

# Elysian

Charter School of Hoboken

1460 Garden Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030

[www.ecsnj.org](http://www.ecsnj.org) Susan Grierson, Director



Director Report  
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I hope that everyone is enjoying these last few weeks of summer. We are thrilled to be returning to five days a week of in-person instruction. We have a lot to be excited about and prepare for the first day of school on September 9th.

To ensure a safe start to the school year, layered prevention strategies will be in place in our school, including wearing a mask while indoors. The two most important things you can do to help us keep each other safe this year is to get vaccinated when you are eligible and wear a mask indoors.

We have learned so much during the last 18 months about COVID -19 and the wide range of strategies we can employ to keep students and staff safe during in-person learning. While we'd all like nothing better than to return to normalcy, the ongoing rate of the Delta variant and the fact that our youngest learners are not yet eligible for vaccines, we must remain vigilant and prepared to make necessary adjustments as needed over the course of this school year, based on emerging health data.

**Get your child vaccinated:** Everyone, 12 years old and up is eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. The FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19 and remain the leading way to protect your child,

your family, and your community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible. Get yourself and other household members vaccinated: Students are best protected when those around them are also protected – especially if they are under the age of 12 and cannot be vaccinated themselves. To protect yourself and your child ahead of the first day of school, please get vaccinated as soon as possible and encourage others in your household and community to get vaccinated as well.

This time, there will not be a remote learning option for families. This determination, along with a mask mandate and a vaccination requirement or testing program for staff are coming directly out of the Governor's Office. In order to ensure that our children and staff are as safe as possible, we will continue with our cleaning, arrival and dismissal, lunch and recess, and air circulation protocols. Recess and physical education will be held outside daily, unless the weather does not cooperate. Things are still changing daily. The New Jersey Department of Education is hosting another meeting tomorrow. That meeting may result in more changes to this updated plan.

Let me now share some additional details that I know everyone is keen to hear as parents get ready to send their children back to school -

## **FAQ**

### **Will Elysian be open full-time?**

Elysian will be open 5 days a week. Our school day begins at 8:30 am and ends at 2:45 pm. On days when there will be early dismissal, school will dismiss at 1:00 pm and lunch will be served on all early dismissal days. We will have staggered arrival and dismissal times to ensure maximum social distancing for students. Please see the arrival and dismissal info on our school web site.

### **Is there a remote option?**

No, there is no remote option for virtual learning at this time.

### **Will students be screened in the morning?**

We ask that parents check their child's temperature before sending them to school. Please keep sick children home. Students will be given hand sanitizer when they enter the building.

### **Will students be able to use lockers?**

At least for the beginning of the school year, we will not be using lockers. As such, please have students bring minimal personal items to school.

### **Will parents be able to enter the building to walk their students to their classrooms?**

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, parents or visitors will not be allowed to enter the building during school hours.

**Will there be before and after care?**

Yes, we are planning on having both before and aftercare programming for all students this year. Before care starts at 7:30 am. Please do not drop your child off before then. Aftercare starts immediately after dismissal and runs until 6 pm. More information on costs is included on the website. Please note that aftercare begins on Monday, 9/13.

**How will special classes be organized this year?**

Art, Music, PE, Movement/Dance, and World language/Spanish will be offered weekly and in some cases, twice per week. Our Middle School students will change classrooms and have 2 seminar classes per semester.

We would like to offer other events such as **field trips**, however, we are going to take a wait-and-see approach, and determine whether we can offer them later in the school year.

**Will Elysian have enrichment/after-school clubs?**

Yes, we will have after-school clubs. Detailed information will be forthcoming.

**Will Elysian offer lunch?**

Yes, Elysian will offer a hot lunch program. Lunch will be available on full days as well as early dismissal days. Ordering is usually done on a monthly basis. If you choose to send your child with a home lunch, please remember Elysian is a **nut-free school**. Students will be spaced 3 feet apart when eating and will use desk shields for extra safety precautions. We will do everything possible to socially distance students and use desk shields during lunch inside but will set up outside lunch whenever logistically possible. Based upon the most recent research, desk shields will not be used in classrooms, as children and staff will be fully masked and the goal is to ensure optimal airflow.

**Can I celebrate my child's birthday at school?**

We ask that you send in non-food items to celebrate your child's birthday. You can send in things like colorful pencils, stickers, or crafts to name a few. Please speak to your child's teacher about what works best for their classroom.

**Do we need to quarantine if we travel during the school year?**

We strongly discourage travel outside of designated school breaks. It interferes with your child's education. As of today, New Jersey does not require quarantine for travel. Below is the latest guidelines from the CDC on travel for informational purposes only:

CDC recommendations for Travel, both domestically and internationally:

International Travel Recommendations and Requirements	Not Vaccinated	<a href="#">Fully Vaccinated</a>
Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	Yes	
Mandatory test required before flying to US	Yes	Yes
Get tested 3-5 days after travel	Yes	Yes
Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	Yes	
Self-monitor for symptoms	Yes	Yes
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	Yes	Yes

Domestic Travel Recommendations and Requirements	Not Vaccinated	<a href="#">Fully Vaccinated</a>
Get tested 1-3 days before travel	Yes	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	Yes	
Self-monitor for symptoms	Yes	Yes
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	Yes	Yes

**Will Elysian have enhanced cleaning measures?**

Yes, our cleaning staff has been trained in best practices to keep our school safe. We have a rigorous cleaning schedule throughout the school day.

**Will my child be able to take their mask off during the school day?**

When your child is outside for recess they may remove their mask for a short mask break, if needed. They will also be able to remove their mask during lunch.

**A close contact is someone who was either:**

Less than 3 feet from the COVID positive person for more than 15 minutes in a 24- hour period or

between 3 and 6 feet from the COVID positive person for more than 15 minutes while either party was not wearing a mask with fidelity.

**What is considered a close contact for COVID-19?**

A close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). We will continue to use the CDC and New Jersey Department of Health and Hoboken Department of Health to determine close contacts. <https://sites.google.com/ecsny.org/schoolnurse-covid-19-information>

In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

**What happens if my child wakes up with a runny nose?**

If your child has a runny nose, please keep them home and check in with your family doctor for further advice. If your child wakes up with two or more of the following symptoms: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue (tiredness), muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea, your child must have a negative COVID PCR test before they return to school and/or an alternative diagnosis from your family doctor.

**What do I do if a family member who lives in our home has tested positive for COVID?.**

The student must be quarantined for 7 days and present a negative COVID PCR test/or 10 days without a PCR test. If Hoboken is deemed high risk for an outbreak, quarantine will be extended for 14 days.

**What do I do if a member of my child's sports team has tested positive for COVID-19?**

If your child has been identified as a close contact they must quarantine for 7 days and present a negative COVID PCR test - or 10 days without a PCR test. If Hoboken is deemed a high risk for an outbreak, quarantine will be extended 14 days.

**A family member who lives in our home has symptoms of COVID and they are being tested, what should we do?**

Students whose close family members live in the household, have symptoms of COVID-19, and are awaiting test results, should stay home until the test results are received.

**What happens if my child gets sick in school?**

If your child gets sick in school and/or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they will be put in an isolation area under the supervision of the school nurse. You must pick your child up within 30 minutes of receiving notification from the school nurse. The student will not be able to return to school until they receive a negative COVID PCR test and/or an alternative diagnosis from your family physician.

**What happens if my child contracts Covid?**

You can be around others after:

10 days since symptoms first appeared and

24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medications and

Other symptoms of COVID 19 are improving.

\*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation. Your child will need a physician's note to return to school.

**Will virtual learning be available if my child needs to quarantine for COVID-19?**

Students who are ill and need to miss a day of school can reach out to their teacher to see if there are any missed assignments. If your child needs to quarantine, assignments will be available on google classroom, and/or work packets will be sent home. A teacher will check in with students who are quarantined to support them. If an entire class needs to quarantine, it may be necessary to provide remote instruction. Please note that meetings with a teacher will only be available for cases of documented quarantine periods and not for optional travel or time away from school. This rule will be strictly enforced for the benefit of all students.

**Will Elysian perform COVID testing?** We are working with Agile Urgent Care, the company we used last year, to formulate a testing plan for the school. More information will be forthcoming.

**Will there be in-person back-to-school nights?** With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, back-to-school nights, IEP meetings, and parent/teacher conferences will be virtual.

**Who will help with the social and emotional needs of my child?**

If your child is experiencing anxiety or has questions about returning to school, Tara Dublanica, our school social worker, will be available on 9/1 and 9/2 in the afternoon to meet with students and families via phone or zoom. Those students who were remote only last year may want to

touch base with her to allay any concerns. Please reach out to her at [tara.dublanica@ecsnj.org](mailto:tara.dublanica@ecsnj.org) to make arrangements to meet.

**Air Quality and Ventilation:**

Elysian has an HVAC system that brings fresh air into the classrooms and windows will be kept open whenever possible. We have regular maintenance scheduled to ensure safe airflow. Filters for A/C units are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

**Contact Tracing:**

Our administration has been trained in COVID-19 Contact Tracing via Johns Hopkins University and receives regular updates on guidance via the State and local health departments. In collaboration with the DOH, we manage contact tracing for close contacts who are members of the school community and the DOH manages close contacts for those who do not attend the school. Names of students who test positive and students deemed to be close contacts are shared with the DOH.

Some of you may be planning the end of summer travel or a get-away before school starts. We follow all CDC guidance regarding travel and quarantine rules. There is a document we have prepared with that guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

**Diagnostic and Screening Testing:**

We ask that staff and students not come to school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, based on CDC guidance. Please check your child's temperature daily before sending them to school and refrain from sending your child to school sick.

Students and staff with symptoms similar to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others and sent home early. The school follows Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting. The symptomatic person and supervisor are provided with PPE. Special consideration is given for the protection of staff members, such as the school nurse and custodians, who will be in close contact with students or will handle waste materials. Gowns, face shields, masks, gloves and K95 or N95 masks are available to them.

If Elysian becomes aware that an individual, who has spent time in school, tests positive for COVID-19, the nurse immediately notifies local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. The school then follows guidance from the Department of Health regarding communication, cleaning, contact tracing and possible closure. Elysian follows NJ DOH and CDC recommendations when deciding how long those who are exposed to COVID-19 will have to stay home and the implications on sanitizing the facility and determining who else in the school community may need to quarantine.

We hope that these layered prevention measures will help keep our entire community safe. The most important things you can do to help us keep each other safe this year is to get vaccinated, vaccinate your child when they turn 12 and wear a mask when indoors.

Later this week I will email an abbreviated version of this report out to our entire community.

I would also like to remind you that additional information can be found on our website including our 2021-2022 school calendar, the list of school supplies by grade, a link to a virtual open house for new families, arrival and dismissal information, before and aftercare sign up and more. I would encourage all parents to visit the website and look through our updates.