the chart created by the Covid Team that outlines this information: [\(click here\)](#). This chart will also be posted on our website.
- Our Executive County Superintendent has authorized the continued use of virtual learning (live streaming) only for COVID circumstances. In short, only students excluded from school due to COVID-19 will be permitted to access virtual learning. This accommodation will not be made for family vacations and travel purposes. As an important reminder, fully virtual learning is no longer an option for families.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns related to any of this information or any other Covid-related topic, I encourage you to utilize the [LSCOVID@littleschools.org](mailto:LSCOVID@littleschools.org) email address. Our team members monitor and respond to these messages in a timely manner.

Although we are not able to reopen our schools with 100% normalcy in place, I am excited that our schools will be opening for five, full days of instruction from day one this year. That fact alone represents a significant step back in the right direction for resuming the normal school experience. As with everything else during the past year, our current practices and protocols will remain fluid and subject to change based on circumstances related to the pandemic. Our Covid Team will continue to meet on a regular basis to review local data and discuss the status of our district.

Like last year, I am counting on the support and collaboration from our staff and families to help us maintain a safe, healthy and engaging environment for our students. Looking ahead, I will be excited to see our staff and students back together on September 8th, and I am confident that this is going to be an outstanding school year! Stay well and enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore  
Superintendent of Schools