



# Branchburg Township School District

## School Restart - Frequently Asked Questions

### Terminology

- **In-Person/Hybrid** – Students assigned to a Cohort (A or B)
- **Fully Remote** – Students who will be learning from home
- **Virtual learning** – learning that will take place when:
  - you are a fully remote student
  - your cohort is not in the school building
  - in the afternoons
  - all day on Wednesdays

Questions		Answers
<b>General</b>		
1	How will the Cohorts be assigned?	Students with last names beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A-L - Cohort A</li> <li>○ M-Z – Cohort B</li> </ul>
2	We have multiple children in the school district. Is it possible for them to attend in-person/hybrid and be in the same cohort therefore attending school on the same days?	Yes, our plan is to keep siblings in the same cohort.
3	Will you be checking the temperature of students and staff?	Yes, each student and staff member will have their temperature taken upon arrival. Parents will also be required to certify that their child is symptom free.
4	Will my child be assigned to a specific class and teacher no matter if we choose in-person/hybrid or fully remote?	Yes, your child will be assigned to a class and the teacher will be presenting to both the in-person/hybrid students and the fully remote students at the same time.
5	What happens on the days that the in-person/hybrid student's cohort is not in school?	On opposite cohort days, students will be at home learning virtually along with their class. This can be a combination of pre-recorded lessons and live-streamed depending on the grade level.
6	Will Wednesdays be all virtual with teacher instruction?	On Wednesdays, both the in-person/hybrid groups and the fully remote group will be learning virtually. The Wednesday schedule is still evolving but it likely will include some form of live instruction.

<b>7</b>	Why can't the district offer full in-person days for families who want to send their children?	In order to adhere to the provided guideline of properly social distancing students and to better protect staff, we are limiting the number of students in each room of the buildings. We will move to more in-person instructional time when conditions permit.
<b>8</b>	Will fully remote students all be placed in the same classes or will they be added to a Cohort?	All students will be placed in a class as though it were a typical school year. There will be no separate fully remote classes.
<b>9</b>	How will fully remote students be able to receive class materials?	We will establish set days/times for families to visit the school and pick up the materials. A schedule will be shared as we get closer to the school year.
<b>10</b>	Will school hours remain the same as previous years?	Yes, the official school hours will be the same (following a single session schedule), but there will be a long mid-day break while cohorts who have been in the classroom travel home and have their lunch. Once plans are finalized, we will share each grade level's schedule so students and parents will know when they have to log on. <a href="#">Click here</a> to see school hours.
<b>11</b>	Will the schools still operate on a 6 day cycle?	No, each school will be using a rotation schedule that will be detailed when final schedules are released.
<b>12</b>	If we chose to have our student home for the fully remote option, at what time can we have them start attending in-person/hybrid?	Parents will be able to change their preferences at the end of the first marking period. For the elementary schools that will be in early December and for BCMS early November.
<b>13</b>	If we chose to have our student attend school with the in-person/hybrid option, can we then change and have them fully remote?	Yes, it will be a simple process to change them from in-person/hybrid to fully remote.
<b>14</b>	What is the estimate of time commitment/parental support that students will need during the virtual learning portion of the week?	We are continuing to develop our instructional plan for each grade level and recognize the detriment that would come from repeated hours on a computer. While we can't give a by grade schedule at this time, we can assure you that there will be a combination of virtual learning (logged-in time) and independent work that could be completed at any time during the day.
<b>15</b>	Will masks need to be worn in the classroom even though desks will be spaced apart?	Yes, masks will be worn at all times. Exceptions will be during in-class snack period and when students go outside for recess. This has recently become a mandate from the State of New Jersey.
<b>16</b>	Is a specific type of mask required?	A surgical or double layered cloth face mask is required.
<b>17</b>	Will there be an Open House situation where students can meet their teachers in person before school begins?	At Whiton and Stony Brook schools we are working on putting something together so that small groups can meet their teacher. At BCMS, our practice of having students come in and walk their schedule in the building will be offered.

18	What will the grading policy be?	We will be assigning grades for student work this year.
19	Since students will not have lunch in school, will there be a designated snack time when children are able to remove their masks and eat and will there be an appropriate area with 6 feet of distance for them to do so?	When weather permits, students will likely be taken outside for their snack. If we are unable to do that, then they will be separated by at least 6 feet.
20	Will water fountains be available?	No, water fountains will be shut off. Students will be permitted to bring in their own water bottles.
21	What contingencies are in place if a student or teacher is diagnosed as having COVID-19?	<p>We will be guided by the health department in our decision making, and they have shared the following:</p> <p><i>If a case of COVID-19 infection occurs in one defined cohort within the school, the ill person should be sent home. Other staff and children in the cohort should be assessed for consideration as close contacts of that case, and if classified as close contacts, quarantined in their homes for 14 days. School nurses and administrators should review the classroom practices, physical layouts, and assess compliance with preventative measures to help inform public health decisions. A "close contact" is defined as being within six feet in excess of 10 minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Public health, parents/guardians, and staff facility-wide should be informed of the situation. The CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection should be followed.</i></p> <p><i>Other cohorts within the school facility can continue to function, with daily and vigilant screening for illness occurring, and social distancing, personal and environmental hygiene measures strictly adhered to.</i></p> <p><i>If cases occur in multiple cohorts within the school, then all school activities may need to be suspended.</i></p> <p><i>The ability to keep cohort groups small and static can be helpful in identifying close contacts and may aid in determining if a facility wide closure is necessary.</i></p> <p><i>School Outbreaks: A definition of an outbreak in a school setting is expected to be determined by the NJDOH CDS prior to the start of the school year.</i></p>
22	Will there be an isolation space in each school for identified potentially sick students or staff?	Yes, each school is designating a space to be used for isolation, if needed.
23	What platform will the district be using for virtual learning?	Students at home will be connected via Google Meet and we have upgraded to the Enterprise version which provides teachers more controls, has additional features, and offers classrooms the opportunity to create breakout rooms. We chose Google Meets after a review of other products due to the familiarity of the staff and students with the platform and its ability to easily interact with Google Classroom.

<b>24</b>	Will there be an option for students to take band and chorus?	Yes. There is a possibility that some aspects of the programs will be virtual, but final details have not yet been determined.
<b>25</b>	Will there be after school sports and clubs for students?	Unfortunately, we have reached the conclusion that we will be unable to support fall sports and clubs. The decision regarding winter sports and clubs will be made closer to the time when they are scheduled to begin.
<b>26</b>	Will there be an enhanced cleaning protocol in the schools?	Yes, to ensure that our schools are properly cleaned, our district is placing additional Buildings and Grounds personnel in each building to assist and ensure proper cleaning.
<b>27</b>	Will sanitizing stations be available?	Yes, our district will have hand sanitizer in every classroom, and in the hallways at entrances.
<b>Transportation</b>		
<b>28</b>	Will my child have to share a seat on the bus with another student?	No, each student will have their own bench seat. The only time a bench seat will be shared will be if the students reside in the same home.
<b>29</b>	Will the buses be sanitized?	Yes, each bus will be cleaned in between routes.
<b>Student Services</b>		
<b>30</b>	How will you match IEP minutes and programs to remain in compliance while virtual learning?	With the exception of the length of the school day, we will be in compliance with all students' IEPs.