



James A. Fazzone,
Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

August 25, 2021

Dear MCTS Community,

I hope you had a great summer. As we look toward the start of the 2021-2022 school year, I invite you to view the latest version of our plan: [MCTS Reopening Plan](#). Please keep in mind that this plan is subject to change as we receive further guidance from the Governor, CDC, and Mercer County Department of Health. We are excited to welcome all MCTS students and staff for five full days of in-person instruction in September.

As of today, our plan includes the following:

Schedule:

- MCTS will operate five full days of in-person instruction per week.
- Per Governor Murphy, there will be no remote option for class; all classroom instruction will be in-person.
- There will be breakfast and lunch available daily for students (Lunch period details are being finalized.)

Health and Safety Measures:

- Masks will be mandatory for all individuals in MCTS as per Executive Order (EO) 251 dated August 6, 2021. We strongly recommend that all eligible students and staff be vaccinated. Being vaccinated against COVID-19 will help to better ensure a student's education is not disrupted by the need to quarantine.
- Temperature checks will no longer be required prior to entering the buildings.
- Students will be required to wear masks on buses. Students being transported by their sending district buses will be subject to the mask protocols of those bus companies.
- All classrooms will accommodate all students registered for scheduled classes to meet there, with reasonable social distancing in effect (approximately 3 feet, for example). Student desks will face forward and group work in classrooms will be structured according to current social distancing guidelines. Masks will need to be worn at all times.
- Students and staff will have access to water fountains and bottle filling stations.
- Contact tracing will occur with requirements for quarantine if there is close contact with a COVID-positive individual (defined as being within 6 feet for a period of 15 minutes or longer). Student seating charts will be maintained to monitor masks in the event of a positive case and necessity for quarantine for unvaccinated individuals. Per the NJDOH guidelines, all vaccinated students/staff identified as a close contact DO NOT have to quarantine if they are symptom free.
- School officials will continue ongoing consultations with the Mercer County Health Department.
- If there is a positive case in school, a contact tracing notification letter will be shared with parents and staff.
- For more information on COVID-19 protocols and procedures, please refer to the MEMO published on our website by the MCTS nurses.
- All staff must be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021 as per Executive Order No. 253, or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week.



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Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Hand sanitizer stations are found throughout the buildings and in classrooms and will continue to be used throughout the day.
- We will continue to follow a routine cleaning schedule and high touch areas will be monitored for additional cleaning during the day.
- Disinfecting protocols will remain, and in the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, other deep cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.

Vaccinations are available, free of charge, to individuals 12 years of age and over. Please visit the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 site for information on where to locate a vaccine site: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>

While this past school year was challenging, we have learned much and stand ready to continue supporting our students through the implementation of social and emotional learning and new technologies for extended learning. We are fortunate to have created an environment to place the appropriate technology in hands of students, though there is no substitute for in-person learning. We ask that parents notify the administration if Wi-Fi options are needed at home for students to complete work outside of the classroom. We plan to continue to maintain ongoing communication with our school community. Your assistance over the past school year helped students stay engaged and focused while learning remotely and helped us identify ways to improve teaching and learning.

If questions arise before our next communication, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James A. Fazzone".

Dr. James A. Fazzone
Interim Superintendent of Schools



James A. Fazzone, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

August 24, 2021

**Mercer County Technical School
MCTS Reopening Plan**

<p>First Day for Staff</p> <p>First Day for Students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1 - 3, 2021 (Staff Professional Development Days) • September 7, 2021 (First Day for Students)
<p>Assemblies/ Large Group Gatherings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies/large gatherings during the school day will comply with NJDOE, CDC, and Board of Health requirements.
<p>Mask/Face Coverings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wearing of masks/face coverings by faculty, staff, students, and visitors are required in all schools, offices, and buildings as per Executive Order (EO) 251.
<p>Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to school communication will be shared through Robo-calls, district website, emails and texts. • The district will continue to provide information and resources related to Covid-19.
<p>Field Trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips will be allowed only if safety measures can be implemented.
<p>Safe and Healthy Schools Procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents should monitor their children for signs of illness daily and should not send students to school if they are exhibiting at least 2 of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever ○ Chills ○ Muscle aches ○ Headache ○ Sore throat ○ Nausea

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Vomiting○ Diarrhea○ Fatigue○ Congestion○ Runny Nose● Or, one of the following symptoms<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cough○ Shortness of breath○ Difficulty breathing○ New olfactory disorder○ New taste disorder● All employees and students should screen their temperature daily and should not report to work or school if they have a measured temperature of 100.0 or higher● If a student or staff member becomes ill while at school, they will be kept away from others until they can be sent home.● Contact tracing will be conducted by the district upon notification of a positive Covid-19 diagnosis● All classrooms will be supplied with hand sanitizer and disinfectant● Best practices for hand washing and social distancing will be implemented.● Masks will be required for all faculty/staff, students, and visitors to our schools and offices.● Social distancing of at least three feet will be maintained whenever possible.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District will continue to limit the use of shared supplies and equipment or disinfect between uses when necessary. • Custodial staff will be provided disinfecting supplies. • Classrooms, cafeteria, and high traffic areas will be sanitized frequently. • The district will follow standard procedure for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA registered product for use against SARS-Covid-2. High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
Air Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district is running HVAC units 4 hours before and 4 hours after last occupancy. Outdoor air dampers have been opened to 10% from the normal 5% setting. Doors are allowed to be propped open and windows can be opened to allow maximum air flow.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents may opt to transport students. • Drivers, additional staff, and students are required to wear masks, as social distancing cannot be achieved on buses. • Assigned seats with students from the same household sitting together will be encouraged on the bus.
Visitor Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exception of the front office areas, schools will only be accessible to students, school faculty and staff. • Parent/Teacher conferences may be held virtually. • When visiting our buildings, visitors will be required to wear masks.
Google Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If staff or students are home quarantining, Google Classroom will be utilized. All staff and students should



James A. Fazzino, Ed.D.
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	<p>have their technical devices and chargers with them every day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any remote options for instruction will take place through Google Classroom. Teachers should create 10 Google Classroom lessons to be followed by students in the event lessons are necessary.• We are currently following the CDC guidelines for quarantining.
<p style="text-align: center;">Vaccinations</p> <p>The district is currently planning to have a system in place to collect the vaccination status of students and staff or to provide testing for those unvaccinated in order to comply with the State mandate.</p> <p>We encourage all students and are requiring all staff who are eligible to receive the vaccine to take this opportunity to vaccinate against COVID. COVID vaccines are easily available in Mercer County for anyone 12 years or older. You may visit www.vaccines.gov/search to locate a vaccine provider in our area.</p>	

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