

Good Afternoon,

I hope you're continuing to enjoy the awesome weather we have had this summer. It's hard to believe our students will be back in the classroom in five days. We're definitely looking forward to it!

I'm writing today to give you the most up to date information regarding our back to school plan. I've been involved in a series of meetings over the past few days with health officials in Marquette and Alger counties. NPS will continue to open our new school year with masks as a welcomed option for those who would like to wear them, but masks are not required at this time. COVID-19 vaccinations are not required to participate in any activity at school. If you are interested in receiving a vaccine, please contact the Marquette County Health Department.

Our most revised COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan is included in this email

As new information develops, I'll continue to update you as soon as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Negaunee Public Schools**  
Back to School Plan

2021-22 School Year

**Face Coverings**

- Negaunee Public Schools' students and staff will have the option of wearing facial coverings/masks during school functions, including transportation. This will not be a requirement. We will respect the choice made by families regarding the wearing of masks.

**Hygiene**

- Negaunee Public Schools will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques). We will also teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Negaunee Public Schools will educate staff and students on how to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately using proper hand hygiene techniques.
- Negaunee Public Schools' custodial staff will systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers.
- Negaunee Public Schools' teaching staff will strongly encourage students to thoroughly wash their hands with soap throughout the school day. They will also limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils and keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled spaces, containers or lockers. Finally, teachers and/or

custodial staff will disinfect classroom materials between use or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student cleaning.

- Negaunee Public Schools will continue to use hand sanitizing stations throughout the school buildings. This includes each individual classroom and school bus.

### **Cleaning**

- Negaunee Public Schools custodial and instructional staff will disinfect frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, throughout the school day with an eco-safe disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Negaunee Public Schools custodial and instructional staff will disinfect libraries, computer labs, specials classrooms, and other hands- on classrooms after every class period with an eco-safe disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Negaunee Public Schools custodial and instructional staff will disinfect student desks with an eco-safe disinfectant or diluted bleach solution
- Negaunee Public Schools custodial staff will routinely clean the playground equipment.
- Negaunee Public Schools custodial and instructional staff will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from our students, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.
- Negaunee Public Schools custodial and instructional staff will wear gloves when performing all cleaning activities.

### **Athletics**

- Negaunee Public Schools will comply with all guidance published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
- Negaunee Public Schools' coaching staff will use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. We will ensure all equipment is disinfected before and after use.
- Our buses will be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use.
- All of our athletes will use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. There will be no sharing of water bottles

### **Screening**

- Negaunee Public Schools will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- Students who have been removed from school due to showing symptoms will be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.
- Our staff will encourage families to check their child's temperature at home each morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal thermometers. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.

- Our staff will encourage families to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19. We will recommend if there is a presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider.

### **Testing**

- Negaunee Public Schools will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- If required by the Marquette County Health Department, our families will be notified via email of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.
- If we do have a lab or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, immediate efforts will be made to contact any close contacts (those who spent more than 15 minutes less than three feet in close proximity to the student or staff member) so that they can monitor symptoms for the next 14 days. Close contacts can remain in school if symptoms are not present.

### **Busing and Student Transportation**

- Negaunee Public Schools Transportation Staff will require the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus. We will supply the hand sanitizer on the bus.
- Facial coverings/masking will be optional for Negaunee Public Schools' transportation staff and all students. This will not be a requirement.
- Negaunee Public Schools Transportation Staff will clean and disinfect transportation vehicles before and after morning and afternoon routes. This will include the disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces including but not limited to, driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows and grab handles.
- A plan to reach out to parents and/or emergency contacts for getting students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle is in place and will be carried out by either the transportation supervisor, building secretaries or bus driver. The plan includes the prohibition of students using the school bus if they become sick during the school day. If a driver becomes sick during the day, he/she will contact the transportation supervisor and a substitute bus driver will be used to replace the ill driver.
- If the weather allows, our bus drivers will keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out. In addition, drivers can keep windows open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce the spread of the virus by increasing air circulation.

### **Identification of Close Contacts and Quarantine**

- In the event of a positive student/staff member at N.P.S., we will continue to identify close contacts. We will use a 3' radius of the positive student for a period of 15 cumulative minutes.

- Instead of requiring a quarantine of 10 days from school, we will provide the family an option of quarantining their child for this period of time.
- If the family chooses to quarantine for this period of time, then we will provide work for the student during their absence from school.
- If the family chooses not to quarantine, the close contacts will be required to be rapid (antigen) tested four times at school during what would be deemed their quarantine period (Mornings of days, 1, 4, 7, 10). If the student remains negative during these testing periods, they can remain in school. Testing will be administered by Paul Jacobson, Andrew Brunette, Andy Skewis, Mike McCollum and Ashley Speaker at the respective buildings. If the student tests positive, they will be excluded from school and we will identify close contacts to this student.

Of course, the positive student will need to stay out of school until allowed back based on Health Department regulations.