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September 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year based on guidance from the NJ Department of Education and NJ Department of Health. At this time, we will not be offering a virtual learning option for students.

Please review the following guidance as well as the documents found in your Welcome Back Folders.

This guidance includes a range of strategies we are implementing to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to students and staff. We will continue to follow state guidelines as they continue to monitor the data and science to ensure a safe and healthy school environment.

We will always keep safety first and do our best to maintain continuity of staff but please note that changes may be made based on staffing availability.

I am also pleased to introduce our new School Nurse - Karina Marzullo, who will oversee our health policy.

I am excited to continue on the road forward and for an exciting 2021-2022 school year. As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Keith Rygiel
School Principal

2021-2022 Covid-19 Guidance

Communication

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will continue to maintain close communication with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and Department of Health (NDOH) to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures to establish procedures for notification and response to COVID-19 illness in our school.

We will communicate information with transparency to all stakeholder groups.

Please notify the school if you need to update any contact information.

Health and Safety

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ follows guidelines to maintain the health and cleanliness of the facility such as increased, routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes: cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. The use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) is limited when possible, or cleaned between use.

Screening

Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor their children daily for signs of illness. Students who are sick should not attend school. Employees who are ill should also remain at home. All students and staff will be screened with a contactless temperature check upon arrival.

We depend on your honesty and cooperation to maintain a safe environment for all students, families, and staff. Please be sure to be diligent in the following:

- Honestly review the questions prompted in the daily Symptoms/Exposure Screen
- Do not bring your child to school if he/she has two or more cold symptoms. If we notice your child exhibiting these symptoms in the classroom, we will call the parent/guardian to immediately pick them up. There is a designated space away from others to isolate individuals who become ill.
- If your family plans to travel to states or countries that require quarantine upon return, please openly communicate your plans with the Administration Team.

Mask Wearing Protocol

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will continue to follow the updated state guidelines that all staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school must wear masks, except in the following circumstances:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals
- When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task

*** Individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask wearing must produce written documentation from a medical professional to support the exemption. Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient for this purpose. ***

Physical Distancing and Cohorting

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will continue to maintain physical distancing measures in the classroom and throughout the school building to the greatest extent possible as an effective COVID-19 prevention strategy.

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will also prioritize other prevention measures including masking, physical barriers, and the use of personal protective equipment.

- Distance in classroom settings will be 3 feet between students to the extent possible
- Facing desks in the same direction
- Avoiding grouped seating arrangements

Cohorts are groups of students and staff within a school building who interact mostly only with each other. The goal is to limit the number of people anyone is exposed to.

Contact Tracing

If a staff member or student reports that they have contracted the COVID-19 virus or come in close contact with someone who has the virus, a report will be made to the Belleville

Department of Health. The DOH and school nurse will then facilitate the contact tracing protocol/process and make recommendations for a school and/or community response.

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes cumulatively, over a 24 hour period.

Exposure Protocols According to Vaccination Status

New Jersey will require all school employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 18 or submit to weekly testing.

Vaccinated Staff/Students

- **Asymptomatic**: fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person).
 - COVID-19 testing is recommended for any fully vaccinated individual who has been identified as a close contact to a positive case. A mask should be worn in other indoor public settings for 14 days until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result.
- **Symptomatic**: the individual should remain out of school and be tested for COVID-19.
 - **Negative Test Result**: the individual may return to school once the COVID-19 test result has been received and reviewed by the school nurse, symptoms have been resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
 - **Positive Test Result**: the individual must remain out of school from the date of testing and may return after 10 days of isolation as long as they are feeling better, symptoms are resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

Unvaccinated Staff/Students

- Close contacts who are **not fully** vaccinated are to be quarantined:
 - 14 days from the date of last exposure
- Should an asymptomatic individual choose to be tested, they should still quarantine at home for 10 days (or 14) after exposure regardless of the test result. Employees will be required to use illness days during this time.

- If an unvaccinated individual experiences symptoms he/she should be tested for COVID-19.

- Negative Test Result: the individual may return to school once the COVID-19 test result has been received and reviewed by the school nurse, 14 days have passed from when the individual was initially determined have been a close contact, symptoms have been resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- Positive Test Result: the individual must remain out of school from the date of testing and may return after 14 days of isolation as long as they are feeling better, symptoms are resolved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

Virtual Instruction due to Quarantine Status

At this time, 1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will not be offering an all-virtual learning option for students.

Students who are required to quarantine determined by the school nurse, will have access to virtual instruction. If needed, your classroom teacher will provide the appropriate schedule and login information.

Technology - Student Devices

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will provide any student a technology device for school (or home use) if needed. The device is intended for educational purposes only. The school may monitor a student's device at any time.

Food Services

1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ will be offering healthy meals through the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program at no cost to all children who are enrolled. Detailed information about this program is found in your Welcome Folder.

Transportation

Transportation is handled by your home school district. Physical distancing and masking should be followed as appropriate.