

## **NNS Reopening Plans Fall 2020**

### **Revised 1-22-21**

Our guidelines are based on recommendations from:

- The New York State Education Department
- The New York State Department of Health
- The Center for Disease Control

The Northport-East Northport School district has a plan that has been reviewed and considered.

It should be noted that all guidelines may change at any time. We reserve the right to do so.

### **Parent Participation/Visitors**

Parent participation in the classrooms/building will be suspended at this time pending further written notice. Students and essential workers (staff, SEITS and therapists) will be the only people permitted in the building. Delivery persons will not be permitted in the building. Visitors shall not be permitted to enter the building during operating hours, with the exception of emergency or law enforcement officers in their official capacity, authorized inspectors from governmental agencies, and persons providing emergency repair services within the building that cannot be reasonably delayed until non-operational hours. All authorized visitors shall be required to wear a mask. The main entrance will continue to be the east double green doors.

### **Classroom Size/Occupancy Standards**

Class sizes have been adjusted accordingly:

2s: Up to 12 children in each class

3s and 4s: Up to 15 children in each class

Our outdoor spaces (playground and outdoor classroom) will be utilized over indoor space whenever possible. Each class will have a designated day(s) where they will spend the session in our outdoor classroom weather permitting (info will follow). Indoor classrooms will be properly ventilated by having windows open to allow for fresh air. When necessary, heating/cooling units will be utilized.\* Units will be maintained and filters cleaned regularly. PLEASE make sure your child comes to school dressed in

appropriate all-weather outdoor gear. For example, appropriate jackets/coats (rain/snow), sneakers, boots (rain/snow), hats, mittens, etc. No umbrellas please.

\*10/27/20 REME-HALO Air Purification System was installed.

### **Temperature Check**

Temperatures will be taken for all staff and students upon entering the building. Anyone with a temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or any other visible signs of illness, will be sent home.

### **Drop-off/Pick-up**

Class times will be staggered by 15 minutes for arrival and departures.

2s 8:45-10:45

3s 9:00-11:30

4s 9:15-11:45

Parents will not be allowed in the building for drop-off or pick-up. It is imperative that everyone is punctual for this to run smoothly. All parties must wear face masks at drop-off and pick-up.

Drop-off will occur in the circle. The first car should pull into the circle by the orange cones. Cars should line up in the circle along the curb. Four cars will fit in the circle at one time. Please park your car, **turn off the engine** and assist your child in getting out of the car. Walk your child to the curb, so that a staff member can see them from the front door. Once you see the staff member, you can send your child to the door. Please do not depart until your child has entered the building. When the four cars exit the circle, we will repeat this process until all children are in the building. Families who walk to school can drop-off at the end of the walkway by the parking lot.

Upon entering the building, your child's temperature will be taken. If a child has a temperature, he/she will not enter the classroom and we will call you. Please make sure we have the contact number of the caregiver who is driving your child to school.

**All children need to independently carry in their mask box and any items that need to go into the classroom.** If you need to send any item to the school (snack,

note, tuition), please place it in the basket on the small table by the main walkway. We have attached a large clear envelope to the basket, so that nothing blows away.

Pick-up will occur in the traffic circle in front of the school four cars at a time. We are asking you to place a sign that is visible from your dashboard stating your child's first and last name and your child's teacher. Turn off your engine. You will need to exit the car wearing a proper face covering and stand at the curb to receive your child. Assist your child getting into your vehicle.

Please note that arrival and dismissal may take a little longer due to these new procedures.

### **Physical Distancing/PPE**

Each class will be a cohort or "class family." Social distancing will be encouraged whenever possible, but the class will interact similar to your own family. Each class family will distance from other class families. The classroom, playground and outdoor classroom and the Rainy Day Room will be used by one class family at a time. Each area will be sanitized after use (see below).

As of 8/12/20, The American Academy of Pediatrics states that plans for the safe return of children to school, child care, and other group settings must include the universal use of cloth face coverings by children 2 years of age and older and the adults with whom they interact.

Students (2 years of age and older) must wear face masks when in the school building. While the use of face masks will be taught and promoted, not all young children will be able to comply all the time. Protocols will be consistent with Department of Health guidelines. Instruction and encouragement to use the face mask must be ongoing. Masks breaks will be given throughout the session, while eating and whenever needed. ~~Students will not be required to wear masks while in the outdoor classroom or on the playground. If you would prefer your child to wear a mask while outdoors, please share that with your child's teacher.~~ Beginning Monday, December 14th, we will be requiring that masks are worn by students when they are outside at school. Please know that these decisions were made with careful thought and consideration. Our biggest concern right now is the safety of our families and staff. It is our goal to resume our mask-free outdoor time before the end of the school year. Each child will receive a small plastic box (provided by the school) for the safekeeping of his/her mask when it is not being used. This box will need to come back and forth to school with your child, and should

be disinfected at home after each use. Cloth masks should be laundered daily. **Please do not adorn the box with stickers or other decorations, as it may interfere with the cleaning process.** The box is for the storage of mask(s) only; please do not store/send anything else in it. Necessary PPE (masks and shields) will be provided for staff. Staff will wear masks and/or shields when in the presence of students. Students and staff must be reminded not to touch or remove face coverings unless for a mask break, and if they are removed for any reason, not to place them on school surfaces. All masks for faculty, staff, and students are subject to approval by the school. Masks should be plain and free of any objectionable statements or support for any group, product, political view, etc., other than the name of the school. Non-disposable masks should be washed daily.

### **Classroom Supplies/Schedules**

Each child will receive their own labeled bag with crayons and scissors provided by the school. Play-dough will also be provided in a separate labeled individual bag. Your assigned Head Class Parent will collect monies to re-stock supply baggies throughout the year.

A complete change of clothes (shirt, pants, socks, underwear) in a SMALL LABELED shoebox will be provided by the parent to be kept at school in the child's cubby. School bags or backpacks should be utilized to transport outdoor gear only. Please see that your child can independently carry the bag and easily access the contents. Remember to check that there is no food or candy in the bag.

The amount of classroom toys, manipulatives and supplies will be limited in order to facilitate ease of cleaning and disinfecting. Classroom schedules will remain the same (albeit distanced) with time for free work, circle time, music/movement, snack, story and art.

### **Snack**

Each family will be given a designated snack day where they will send in a snack for the entire class. For the time being, we will only serve packaged snacks from our approved snack list. Special snacks are reserved for birthdays and holidays. Please DO NOT send in goody bags from home. The children will be seated at a distance during snack time. Each child in a 3s or 4s class should bring in a towel to be used for a personal social distance picnic during snack time. This could be a beach towel or smaller. It will be best if the towel comes back and forth to school each day in a bag that your child can carry independently. Please make sure the bag does not contain any food items.

The staff will serve the snack to the children as we have done in the past. Filtered water in paper cups will be poured for the children. Your child's teacher will alert you if there is a food allergy in the class. Parents of children with food allergies will receive a call from our floater so that they can approve the daily snack for their child.

### **Hygiene/Cleaning/Disinfecting**

Hand washing will continue to be a top priority at NNS. Students and staff shall practice frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, scrubbing thoroughly, and drying with paper towels

- Upon arriving at school
- Before snacks
- After using the restroom
- Periodically throughout the day
- Any other times that require such hand hygiene.

Hand sanitizer will also be available for when hand washing is not possible. It should not replace hand washing, which is the most effective protection against germs and the spread of disease. The use of hand sanitizers by children will be done under the direct supervision of an adult.

One staff member will be a designated floater/clear. She will be solely responsible for cleaning and disinfecting each and every day. We will follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting. As always, we will continue to use a bleach/water solution that follows the CDC recommendations:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of room temperature water  
or
- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of room temperature water

Bleach solutions will be made fresh each day. High touch surfaces will be disinfected with this throughout the session. After each session, each classroom and bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected. All floors will be vacuumed, mopped and disinfected daily after each session.

As the CDC recommends, playground high-touch surfaces such as grab bars and railings will be disinfected after each class.

## **Illness/COVID-19 Health Policy**

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19. Staff and students will be monitored throughout the day for signs of illness. Symptoms of COVID-19 potentially include the following:

- Fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Muscle/body aches
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Headache

We will defer to the Department of Health for any and all guidance in respect to COVID-19 matters. Please consult your physician if you have any questions related to COVID-19.

Children or staff members exhibiting the symptoms above must be sent home immediately according to an established protocol and according to the best judgment and discretion of the Director or her designee.

A child with symptoms will remain with an adult in the office or outside while waiting to be picked up. It is important that you can be reached via cell phone during the school session. Please make sure your cell phone remains on and that you or a caregiver can come to the school within 15 minutes.

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school must contact the DOH and follow the guidance set forth. This may result in, without limitation, the whole class and/or the entire school staying home to self-isolate for a period of time as instructed by the DOH.

If a child's or staff's family member tests positive for COVID-19, the child must remain home for a 14-day period to ensure they do not also present with symptoms.

## Return to School after Illness

If a person is exhibiting a symptom of Covid, they must consult with a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) before returning to school. In order to return to school, the person must present a doctor's note stating that they have been cleared to return to school.

If the person has been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating so, they may return to school once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours. **Updated to reflect NYS guidelines.**

Considerations will be given to those persons with a doctor's note/medical diagnosis of seasonal allergies.

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until the following three conditions have been met:

- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
- It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND
- It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

As a reminder of our **Return to School Protocol**, each family will receive the following email after a child is absent:

*Hello! We missed your child in school today. Please reply with the reason for your child's absence. If your child is absent due to illness, please let us know what the symptoms are, and review the Return to School Protocol.*

*As a reminder, some symptoms of Covid-19 are similar, if not the same, as the common cold, or seasonal allergies. People with these symptoms may have Covid-19. The safe and responsible thing to do when you have any one Covid-like symptom is to seek medical advice. Students exhibiting any one Covid symptom may not return to school without the consent of a medical professional/healthcare provider.*

*Symptoms are:*

- *Fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing*
- *Loss of taste or smell*
- *Congestion/runny nose*
- *Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea*
- *Muscle/body aches*
- *Fatigue*
- *Sore throat*
- *Headache*

*If you have a note from a medical professional, we would appreciate it if you could scan it and email it to us prior to your child's return (TurboScan is a useful app for this and other important documents).*

*If your child was absent due to family business, please notify us of that also.*

*Thank you for your cooperation. We are all in this together and we must do our part to keep each other safe, and healthy.*

*Thank you,  
Casi Flynn and the NNS Board of Directors*

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 Consistent with recent CDC guidance, quarantine for individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end after ten days without a testing requirement if no symptoms have been reported during the quarantine period.

-Individuals must continue daily symptom monitoring through Day 14

-Individuals must be counseled to continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, through Day 14.

-Individuals must be advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local public health authority or their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status and determine if they should seek testing. **Updated 1-22-21 to reflect NYS guidelines.**

In keeping with HIPAA law, the identity of a positive COVID-19 individual may not be revealed.



## Travel Restrictions\*

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced new guidelines allowing out-of-state travelers to New York to “test out” of the mandatory 14-day quarantine. Travelers from states that are contiguous with New York will continue to be exempt from the travel advisory; however covered travelers must continue to fill out the [Traveler Health Form](#). Essential workers will continue to be exempt as well. The new protocol is effective Wednesday, November 4.

For any traveler to New York State from out of state, exempting the contiguous states, the new guidelines for travelers to test-out of the mandatory 14-day quarantine are below:

- For travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:
  - Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure from that state.
  - The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
  - On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.
  
- For travelers who were in another state for less than 24 hours:
  - The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state, and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
  - However, the traveler must fill out our traveler form upon entry into New York State, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in New York.

Local health departments will validate tests, if necessary, and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and initiate contact tracing. The local health department must make contact with the state the traveler came from, to ensure contact tracing proceeds there as well. All travelers must continue to fill out our traveler form upon arrival into New York State to contribute to New York State’s robust contact tracing program.

The travel guidelines require all New Yorkers, as well as those visiting from out of state, to take personal responsibility for compliance in the best interest of public health and safety.

For general inquiries contact the call the Hotline: [1-888-364-3065](tel:1-888-364-3065).

\*Subject to change based on DOH, CDC, NYSED and/or Northport-East Northport School district guidelines.

### **Remote/Distance Learning**

In the event that we close and move to distance learning, June tuition will be applied to four weeks of distance learning. It will then be determined if the school will reopen or remain closed.

### **Communication**

In order to keep everyone safe, we are asking that communication be handled through email or phone calls. School matters (tuition, pick up, emergencies, absences) should be directed to the office. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child, please contact the classroom teacher by calling the school or emailing the teacher directly.

Consistent with prior years, a family information form, a medical form, a dental form and now the attached COVID-19 waiver will need to be submitted.

## COVID-19 POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

We, the undersigned parent(s)/guardian(s), acknowledge and agree that, as parent(s)/guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ (“student”), a student at Northport Nursery School, Inc. (“School”), that student, entering the school or being on or at the School’s premises, and/or having contact and/or interaction with teachers, aides, staff, faculty, classmates, and other School staff, involves a certain degree of risk, namely of student, student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or other family members, and/or other persons, acquiring a communicable disease, including COVID-19, and then potentially passing it on to others, including his/her/their family members. Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, the characteristics of the virus, and the proximity of students, teachers, aides, staff, faculty, classmates, and other School staff, there is an elevated risk of student contracting the disease simply by being in the building, on or at the premises of the School, or at any School activity or function. The same is true for parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student enrolled at the School. By signing below, we acknowledge and agree that after carefully considering the risks involved, and having the opportunity to discuss these risks with any other persons that we deem necessary or appropriate, including any healthcare professional or professionals of our choosing, we voluntarily, knowingly and willingly accept and assume those risks and acknowledge that returning to in-person classes and other in-person School activities/functions at the School is the choice of each family, including ours. If student or parent(s)/guardian(s) who visit or otherwise appear on or at the School or its premises have underlying health concerns which may place them at greater risk of contracting any communicable disease, including COVID-19, we acknowledge and agree that we will consult with a health care professional or professionals before student or parent(s)/guardian(s) return to the School, attend any School function, or visit or appear on or at the School or its premises for any purpose or reason. Moreover, we acknowledge that while adherence to safety and precautionary measures (which may include social distancing guidelines, facemasks, handwashing, etc.) may reduce possible exposure to the risk of contracting a communicable disease, the possibility of serious illness and/or death remains despite all efforts to reduce that risk. We do hereby accept and assume sole responsibility for any illness acquired by student or parent(s)/guardian(s) while at the School or on or at its premises for any purpose of reason or otherwise as a result of any School activity/function, including possible infection with COVID-19, as well as the potential of passing it on to others, including his/her/their family members. We further acknowledge, understand, and agree that we have obligations to the School, its faculty, teachers, aides, staff, students, and others, to take certain precautions and make certain disclosures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. More specifically, but without limitation, we agree to comply with the School’s policy regarding Covid-19, the receipt of which policy is hereby acknowledged, and all other School rules and requirements relating to communicable diseases such as COVID-19.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of parent/guardian                      Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of parent/guardian                      Date: