

# ***Newton Public Schools***

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*Dr. G. Kennedy Greene  
Superintendent*

*Ms. Donna Snyder-DeVita  
Interim Business Administrator*

September 22, 2020

Newton Public Schools Community,

We have made substantial progress in meeting the health and safety standards outlined in the district's [Restart and Recovery Plan](#). **Therefore, the Newton Public Schools remain on track to open all instructional schedule options on Monday, October 5, 2020.** Here is an update on the specific issues:

1. Ventilation (NJDOE Critical Area of Operation #2, Restart and Recovery Plan 4.4)  
Air purifiers for all rooms without univents have arrived and been distributed.
2. Physical Barriers and Guides (NJDOE Critical Area of Operation #2, Restart and Recovery Plan 4.6)  
Many individual desk guards and shields for small group instruction and office desks have arrived. The remainder have been shipped. Plastic sheets to offer further protection in nurses rooms and isolation rooms are almost fully installed.
3. Physical Barriers and Guides (NJDOE Critical Area of Operation #2, Restart and Recovery Plan 4.6)  
The appropriate face shields have been received and distributed to the schools.
4. Transportation (NJDOE Critical Area of Operation #3, Restart and Recovery Plan 4.10)  
We have confirmed that plastic guards to install between bus seat rows are being shipped this week. If they are delayed any further, we will implement a workaround to provide the seat row barriers.
5. Cleaning and Applying Disinfectant (NJDOE Critical Area of Operation #7, Restart and Recovery Plan 4.1)  
All 11 electrostatic sprayers that were ordered to apply disinfectant have been received.
6. Cleaning and Applying Disinfectant (NJDOE Critical Area of Operation #7, Restart and Recovery Plan 4.1)  
We are able to fill custodial and maintenance leaves with substitutes for now and have advertised again to fill open positions.

Due to some recent changes in the number of families opting for hybrid and remote instruction, we are announcing that **8th grade students will be the only middle schoolers attending classes on the Newton High School campus.** More information is being sent by the Halsted administration.

We are also making arrangements for several of our **special populations classes** (self-contained and English Language Learners) to receive some in-person instruction starting on Monday September 28. Individual parents are being contacted by staff this week.

We want to restate information provided to parents through multiple communications since July: **all students must be up to date on their immunizations and medical action plans.** If the school nurse has not received updated documents by Friday October 2, the child must remain on remote instruction until proper documentation is received.

Finally, I want to recognize our custodial and maintenance staff again for their work in getting our buildings ready for in-person schooling. Our school nurses have also continued to address the health-related protocols necessary to bring our students and staff back safely.

In addition, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work being done by our teachers and teacher assistants to enhance the structures and strategies to deliver remote instruction, and by our administrative and support staff in continuing to find unique and caring ways to provide student services.

And most of all, I want to thank our students and parents for moving forward with us on a learning path that none of us ever wanted or could have foreseen. For tutorials and ongoing support with technology, please go to <http://www.newtonnj.org/families/technology>. Learning opportunities on topics such as self-care and social-emotional learning can be accessed at <http://www.newtonnj.org/about/news/1690202/training-opportunities-for-parents>.

Regardless of the circumstances, we will continue to pursue our mission to “educate the whole child” through the core elements of academic achievement, multiple paths to success, the power of diversity, the value of care, and strong community partnerships. Here’s wishing you good health and a safe school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "GK Greene". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "K" at the beginning.

Dr. G. Kennedy Greene