

The Newton School COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan for Phase III

August 2020



The Newton School
ENHANCING MINDS THROUGH MOTION

Summary

- The Newton School plans to open for in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year for students in grades K-8 beginning on August 31, 2020.
- The School will have approximately 130 people total in large space (30,000 square feet), across three buildings.
- Classes are typically 6-8 students with as little intermingling as possible throughout the day.
- All faculty will wear masks at all times except when outside or eating. All students in grades 2-8 will wear masks all the time except outside and when eating. Students in K-1 wear masks at all times except when outside, eating or the student is at their desk in their classroom distanced from others.
- Social distancing of 6 feet apart maintained during the school day. Students have assigned seats, and individual ownership of computers, headphones, and supplies (no sharing).
- Daily health checks required by parents at home and performed at school upon arrival. There would be additional cleaning throughout the day in the facility and handwashing for everyone throughout the day.
- Schedules are modified to include more outdoor time (about 25% of the day depending on the weather).
- There would likely be complete school closure for a minimum of 10 days if any teacher or student is diagnosed with COVID. The Newton School would work with the Loudoun County Health Department to determine next steps.
- Plan will be posted on website at www.thenewtonschool.org and submitted to Private School Council.

Opening for In-person Instruction

- The Newton School plans to open for in-person instruction for the 2020-21 school year for students in grades K-8 on August 31, 2020.
- The School is able to follow the health guidelines, given the current structure, with modifications to the school schedule and procedures.
- In-person instruction is critical to student learning and social development, particularly our population of students.
- Teacher feel safe in the school and prefer in-person instruction.
- Parents want a safe place for student to learn outside of the home.

Facility and Space

- Approximately 130 teachers and students will be in the buildings daily. Facility is 3 separate buildings of approximately 30,000 square feet total.
- Air filters have been upgraded and airflow from the outside is now > 30%. It is possible to open garage doors in gym spaces and other doors for more outside air.
- Class sizes are typically 6-8 students. Classrooms are large, allowing for social distancing of 6 feet.
- Additional spaces (gyms, lunchrooms, common areas) are large with high ceilings.
- Markings 6 feet apart in place to remind students to stand and walk apart.
- All water fountains and coolers are closed. Students bring water from home.
- Lunch service changed to individual containers. Students encouraged to bring a no-prep lunch since they will mostly be eating outside or in classrooms.

Face Masks in Place

- All teachers and administrators wear face masks at school except when outdoors and when eating.
- Students in grades 2-8 wear face masks at school except when outdoors and when eating.
- Students in grades K-1 wear face masks outside of the classroom except outdoors and when eating. Students may remove masks when at their desks and social distanced from others.
- Face masks must be double layered cotton and fit appropriately. Gator coverings, scarves and masks that don't fit will not be allowed.
- Face shields may be worn in addition to masks, not instead of.
- Disposable masks and face shields are available for anyone who needs one. The School is providing 2 masks for all teachers and students.

Social Distancing

- Classrooms modified to increase space between students and teachers.
- Seating assigned to spread out students and reduce airflow on others.
- Students have individual supplies at their desk (no sharing).
- Chromebooks and headphones assigned to each student.
- There are designated spots for lining up and transitions.
- Classes have staggered end times to minimize the number of students transitioning at one time.
- Separate entrances for all buildings to maximize space between students.

Health Checks/Cleaning

- Parents and students sign an agreement that they understand on COVID requirements in place and will follow them.
- Health checks daily and temperatures taken at home first and then at the school doors upon arrival (no contact).
- Faculty and students required to stay home if not feeling well. Flexible policies for absences and no penalties for both students and teachers. At-risk faculty have flexible options.
- Handwashing scheduled 4 times a day. Signage is at school to promote required behaviors.
- Cleaning done throughout the day with a dedicated cleaning person.
- Designated COVID team at School consisting of School Director, two experienced teachers and admin assistant. Admin has access to medical grade PPE as needed.
- The School has contacted the local Loudoun County Health Department, understands how to reach them, and can assist with a community response as needed.
- All faculty completed First Aid/CPR training in August 2020 and 7 faculty are MAT certified.

Modified & Flexible Schedules

- One movement block outside every day, weather permitting. Extended to 45 minutes (from 30 minutes).
- Lunch may be held outside, under canopies or pavilions at Claude Moore Park. Tables/chairs are in place in front of school and in back under canopies.
- Lunch service meals will be provided in individual containers only, served to students by single person. No sharing of food or utensils.
- Teachers have option of running classes outside anytime or moving class to larger space out of the classroom.
- No afterschool activities except homework group until 4:30pm. Students will be socially distanced during this time. The Newton School does not have sports teams.
- If a student needs to stay home for any reason, the teachers will provide classwork and homework via Google Classroom so they can keep up with assignments.

Transportation/Field Trips

- Students assigned seats on buses.
 - One student per row
 - Siblings may sit together
 - Masks required for all teachers, students and drivers on the bus
 - Windows open to increase airflow
- Reduce the number of field trips from weekly to every other week.
 - Only travel to outdoor locations
 - Bring speakers to the school instead via zoom or outside settings
 - Hold other internal activities (cooking class, service projects, etc.)

School Closure Options

- If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID, The Newton School will likely close for a minimum of 10 days. There may be a unique situation where only some of the faculty and students need to quarantine.
 - Isolate anyone with symptoms outside if possible. Facilitate transportation to home or a health care facility. Implement cleaning of infected areas.
 - The Newton School to notify health department (Loudoun County) and follow appropriate next steps.
 - Parents to be notified via email and text same day.
- If the Governor orders schools to close, The Newton School will close.
- Schedules, chrome books and materials are ready so that Distance Learning can begin the next day after any kind of closure.

Communication & Training

- Weekly (or more) communication to all parents on the in-person and Distance Learning plans and requirements. Zoom parent meeting will be scheduled to go over Health Plan before school starts.
- Opportunity for one on one discussions to address each student and family questions or issues.
- Training for teachers on in-person instruction and Distance Learning the week of August 24th, and then ongoing after school starts via email, in person and zoom.
- Training for students during their first week and then ongoing. Training video in production to help students visualize requirements.
- Health plan posted on website and sent to all parents and teachers.

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Parent & Student Agreement

I have read and understand The Newton School Health Plan and agree to abide by the rules set forth including:

- To help my child follow the rules set out by The Newton School including social distancing, wearing a mask and hand washing. I understand that my child will not be able to attend the School program if he or she cannot follow these rules.
- To not send my child to school if he or she shows any signs of illness.
- To notify The Newton School if my child or anyone living in my household is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Parent/Student Name (printed)

Signature

Date

Contact Information

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Accredited by Cognia (AdvancED)

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This plan was reviewed by David Goodfriend, Loudoun County Health Department.

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