

New Story Schools has created a robust plan for our return to school this fall. We know there are many questions around when, why, and how we'll be handling this in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and would like to take a moment to address them.

### **1. When and how are New Story Schools reopening?**

As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has been and continues to be a rapidly changing situation. In preparation for the fall, we've put together our reopening plan, which you can view by visiting <https://newstoryschools.com/phased-school-reopening-health-and-safety-plan>.

In short, our intention at this moment is to fully reopen New Story Schools for in-person instruction on or around August 24. The first day of school will vary by location, and you can find your school calendar by visiting its location page on the site:

<https://newstoryschools.com/locations-overview/pennsylvania>

While we're hopeful for a smooth and uneventful fall, our ability to remain open for in-person instruction relies heavily on the status of the counties in which we operate. Should counties move to red, we are prepared to quickly pivot to online instruction. You can view more information about how the county status impacts our opening in the above linked plan.

### **2. What is changing for this fall?**

While we're all excited to get students back in our buildings, we are committed to doing all we can to make sure this happens as safely as possible. Like schools throughout the world, we're making updates to our physical space and protocols to help mitigate the spread of infection. These include:

- Reorganizing classrooms to provide as much space between students as possible
- Providing hand sanitizer throughout each classroom and other key spots in the school
- Requiring face coverings for students and staff except when eating and drinking
- Daily touchless temperature checks as students and staff arrive
- Rigorous cleaning of the building to ensure a sanitary environment
- Professional development with staff to prepare them for our new guidelines and procedures

Other specific actions may vary by location. You can view our [Health and Safety plan](#) for more specific information.

### **3. Will my child be safe?**

Since New Story Schools was founded nearly 20 years ago, our first and foremost priority has always been on the safety, health, and well-being of our students. COVID-19 has certainly made the pursuit of this priority more complicated, but it has not changed our focus.

We are taking every precaution to make sure our students are as safe as possible. We are continually monitoring guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health to ensure that we are compliant with the most up-to-date guidance on keeping your child safe and healthy.

**4. What if my child will not wear a face covering?**

According to CDC guidelines, masks and other face coverings are one of the most essential tools to helping lessen the spread of COVID-19. However, we also understand that many of our students struggle to wear masks. If your child cannot wear a mask for prolonged periods, please reach out to your school's administrative team to discuss options.

**5. What can I do to help keep our schools safe and open?**

We all want to avoid additional closures and keep New Story Schools' students and community safe and healthy. One thing COVID-19 has made abundantly clear is that we are all in this together and so we will rely on our all of our families to make good decisions and be cognizant of the health and safety of all of our staff and students. While there are many things we can do, first and foremost, please keep your children home if they are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. You can view a quick checklist that can help you make decisions regarding if and when to send your child to school on our Health and Safety Plan page here: <https://newstoryschools.com/phased-school-reopening-health-and-safety-plan>.

**6. What happens if someone in my child's school tests positive for COVID-19?**

While we certainly hope and are taking precautions to prevent spread of COVID-19, it is possible that staff or students at our schools may contract COVID-19. We have a plan for isolating any symptomatic individuals as soon as possible and will continue to reiterate the importance of keeping your child home if they show any indication that they might be ill.

If we are notified of a positive case, we will proactively communicate next steps and any related closures.

**7. I have a question that is not answered here. What can I do?**

Please visit <https://newstoryschools.com/contact-us> and submit your question. Be sure to include the name of the New Story Schools location your child attends and we will respond to your question as soon as we are able.