



Hamburg School

Safe Return to School Plan

2021-2022

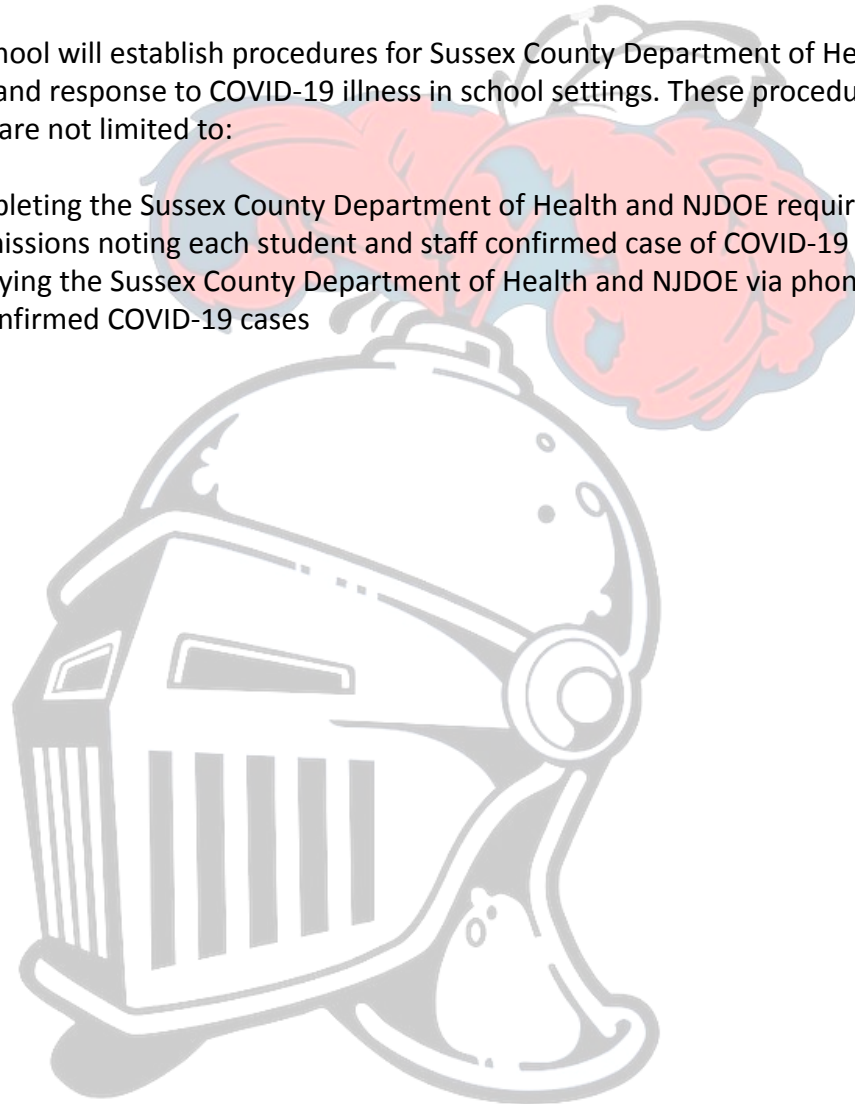
Introduction

In June 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) worked collaboratively to develop guidance, The Road Forward – Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year (The Road Forward). The protocols contained in this document are effective August 23, 2021 in accordance with the Governor's [Executive Order No. 251](#), as well as, the September 1, 2021 revisions to the NJDOE's [The Road Forward](#). The protocols contained herein are subject to change if and when the aforementioned authorities revise their guidance.



Communication with Sussex County Department of Health

- Hamburg School staff will maintain close communication with the Sussex County Department of Health in order to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control.
- Hamburg School will establish procedures for Sussex County Department of Health notification and response to COVID-19 illness in school settings. These procedures may include, but are not limited to:
 - Completing the Sussex County Department of Health and NJDOE required submissions noting each student and staff confirmed case of COVID-19
 - Notifying the Sussex County Department of Health and NJDOE via phone or email of confirmed COVID-19 cases

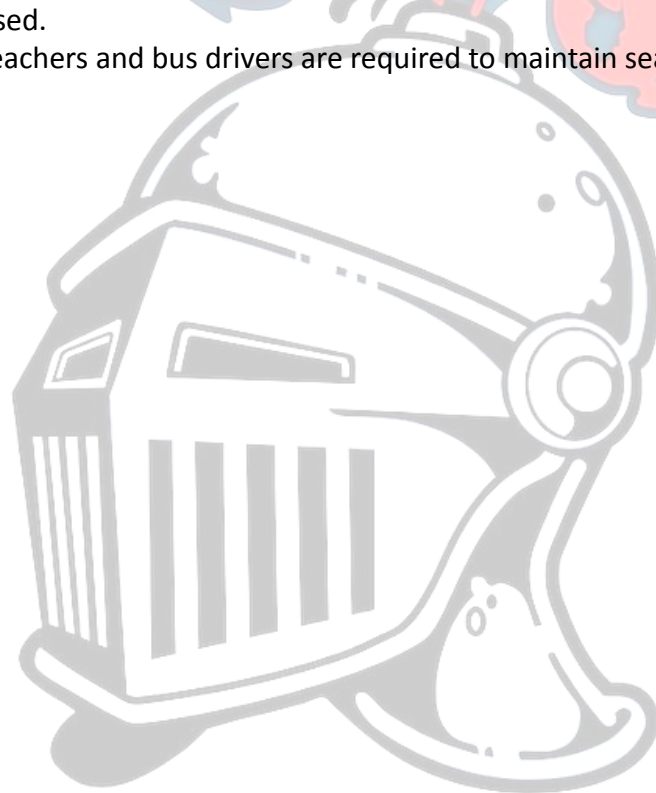


Mask Wearing Protocols

- In accordance with Executive Order No. 251, all students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask while inside district school buildings. *The masking protocol is mandated in accordance with an Executive Order and is enforceable by law. Penalties for violations of this Order may be imposed under, among other statutes, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-49 and -50. Student refusal to wear a mask will be treated as code of conduct violation. As per EO 215, the following limited exceptions apply to the masking protocol:*
 - When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
 - When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask 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;
 - 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.
 - *Note: Parents requesting an exception for their child must submit medical documentation to their building principal. All exception requests will be reviewed by the Superintendent, Board Physician, Board Attorney, and if necessary, the Child Study Team.*

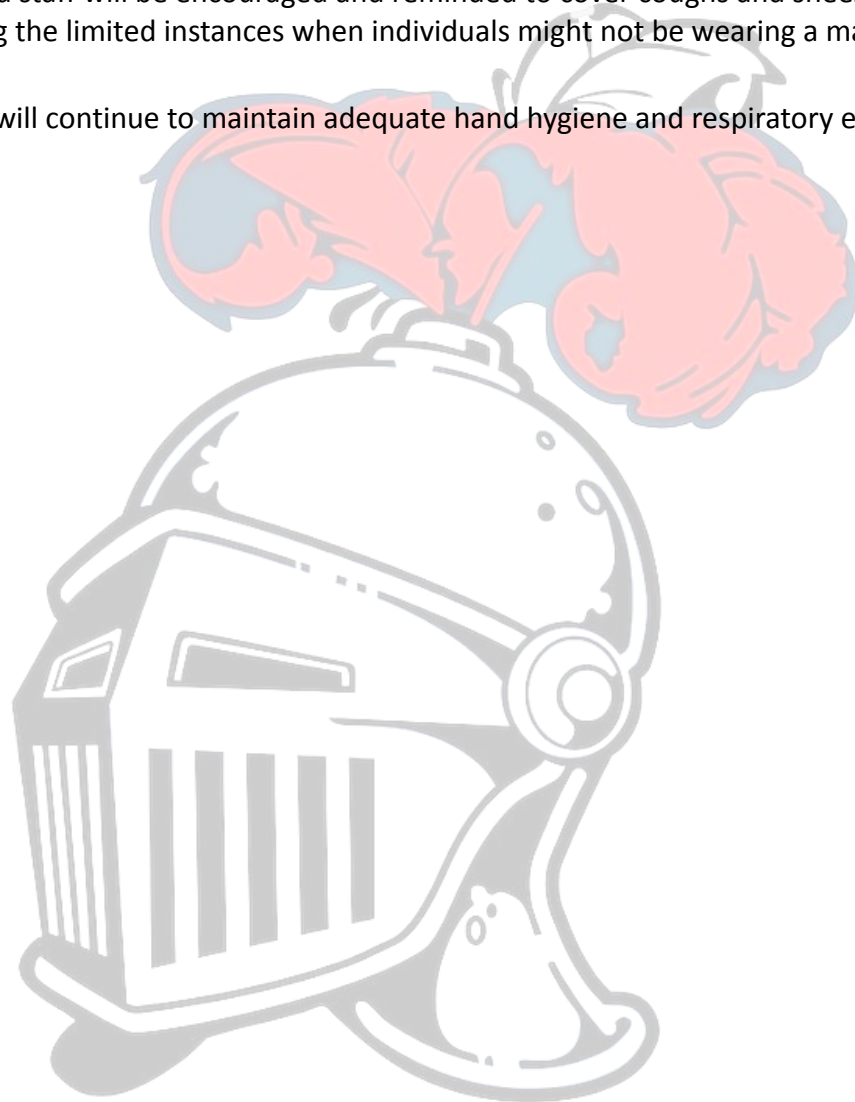
Physical Distancing and Cohorting Protocols

- Hamburg School will promote physical distancing to the greatest extent allowed.
 - Hamburg School will encourage 3 feet of social distancing whenever possible. Understanding that 3 feet of distance at all times is a challenge to achieve, the other health and safety measures detailed in this document will provide additional measures for the health and safety of our students.
 - When feasible, students will remain in consistent groups throughout the day, which is helpful when contact tracing needs to be performed.
 - Students will be seated in rows with all desks facing in the same direction in their classrooms.
 - If seating arrangements deviate from this format, physical barriers (dividers) may be used.
 - All teachers and bus drivers are required to maintain seating charts.



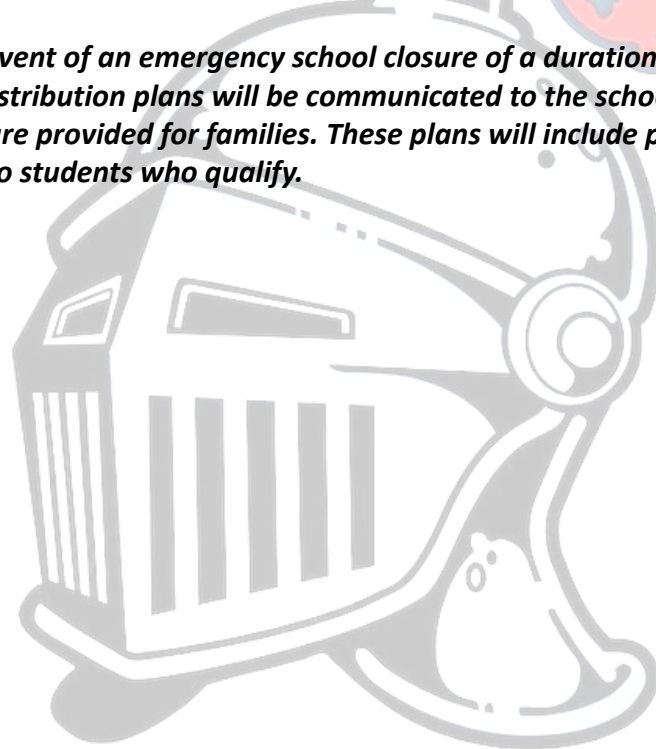
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Protocols

- Students and staff will be encouraged to regularly wash and sanitize hands throughout the school day.
- Students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue during the limited instances when individuals might not be wearing a mask.
- The district will continue to maintain adequate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette supplies.



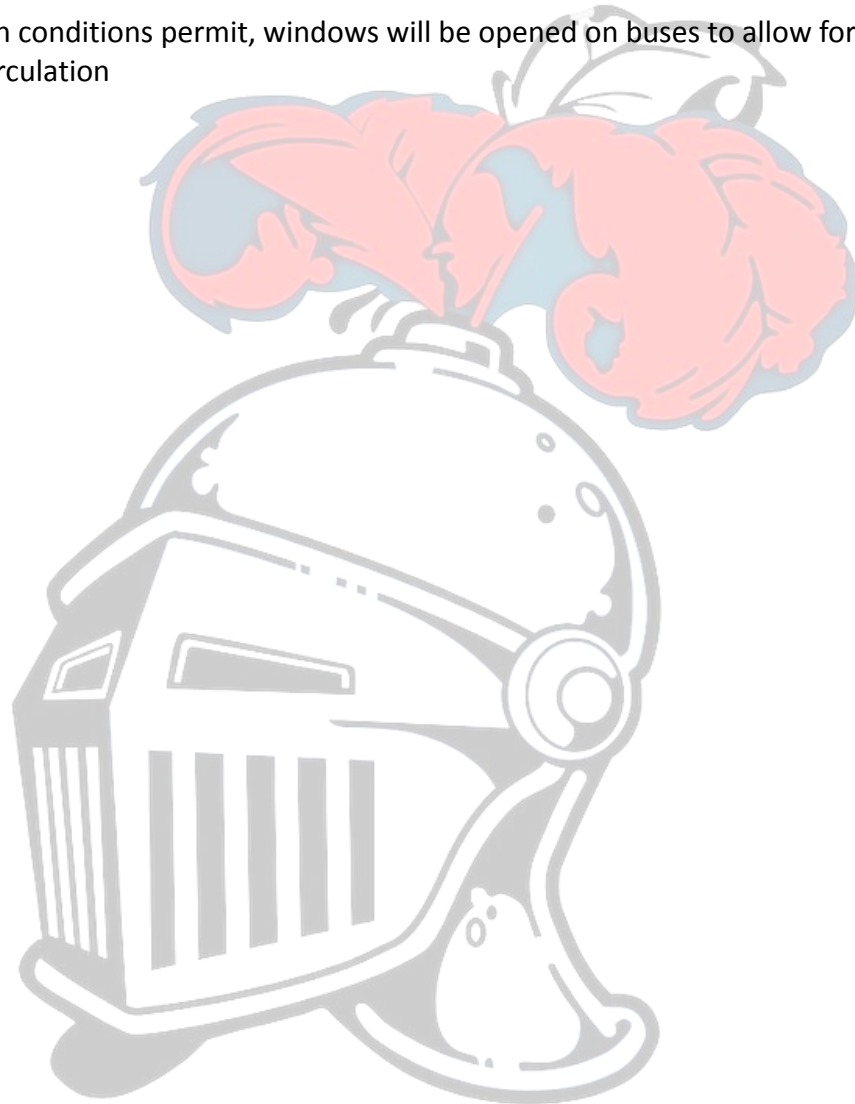
Provision of Meals

- Hamburg School will continue to implement layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in cafeterias or other group dining areas. This will include to every extent practicable:
 - An additional lunch period was added to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and increase opportunities for distancing
 - 3 feet of social distancing whenever possible (in line)
 - Options for increased distancing in school cafeterias
 - allowing options to eat lunch outside when practicable and when weather conditions permit
 - the custodial crew was provided more time to clean the cafeteria between lunch seatings
 - Noncontact payment option (using student account code)
- ***In the event of an emergency school closure of a duration of three or more days, meal distribution plans will be communicated to the school community to ensure meals are provided for families. These plans will include pickup and/or delivery of meals to students who qualify.***



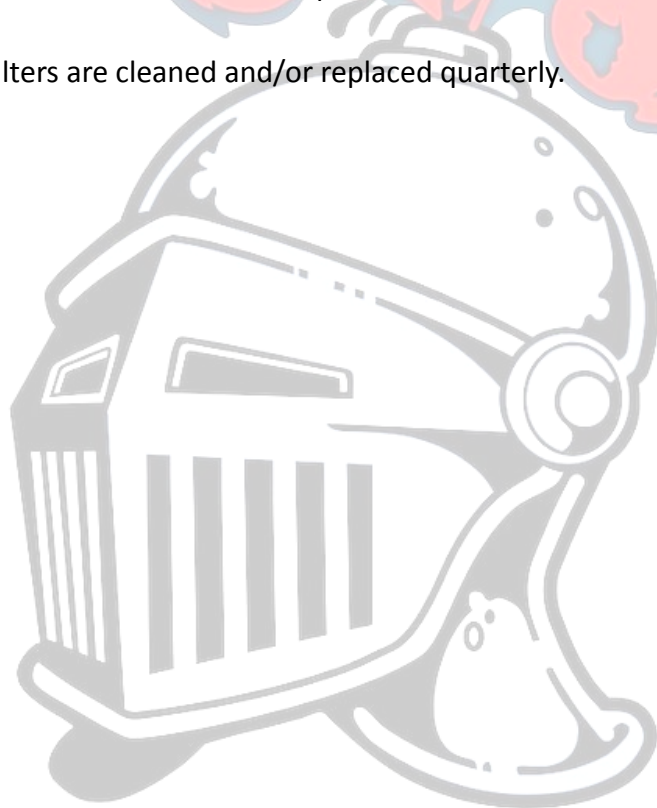
Transportation Protocols

- Masks will be required on school buses (sporting activities) at all times unless and until NJDOE and NJDOH guidelines recommend otherwise, at which time optional masks will be considered
- When conditions permit, windows will be opened on buses to allow for optimal air circulation



Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow

- All of our schools will follow standard procedures for cleaning and disinfecting with EPA-registered products for use against SARS-CoV-2.
- On a daily basis, at minimum, the district will continue to clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are touched often; such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys at least daily.
- Measures will be taken to improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.
- Floor stands with MERV-13 air filters were donated by the Hamburg OEM. These units were provided to each instructional space and office.
- Univent air filters are cleaned and/or replaced quarterly.



Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff Members

- Screening for Symptoms- Daily screening of students and staff will no longer be implemented. It is the responsibility of all parents and guardians to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Students who are sick shall not attend school. Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out to their respective school nurses to inform them of their child’s symptoms and reasons for absence.
- District staff will be responsible for monitoring their own health and shall not attend school when they are sick. All staff are encouraged to reach out to their respective school nurse or building administrator if they are absent due to experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Symptomatic Students and Staff- Procedures will be in place to identify and immediately respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill in school with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. As was the case last year, there will be a designated and supervised area for students and staff who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to be held until they can be safely sent home.
- Parents should not send students to school when they are sick. Staff should not attend school when they are sick. NJDOH recommends that students and staff experiencing the following symptoms be promptly isolated and excluded from school. The table below outlines exclusion criteria where TWO symptoms from Column A or ONE symptom from Column B constitute immediate exclusion.

Column A (any two symptoms)	Column B (any one symptom)
Fever (measure or subjective) Chills Shivers (rigors) Muscle aches (myalgia) Headache Sore Throat Nausea or Vomiting Diarrhea Fatigue Congestion Runny nose	Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing New olfactory disorder New taste disorder

The following COVID-19 exclusion criteria for persons who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19 will be implemented:

- Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

Note: During periods of low community transmission, ill individuals excluded for COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested **and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure** may follow [NJDOH School Exclusion List](#) to determine when they may return to school.

- The following COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts will be implemented:
 - CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period– and thus the preferred school exclusion period – regardless of the community transmission level, it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus.
 - To that end, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission levels as follows:
 - High (**orange**): Exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days
 - Moderate or Low (**yellow** or **green**): Exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)

Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms:

- Do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school
- Must mask for 14 days or provide a negative test when tested 3-5 days from exposure
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding people who are close contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus. Per the CDC, a close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.
 - Note: As per 8/21/21 updates to NJDOE Road Forward, 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.
- School staff will identify school-based close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases in the school. Schools will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to SCDOH.
- With guidance from SCDOH, our schools will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.
- SCDOH contact tracing team will notify and interview the close contacts identified by the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements.

Remote Instruction for Quarantined Students

- In accordance with mandates from Governor Murphy, and the NJDOE, remote instruction shall not be a district-wide option for the 2021-2022 school year. The NJDOE acknowledges that there will be specific circumstances where students will be required to quarantine in accordance with NJDOH guidelines “where an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the NJDOH’s COVID-19 exclusion criteria, LEAs are strongly encouraged to immediately provide virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction.” It is under **these conditions only** that Hamburg School will provide temporary remote instruction to students while they are required to quarantine.
 - Individual students who are excluded due to quarantine resulting from Hamburg School or SCDOH contact tracing will be contacted within 24 hours by the respective school quarantine instruction coordinator to ensure:
 - Asynchronous access to lessons and activities via Google Classroom
 - Assigning and scheduling of a remote “Virtual Support Teacher” to assist students with asynchronous lessons.
- The combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction will meet the 4-hour daily minimum requirement for instruction (excluding lunch and recess)
- For students who have insufficient broadband internet access the district will provide Wi-Fi hotspots or arrange for broadband services
- For students who do not have access to sufficient technology required for virtual learning, the district will provide Chromebooks or laptops. Arrangements will be made with individual students as needed or announced to the community if/when large-scale closure(s) is required
- [Emergency Virtual Plan](#)

Hamburg School
Emergency Virtual Learning Plan and Guidelines
2021-2022

GRADES PreK-8:

- Teachers will follow the scope/sequence
- Teachers will post a meeting link on their google classroom
- Teachers will post the schedule on their google classroom for reference
- Teachers will follow their **Early Dismissal Virtual Schedule** to provide daily live lessons
 - Live, virtual, direct instruction will not exceed 20 minutes per content area
 - Students should be assigned independent practice (activity/assignment)
 - Teachers will have virtual student Academic Assistance hours at the end of the school day in order to address individual needs.
- The combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction will meet the 4-hour daily minimum requirement for instruction (excluding lunch and recess).
- For students who have insufficient broadband internet access the district will provide Wi-Fi hotspots or arrange for broadband services.
- For students who do not have access to sufficient technology required for virtual learning, the district will provide Chromebooks or laptops. Arrangements will be made with individual students as needed or announced to the community if/when large-scale closure(s) is required.
- Note: Preschool online instruction will not exceed 1 hour in length