



INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OF TRENTON

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As of May 11, 2023 the National Emergency and Public Health Emergency Declaration around the Covid-19 Pandemic has expired.

Update December 7, 2023

ICST follows the updated CDC and Department of Health guidelines to reduce the risk of virus transmission. The building is disinfected daily and proper safety and health procedures are followed.

ICST ensures continuity of services including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional mental health and other needs including student health and food services by implementing an after school tutoring program, continuing to provide the SEL Caring Community program and serving breakfast and lunch to all students.

ICST addresses learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering an after school tutoring program, utilizing the accelerated learning guide, and providing instructional coaches for job embedded professional development.

ICST ensures communication with parents is written in a language parents can understand. Documents are also translated for parents who do not speak English. When a parent requests further assistance, school staff reviews documents with parents one on one.

Update: May 26, 2023

Update October 19, 2022

September 29, 2022 Updated COVID-19 Isolation and Post-Exposure recommendations will be implemented and followed as the standard procedures for the ICST community:

<file:///U:/COVID-19/Isolation%20Timeframes%20Sept%2029,%202022.pdf>

New guidance for COVID-19 isolation and post-exposure recommendation was released by the CDS and the NJ Dept. of Health. That guidance includes information about masking if exposed to COVID or in circumstances of confirmed infection. The original State mandate for mask wearing expired on March 7, 2022. ICST will follow the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines for wearing masks during periods of elevated community transmission. The district will evaluate guidance documents as updates are made to adjust district policies and procedures.

Students and siblings of a student, family member or other person living in the same household who tested positive for COVID-19, do not have to quarantine, however they should:

- ✓ Wear a mask for 10 days;
- ✓ Monitor for symptoms; and,
- ✓ If symptoms occur, should stay home at least five days and wear a mask on days 6 to 10 upon return to school.

Universal and correct wearing of masks are mandatory for everyone in the building and adherence will be strictly enforced. ICST Policy 5141.10 Face Coverings has been implemented on or before October 18, 2021 as follows: the mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances: when doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors (where an individual is seeking a medical exemption, documentation from a medical professional supporting this exception is required); when the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face masks without assistance; when a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask (where an individual is seeking a medical exemption, documentation from a medical professional supporting this exception); when the individual is under two (2) years of age; when the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask; when the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity; when a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or when wearing a face mask

creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task. Per the current guidance of the CDC, masks will continue to be worn by all on school buses and vans.

Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised. As such ICST will allow students to remove their masks outdoors in consideration of these recommendations and at the discretion of their teacher.

Free adult and child sized masks are available for anyone who needs PPE. Signs noting proper wearing of masks will be posted at all entry points, classrooms, and common areas as well as the school's social media and parent portals. Teachers will explain the importance of wearing masks correctly to students at the start of the school year and continue to enforce the rule.

The school community understands that non-compliance with this rule will result in exclusion. Remote classes will not be an option for non-complying students.

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2. A minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing will be implemented in shared areas of the building and students will be directed to practice social distancing throughout the day. Community levels of infection will be considered prior to implementing Cohorts. The school organization will follow CDC guidelines implement revisions based on any updates, specifically identified by ICST Policy 5141.10 The Road Forward - Covid 1 - Health and Safety. The practice of seating household members together when possible and maintaining student groupings to minimize exposure will continue.

Remote learning will be implemented in the event of a localized outbreak or other emergency.

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3. Proper hand washing and respiratory techniques and etiquette will be taught in the classroom and during health class. Lessons will occur in the beginning of the school year and continue throughout. Students and staff will practice frequent hand hygiene making sure that hands are cleaned when entering and exiting the building, after using the bathroom, after coughing, blowing the nose, sneezing, or face touching, during scheduled breaks, and any other time as

needed. ICST Policy 5141.10 addresses The Road Forward - Covid 19 – Health and Safety addresses continued use of air purification devices throughout the school building.

4. The district will use the requirements regarding maintenance of healthy facilities as described in ICST Policy 5141.10 The Road Forward - Covid 19 - Health and Safety which governs the return to in-person learning in the 21/22 school year. The facility will receive thorough cleaning with soap and water during and after school hours. If community transmission rates are high, cleaning and disinfecting will be increased. Disinfection will occur immediately upon an exposure to blood or bodily fluids.

Air ventilation will be improved by keeping windows open and H -13 HEPA Air Purifiers are provided for every classroom, hallway, and office areas.

Additional air-handling equipment may be installed following ESSER II and ARP ESSER dollars become available

5. Contact tracing has been implemented and protocols will be followed in the event of a school related exposure from COVID-19. Isolation and quarantine procedures will reflect the latest guidelines for NJ public schools and will be updated as needed. ICST will use the contact tracing/isolation and quarantine procedures as explained in ICST Policy 5141.10 The Road Forward –Covid 19 –Health and Safety which governs the return to in-person learning in the 21/22 school year. Parents and staff report symptoms, Covid 19 test results, and exposures to the school nurse. The school nurse regularly posts information regarding Covid 19 vaccinations, prevention techniques, isolations and quarantining protocols and how to identify possible infections. Students who are excluded from school due to Covid 19 are supplied with the tools necessary for them to participate virtually with their class.

The school nurse and Trenton Health Officer communicate about COVID-19 cases among the ICST community and the principal reports cases and their impact on school operations to the Mercer County Office of Education.

The school nurse also completes a weekly report to NJDOH/CDRSS reflecting absences due to Influenza like illness (ILI), Covid like illness (CLI), and confirmed cases of Covid-19.

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6. Daily Health Screening questions are no longer required, however, ICST will continue to follow applicable local, state and federal health department guidance with regard to diagnostic and screening testing. These procedures are updated as virus variations become prevalent, and will be updated according to ICST Policy 5141.10 The Road Forward –Covid 19 –Health and Safety which governs the return to in-person learning in the 21/22 school year. If re-instated, the

school nurse will check the screening reports before allowing entry. Parents, guardians and caregivers are strongly encouraged to answer screening questions honestly, continuously monitor child's health and keep children displaying symptoms home from school.

School community members displaying symptoms should isolate and follow CDC recommended steps.

ICST has joined an agreement through the State of NJ with Mirimus to provide weekly COVID-19 testing for the majority of the 2020-2021 school year and will continue to do so as those testing opportunities arise. Additionally, the district will provide information on other testing sites, as known.

Pursuant to ICST Policy 5141.10 The Road Forward - Covid 19 - Health and Safety and Policy 5141.11 Vaccination and Testing, covered workers who are not fully vaccinated must be tested for Covid-19 once a week following established procedures.

Testing results will be reported to public health authorities by the School Nurse and the entity conducting the testing as required.

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7. ICST has held vaccination clinics on site for both students and staff. If the Trenton Health Department is capable of conducting additional clinics, they will be scheduled and publicized and conducted according to ICST Policy 5141.10 The Road Forward - Covid 19 - Health and Safety. Staff have been provided with multiple opportunities to be vaccinated, and more than 95% have opted to take advantage of becoming vaccinated.

The school nurse and principal continue to emphasize the value of COVID vaccinations.

~~ICST students are age-ineligible for vaccines at this time.~~

8. Students with disabilities and/or health impediments will be offered face shields in lieu of masks. Resources about mask wearing will be provided to parents including positive behavioral interventions and supports. Parents will be encouraged to use resources to prepare students for the return to school.

Teachers may wear clear masks to provide visual access to their mouths so students can see mouth shaping.

Special Education staff will provide live and direct explicit instruction addressing the goals outlined in each student's IEP.

Ensuring Continuity of Services

One focal point of staff professional development this year has focused the emotional well-being of the entire community as well as the social emotional health of their

students. Teachers have implemented the Collaborative Classroom program, the Caring School Community. Additionally, the school social worker work-week was expanded and extra staff was hired to support student learning.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/ldrp.12172>

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1231740.pdf>