



Key Information on the Status of NOLA-PS School Reopening (8/28)

Current Reopening Plan:

Why is the District reopening campuses now and what will happen if health data trends change?

The decision for a measured return to in-person learning was made following weeks of carefully tracking the latest health indicators – including a sustained decrease in the daily number of new COVID-19 cases at or below Phase 2 targets, a positive test rate of 5 percent or below and increased testing capacity. The District has carefully monitored these health metrics in coordination with City officials and as of today, these key indicators show that the city has met these goals for eighteen (18) consecutive days and the district has identified partners to increase the availability of testing for our school community. As always, NOLA-PS maintains the authority to close any school building and revert to distance learning at any point it becomes necessary in order to safeguard students, teachers, staff and their families.

What grades are returning when and when can families expect to hear from their schools on start dates?

The District is initiating a phased return to in-person instruction. First, grades PreK – 4th grade will return for in-person instruction every day, starting back any time between September 14th- September 25th. Next, if data trends continue to be positive, grades 5-12 will return on a hybrid schedule in mid-October. Specific timelines will be determined at later date. Until then, those students will remain on distance learning. Families should expect to hear from their schools regarding start dates for grades PreK – 4th grade no later than September 2nd.

May families choose to remain on a distance learning program rather than return to in-person instruction?

Yes. Per our Roadmap, all families may choose to remain learning from home. Families should communicate that they would like to remain on virtual learning to their school. Families must remain on distance learning on at least a quarterly basis.

Why are only PreK – 4th grade returning now?

We are taking this measured approach to return to in-person learning because safety is our top priority. We have a robust and adaptable plan that will help create a safe and protected path as we return our students to school buildings. We are starting with our youngest learners because we know that they have the most to gain from in-person learning, especially for social-emotional growth that we know is foundational to their growth. Middle schoolers and high schoolers have proven to be more resilient throughout the distance learning process, and we will be excited to welcome them back to their school buildings as soon as possible in October.

School Safety and Day to Day Activities

Do NOLA-PS schools have PPE to support students and staff in reopening?

The District has invested in over \$1,000,000 of PPE, which has already been distributed across NOLA Public Schools. Earlier this summer, each NOLA-PS school received a kit with 4,800-9,200 disposable and reusable face masks; 200-750 face shields per site; 8,000-16,000 nitrile gloves per site; 10 gallons of hand sanitizer and 20 hand sanitizer stations; 4 no-touch thermometers; 40 thermal-insulated food storage bags; and 40 gallons of disinfectants per site. Schools have also procured additional PPE as well. We will continue to work closely with schools across the district to ensure they have adequate PPE to ensure the health and safety of their students, teachers, staff and their families.

How will you teach young children to wear masks?

Per our Roadmap, masks are required for all students and staff on NOLA-PS campuses. We know that wearing a mask every day is a new part of our students' routines. We will work with students to ensure that they develop



the skill of wearing a mask like any other practice in school like raising your hand or asking to be excused. NOLA-PS is requiring masks on all students at all times to help stop the community spread and each school has received between 4,800-9,200 masks and will distribute them to students or individuals who need them.

What are the logistics of drop off and pick up and how will families and students be able to social distance?

Per the Roadmap, schools will identify multiple entry and exits points for students and staff in order to minimize large groups or lines from being created. For example, there will be different points of entry for those riding the bus, those being dropped off and possibly by their grade or teacher. Schools will share these important details before the return of students to in person learning.

Where and how will things like recess and lunch be held?

Per the Roadmap, recess may occur and will be held in static groups and we are requiring students to wash their hands before and after play. Lunch will be held in classrooms to ensure all maximum groups sizes are enforced and to limit contact with others not in the student's classroom.

How will bus transportation be handled? Are there any concerns among drivers?

The health and safety of our students and school support staff is our top priority. To help mitigate the risk of potential spread, busses will be cleaned at least once a day; students will be spaced out on busses and members of the same household will be allowed to sit together; face coverings will be required; and hand sanitizer will be provided. In addition, it is recommended that windows on busses remain open to the extent possible.

Will the district monitor school's adherence to the implementing health and safety procedures on campus?

Yes. NOLA-PS will oversee and hold schools accountable for implementing the Operations and Safety Standards outlined in the Roadmap. Initially, NOLA-PS staff will conduct walkthroughs of all schools returning students to in person learning for adherence to the standards in the Roadmap. This process will begin on Sept 14 and will be completed by early October. All schools will receive reports and critiques on their operations plans as well as next step and corrective action plans if needed.

School Safety and COVID-19 Cases

What will trigger a closure of a particular school or system once they reopen?

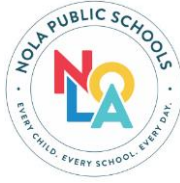
Per the Roadmap, school district administrators, public health officials, and NOLA-PS Medical Advisors will consult with schools prior to finalizing a decision to close an individual school. An individual school may be closed if multiple confirmed cases are identified and a system wide closure may occur if multiple schools are closed or if Public health officials determine that closure is necessary due to new case increases city wide.

What happens and who is informed when if a known COVID-19 case is confirmed at a school?

Per the Roadmap, schools will be notified of known cases either by the individual or the individual's family self-reporting the case or through public health contract tracing. Once a school is notified of a confirmed case the school is to report it to NOLA-PS and the Louisiana Department of Health via the reporting process outlined in the Roadmap and to begin evaluating who, if any, were in close contact with the confirmed case. Schools have multiple resources to help them identify close contacts such as the Children's Hospital Wellness Hotline and the Region 1 office of the Louisiana Department of Health. Schools will communicate to all that were in close contact with the case and require those individuals to self-quarantine for 14 days. Schools will begin a disinfection process as determined by the individual situation.

How will the school system report out to the public about COVID-19 cases?

Once a school is informed of a confirmed case of COVID-19 on their campus, they are required to informed the state and NOLA-PS. NOLA-PS will report out weekly to the public on any known COVID-19 cases by school campus.



Will students and teacher receive COVID-19 tests?

As of today the city has increased their capacity for community level testing which all residents can access at any time citywide. Additionally, NOLA-PS has formed partnerships with Children’s Hospital/LCMC Health and Ochsner that will provide expedited access to rapid COVID-19 tests to students, teachers and other school staff experiencing symptoms. Additionally, the district is working with Tulane University on developing a strategy to support routine testing for teaching staff as well.

What will happen to a student’s learning program if they have to quarantine for 14 days?

Students will be provided with materials to continue participating in distance learning should they be placed on quarantine. And distance learning continues to be an option for any student or family that does not feel ready to return to in person learning in school buildings.