

North Schuylkill School District (NSSD) Return to School Notice of Communicable Diseases Including COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented school administration, teachers and staff with a myriad of challenges concerning this highly contagious illness that appears to attack the upper respiratory system but which may also cause blood clots and other serious health complications. Some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable, including to other family members of the student's household such as individuals with comorbidity/preexisting health conditions.

You and your student should be aware of the potential risks for infection of coronavirus and other pathogens. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the NSSD will take precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA, to reduce the risks to students, teachers, and third parties. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, NSSD reserves the right to adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure for our study body. Some precautionary protocols in the NSSD Return to School Plan may include but may not be limited to:

1. Encourage social distancing and promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, etc.
2. Mandate wearing of face coverings and masks at all times, and in particular when social distancing is not possible
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities;
4. Require Students to bring their own water bottle for hydration.
5. Health screenings prior to any entry into the building including temperature checks and inquiries

In sending your student to school, you understand and acknowledge the known and unknown risks associated with exposure to communicable diseases such as COVID-19, including possibly contracting the disease or spreading it to others in school or at home. You are further aware of the risks associated with COVID-19 and that certain vulnerable individuals may have greater health risks associated with exposure to COVID-19, including individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as, but not limited to: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, asthma, and those whose immune systems that are compromised by chemotherapy for cancer, and other conditions requiring such therapy. While particular recommendations and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with attending school during the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of serious illness, medical complications and possible death does exist.

Additionally, in sending your student to school, your student shall abide by and comply with the recommendations and guidelines put forth by NSSD to limit the exposure and spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

You acknowledge that you have alternative options for remote/distance learning instruction for your student set forth in NSSD Virtual Learning Platform. If you have any questions about this home-bound option, please contact the school.