



RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

AUGUST, 15, 2020

Who do I contact?

If I am absent:

Call school and follow prompts to report absence. The school nurse will follow up with you to discuss your specific situation and follow-up plans.

If a family member becomes ill?

The school nurse is your point of contact for any health related issues with your student or your family. They are available for questions and consultation at any time. At MTES - Katelyn Safko, ksafko@mendhamtwp.org and at MTMS - Erin Giarusso, egiarrusso@mendhamtwp.org

If I want to switch to "virtual instruction" and keep my student home?

We understand that during these challenging times, family situations can change quickly.

If my child is having a hard time adjusting to school?

Certainly, your child's teacher is the first point of contact. We have wonderful professionals in both schools that are available to help you and your child. You can contact our guidance counselors as well, Hillary Clark - hclark@mendhamtwp.org (ES) and Allie Perrotta - aperrotta@mendhamtwp.org (MS).

If my child forgets something and needs it?

Call the main office at the school. Though we are not allowing visitors into the building, we would be happy to help you get the item to your child. Each building will have a "touchless" drop off procedure. The

I need some tech support or equipment...?

On our website, we list our building-based technology assistants who are ready to help you with whatever trouble you may be having. For your convenience, at MTES (Kyle Lissy - klissy@mendhamtwp.org) and at MTMS (Pete Ricci - pricci@mendhamtwp.org).

I am concerned about PPE...?

We are very happy to report that all of our PPE has been delivered, or will be delivered this week. Splash guards, face covers, face shields, hand sanitizer, disinfecting equipment/supplies/wipes, disinfecting carpets, touchless thermometers, and new signage are here and ready to be deployed. If you have additional questions, reach out to the Principal in your school building.

I can bring my child to school and don't need bus transportation...?

This is an important issue, as we want our transportation program to be safe and available to the families that need it. If you have any questions about transportation, please contact our Transportation Supervisor, Margaret Hogan, at mhogan@mendhamtwp.org.



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Many people have asked when/how the decision will be made to close schools or have classrooms go remote when a student/staff member is ill. School closure is a local decision that will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with local public health officials. While it is not possible to account for every scenario that our schools will face, the NJDOH has released the COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix to help guide the decision making process. Also, see **"Critical Area of Operation #5: Screening, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms"** of the School District Return to School Plan.

COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix

SCENARIO	CLOSURE
1 confirmed case in the school	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort)	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. Recommendations for whether the entire classroom would be considered exposed will be based on public health investigation.
2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to a clear alternative exposure that is unrelated to the school setting and unlikely to be a source of exposure for the larger school community (e.g. in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive cases are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Recommendations for whether school closure is indicated will be based on investigation by local health department.
A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community	Consider closing school for 14 days, based on investigation by local health department.
2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases or to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Close school for 14 days.
Very high risk of community transmission (refer to COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix)	Close school until COVID-19 transmission decreases.

* Note: A temporary closure may also be considered for a period of 2-5 days if a student or staff member attended school while potentially infectious, before being confirmed as having COVID-19. This short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing.

CASPR - Continuous Air & Surface Pathogen Reduction

CASPR In-Duct solutions are currently being installed into our existing HVAC ducts. They work with our ambient air to generate negatively-charged molecules, like hydrogen peroxide. These molecules exit our ducts, circulate the room through the air and land on all surfaces.

During this process, these negatively-charged molecules are actively seeking out positively-charged molecules, like mold, bacteria, and viruses, to neutralize by killing at the molecular level. Once neutralized, they revert back to hydrogen and oxygen. The link below leads to an excellent video on CASPR, meant for the Health Care Industry, but the same system is now in use in our buildings.

[CASPR PRO VIDEO](#)

