

**N<sup>\*</sup>AZARETH**  
R E G I O N A L H I G H S C H O O L



**Nazareth Regional High School  
Reopening Guidance  
2021-2022 Academic Year**

**Updated September 3, 2021**

Prepared by

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Principal

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## **Introduction/Statement of Purpose:**

Nazareth RHS acknowledges the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff as our first priority. With plans to reopen Nazareth, school administration has been working diligently to formulate a plan to ensure the safety of all stakeholders and provide students with an engaging and rigorous education.

This guidance illustrates our focus on student/faculty/staff health and quality instruction *for all*. In outlining newly enhanced safety measures and instructional protocol, we aim to alleviate the presence of uncertainty and provide context regarding many of the concerns and apprehensions expressed by our Nazareth family.

In confirming plans to reopen Nazareth RHS, we observed the direction of state and local officials (NYC/NYS), the Diocese of Brooklyn, State Department of Education and the Board of Regents, the Department of Health & Human Services (DOH) and made final determinations based on what was deemed suitable for our school community.

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## **Vaccination and Weekly Testing:**

Vaccination is the best way to prevent COVID-19. It is our strong recommendation, as well as that of public health officials, the CDC, and the Diocese that everyone 12 and older who is able to get vaccinated receives the vaccination.

Nazareth has mandated that all adults entering the building, including but not limited to faculty, staff, administration, maintenance, coaches, and parents, either show proof of vaccination or provide a negative Rapid or PCR test. Any Nazareth employee who is not vaccinated will provide a negative Rapid or PCR test on their first day of each week.

## **Face Mask Policy:**

Per New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) Commissioner's Determination, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors and visitors) must wear a well-fitting mask over their nose and mouth at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status, except while actively eating or drinking, singing or playing a woodwind instrument. During these few exceptions to the mask rule, we will maximize social distance as much as possible. Face masks are required at all times, regardless of vaccination status on school buses and on any school-sponsored transportation.

We at Nazareth RHS believe the best way to combat the spread of COVID-19 is to do so with a focus on 'Collective Responsibility.' As we continue this journey together, we must be selfless in keeping each other safe, mindful of our peers and neighbors, and vigilant in our focus on personal (and public) accountability.

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## **Health and Safety:**

We acknowledge the safety and security of all stakeholders as our foremost priority. We make considerations based on health and safety and how each decision will impact the health and safety of all stakeholders. It is our duty to (regardless of learning model) educate stakeholders on preventive measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to implement procedures (at our school) to ensure that safety is widespread. The following enhanced safety measures will be present at Nazareth RHS (upon the return of students, faculty, and staff to in-school learning):

- Enhanced Cleaning:** Teachers/Staff will also be responsible for maintaining daily classroom health and hygiene. Students will be provided with an opportunity to clean their hands as they enter each classroom with hand sanitizer. Students will also be provided with an antibacterial wipe to clean the seat they will be occupying in class as an extra layer of precaution.
- Wellness Screening:** The school has employed Fever Free to employ a health screening platform for easy and convenient screen prior to arrival at Nazareth RHS. Students are able to take their temperature before leaving for school each day and notify the school of symptoms via this platform every day before they will be allowed to enter the building. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to stay home if they feel any symptoms of illness.

**Fever Free**, the health screening application will communicate with the school whether an individual has:

- Knowingly been in close contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has had symptoms of COVID-19.
- Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of 100.0 F.
- Has traveled internationally or to one of the state's on New York's travel advisory list.

Anyone who registers a temperature of 100.0 or higher will be asked to remain home.

If a student becomes ill and/or develops a temperature while in school, they will be placed in a designated area with a staff member until that student's family has been notified and the student has been sent home/picked up.

All administration, faculty and staff will participate in the health screening each day before entering the school building. Any employee who registers a temperature should stay home or will be sent home.

Students who fail to complete their wellness screening in the morning will be asked to complete a temperature check upon arrival.

Based on the diagnostic of the wellness check, a student or staff member may be required to provide the school with a medical clearance note prior to returning.

**Sanitary Practices:**

Students and faculty will be asked to bring and wear precautionary face masks (PPE) all day in school.

Latex gloves are available for students and staff in the general office. Trash bins are placed on each floor and at each exit (to discard used/old PPEs and gloves).

Students will wait in line outside the bathroom until they are permitted to enter to avoid crowding and keep social distancing. Bathrooms will be adequately stocked with hand soap, toilet paper and paper towels. Hot water will be available to students/staff at all times. Every common area will be disinfected daily.

When entering a room, all classrooms will have a hand sanitizing station and each student will be provided a disinfectant wipe to wipe down their own desk prior to class instruction.

Additional supplies - Automatic Hand-Sanitizer Dispensers, PPE and gloves will be available in the General Office and at the entrance of the building for student/staff use.

Disinfectant Spray will also be provided in each subsequent classroom and used by our maintenance team.

Deliveries will be sanitized prior to opening and all opened packaging will be discarded immediately. Plexiglass will border the school's security and office areas.

**Water Fountains:**

Students will not be permitted use of the school's spout water fountains. Students will be allowed to have in their possession personal water bottles, for daily use and may refill in the hands-free dispenser attached to the water fountains.

**Student Entrance:**

Students will be permitted to enter the building 15 minutes prior to their classes starting.

**Visitor Access:**

Visitor-Access (including parents) will be limited to essential-purpose visits only. Approved visitors will be by appointment only. All adults entering the building will need to show their vaccination card or display a negative test to the front desk. All essential visitors will be stopped at the front desk and permitted to enter after their temperature check has proven they are within

school policy guidelines (below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit), they have completed a symptom-based questionnaire, and they are equipped with a face mask.

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## **Facilities Guidance:**

Nazareth is currently designed to follow health guidance related to social distancing and other safety measures that will be put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. We acknowledge the vital importance of maximizing protections throughout the physical spaces that students and staff members occupy and have configured them in a way that promotes social distancing and the COVID-19 prevention. The following accommodations are in place.

Modified Classrooms:	All classrooms have been properly measured to the new 3-foot social distancing standard. For safety assurance. In instances of necessity, we will utilize our common areas (gymnasium, cafeteria) to accommodate possible larger groups.
Signage:	Social Distancing signage, markers, and stickers are in full view to help promote social distancing and health awareness.
Bathroom Use:	Students will be permitted to use the restroom one-at-a-time and respect their peers (in patiently waiting) while maintaining social distancing protocol. Faculty/Staff will be present to provide elevated hall supervision. Students will also be educated to wait until the restroom is vacant before using it.
Hallways:	Nazareth has increased our transition time from 3 to 5 minutes in between classes. During any such exchange between classes, students, faculty, and staff are required to wear face masks to help further promote a healthy environment.
Handshaking:	To maintain social distancing protocol, students, and faculty/staff members are prohibited from engaging their peers and/or colleagues in any contacted-related greeting.
Fire Code Compliance:	We will continue to comply with the requirements of the 2020 New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (BC), except as specified in 19 NYCRR 1221.2(d).
Emergency Drills:	Nazareth will conduct standard operations and procedures to the best of its abilities without deviating from current requirements. We acknowledge that Fire (evacuation) Drills and Lockdown Drills are required by Education Law and regulation and the Fire Code and they must be conducted without exceptions.

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## **Monitoring / Reporting / Containment / Testing:**

Monitoring: Faculty and staff are responsible for making a conscious effort to detect possible student/peer symptoms, ailments, fatigue, and illnesses and report them to administration immediately. They will be escorted by an Administrative Member to a secure location for further medical evaluation.

Parents are asked to keep their child home if they are experience any underlying viral symptoms. This sentiment is required of staff as well. This will ensure that students/staff who may not have a fever (but are possibly experiencing other symptoms) have their access to peers and school surroundings limited. School administration will then follow up with parents/staff regarding their condition.

Reporting & Containment:

### **In the Event of Symptomatic Students and/or Personnel:**

Upon arrival, and after a temperature check has been administered, a faculty/staff member or student exhibits an elevated temperature (of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or above) they will not be permitted access to the building. Students will be ushered to a nearby isolation room and parents will be contacted soon thereafter to pick them up. Faculty/staff members who exhibit similar symptoms will be informed of their obligation to exit school grounds and seek medical attention. The matter will be handled as privately as possible. The student/teacher/staff member will be asked to have a COVID-19 test administered and a note from a doctor clearing them to return to school. In any case, a student or teacher/staff member must receive (and present) a negative COVID-19 test and be symptom free before returning to school.

Our closest free testing site is located at:

NYC Health + Hospitals/South Shore HS

**Address:** [6565 Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn NY, NY 11236](#)

**Phone:** [\(844\) 692-4692](tel:(844)692-4692)

### **In the Event of a Positive COVID-19 Test Result:**

In the case of a positive COVID-19 test result of a student or faculty/staff member, Nazareth will contact the appropriate state and local health departments. If the nurse is unable, an Administrator or representative of the school will administer protocol. We will also seek to retrace the steps of the faculty/staff member/student and have maintenance disinfect the work area and all other areas the faculty/staff member/student occupied throughout within that given timeframe. We will notify our school community (and all stakeholders) and inform any student/staff/faculty member that is a close contact and needs to self-quarantine. Once more, a student, teacher/staff member, or those conducting a self-quarantine must receive clearance from a doctor and present a negative COVID-

19 test (or be fever-free for 24 hours plus have 10 days pass since symptoms started before returning to school.

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### **Closure & Crisis Management:**

In the event of a spread (of the virus) amongst those in our Nazareth family, or a second, more extreme wave of COVID-19 throughout the city/state, we, as a school, will, once again, cease in-school operations and transition (fully) to distance learning. Students will work remotely, from their homes, and all families will be continuously updated on the status of the situation.

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### **Attendance:**

Regular attendance is imperative to a student's success. Students are given a schedule every semester that they must adhere to. Students have an exchange of classes and are given 5 minutes between the end and start of their next class.

Students are instructed to stay home if they are feeling sick. Often mild symptoms such as a runny nose or backache are mistaken for other illnesses and have turned out to be COVID-19. Students, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff are encouraged to be as cautious as possible if they have any symptom or feeling of illness and to stay home until all symptoms have receded.

Students who become ill with COVID-19 or are home sick while being cautious with potential COVID-19 symptoms will not be penalized according to standard school attendance/lateness policies. However, students are responsible for making up any missed assignments in order to receive credit for the course.

Any student who needs to quarantine at home due to a positive COVID-19 test or a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will have access to classes remotely during that time. This is the policy for quarantine only, and not for individual sick days.

A parent/legal guardian is required to call the school no later than 9:00 AM to report a student's absence for the day of the absence. Please call (718) 763-1100, ext. 225.

Our school attendance policy will not deviate based on distance learning, in-school learning, or hybrid/blended models. Occurrences of lateness and missed classes will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

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### **Athletics:**

All student-athletes playing indoor sports are required to wear masks as tolerated during practice and competition. Student-athletes and coaches are to wear masks and be socially distanced on the bench and during non-competitive times, including timeouts and any halftime or break. Should another school's student-athlete test positive for COVID-19, Nazareth will be notified immediately and our student-



athletes and their families will be informed as to what the quarantine policy will be, depending on the presence of masks by both parties and vaccination status.

For outdoor sports student-athletes should wear masks and be social distanced while on the bench regardless of vaccination status. Coaches should be wearing mask regardless of indoor or outdoor competition.

### **Quarantine for Students and Staff Identified as Close Contacts to Someone with COVID-19:**

In the event there is a positive case in a classroom, students or staff may be asked to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19. Students or staff who are:

- At least 12 years old, fully vaccinated\* and not showing symptoms may continue to attend school in person. Out of an abundance of caution, these students are encouraged to take a COVID-19 test three to five days after exposure.
- At least 12 years old, fully vaccinated\* and showing symptoms will be directed to quarantine for 10 calendar days.
- Unvaccinated will be directed to quarantine for 10 calendar days. On Day 5 of their quarantine, students or staff may take a lab-based molecular COVID-19 test (PCR test), and with a negative result, return to attending school in person after Day 7. Schools should verify negative test results.
- Fully recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the past three months and show no symptoms of COVID-19 since the current exposure may continue to attend school in person. Three months is measured from the date a person first had COVID-19 symptoms or, if they had no symptoms, the date of their first positive diagnostic test.

An individual is fully vaccinated two weeks after a single-dose vaccine or second dose of a two-dose vaccine, where the vaccine has received emergency approval from the FDA or World Health Organization. All individuals identified as close contacts to someone with COVID-19 must continue daily symptom monitoring through Day 14. If symptoms occur, they should isolate themselves, contact their health care provider, get tested for COVID-19 and must not attend school.

### **Compliance:**

We fully expect our study body and faculty/staff members to comply with our enhanced safety measures and operational protocol. Those that fail to adhere to newly instituted policies will not be permitted access to the building and may be subject to further recourse, thereafter. Administration reserves the right to dismiss a student who fails to comply with school policies (per the student handbook).

Once more, we at Nazareth believe the best way to combat the spread of COVID-19 is to do so with a focus on 'Collective Responsibility.' As we continue this journey together, we must be selfless in keeping each other safe, mindful of our peers, and vigilant in our focus on personal (and public) accountability.