

NUASIN

NEXT GENERATION CHARTER SCHOOL

2021 Reopening Plan

NUASIN Next Generation Charter School

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Please note this plan is pending state approval and assumes public health requirements are met as set by local, state, and federal authorities. It is subject to change given the uncertainties of COVID-19.

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Welcome and Overview

Welcome back family! NUASIN Next Generation is so excited to have your families and scholars back for safe return to in person instruction. The last several months have been hard. We appreciate your support through some of the most difficult times we have seen.

The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to keep scholars and staff healthy and safe, be responsive to scholar needs, and maximize in-person teaching and learning. To assist schools and districts across New York State in achieving these goals, NYSED has compiled this guide based on the CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools and American Academy of Pediatrics' COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools.

This reopening plan is intended to be used as the standard for how NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will function and/or pivot directions for safety. The CDC recommends a layered approach to mitigation strategies in schools, based on levels of community transmission, such as wearing masks, COVID-19 screening testing, cohorting, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

As transmission levels rise, NUASIN will be prepared to take steps such as increasing physical distance to minimize transmission and being prepared to pivot to remote instruction as necessary. NUASIN will continue to monitor the CDC, NYSED, DOH and NYCDOE guidance for updates.

We are happy to report that the 2020-2021 school, when in hybrid, was a very safe environment. For the 2021-2022 school year, NUASIN will return to 100% in person instruction.

Enclosed you will find the NUASIN Next Generation Charter School plan for re-opening for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan set forth in this document adheres to all of the guidelines set forth by the New York State Education Department, The New York City Department of Education and the Department of Health. This plan has been created by the school's committee on re-entry:

Kurt Davidson, Principal K-8
Melissa Alston, Managing Director of Operations K-12
Kisha Perez, Manager of Business Operations K-12
Genai Goldsmith, Sr. Operations Associate K-12
Marcella Adams, Assistant Principal K-2
Joi Culler, Assistant Principal 3-4
Demetria Houghton, Assistant Principal 5-8
Anthony Brown, Assistant Principal 9-12
Rowena Capuno, Assistant Principal 9-12

Additionally, the needs and feedback of other key stakeholders have been incorporated into this plan, including community partners, staff, faculty, and families.

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NUASIN Next Generation Charter School is committed to ensuring the safety of our full school community, how we will ensure this, is outlined below.

Definitions of Key Terms in this Plan:

- **Remote** - Refers to scholars who are learning when not physically present in the building. Classes can be a mix of live streaming instruction from the classroom, live Zoom classes and independent work assigned by teachers.
- **Hybrid** - Refers to a schedule where scholars are learning through a mix of in person learning and virtual learning.
- **MBO** - Manager of Business Operations
- **MDO** - Managing Director of Operations
- **CDC** - Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- **DOH** - Department of Health
- **NYCDOE** - New York City Department of Education

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Health, Safety, and Operations

Health and Safety

Closure of School Facility and In-person Instruction

NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will comply with the guidance and directives of the Department of Health regarding identification, isolation, and closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is important to note that a confirmed positive case within the school community is not an automatic trigger to close school.

School closure can be initiated by the school at any time if the school deems closure necessary based on the safety of staff and scholars. Potential school closure protocols could include:

- Dismissing scholars and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
- Dismissing scholars and most staff for 7-10 days. This long-term dismissal allows for the appropriate quarantine period necessary for those exposed to the virus without being vaccinated.
- Dismissing scholars and most staff for an indefinite period of time. This long and unknown period of time may be enacted if schools are mandated to close based on new mandates as a result of increased transmission rates in NUASIN's zipcode, zone or borough.

As a school community, we have worked very hard to deliver safety expectations for our school that are far beyond the minimum requirements. However, for those staff members who are at increased risk for severe illness from Covid-19 as per the CDC [guidelines](#) should contact the Managing Director of Operations to formally request additional accommodations. All accommodation requests will be reviewed by the MDO (and in some cases the school's counsel) and categories for which accommodations will be provided will be articulated to staff as necessary. Accommodation requests will be granted (or denied) in writing and will be vetted by the school's counsel when deemed necessary by the MDO.

Communication to Families

The school will utilize our family communication systems for all school closures; PowerSchool and School Messenger. A notification will also appear on the school's website to indicate school closure details. If New York City Covid-19 infection rates increase to a percentage that mandates the New York City School District to close, we will follow this mandate and our school will also close for the duration of the directive. All directions provided to families will be available in multiple languages.

Internal Isolation Protocol

Teachers and/or staff that have identified that a scholar may be exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms will call the nurse to notify her of the scholar's illness. The nurse will instruct the teacher on the directions of how to assist the scholar and what location the scholar should report to. Based on the symptoms described to the nurse, the nurse will either direct the

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scholar to the nurse's office or to the isolation room. The operations team will assist the school nurse as needed with supervision of a scholar while in the isolation room and/or communicating with parents/guardians when necessary. Staff and scholars will be properly masked and socially distanced at all times while in the isolation room; masks, goggles or face screen, gloves and a gown. If a scholar is deemed by the nurse to have Covid like symptoms, the scholar's parent, guardian or approved adult pick up must come to pick up the scholar within 1 hour of the school's call to notify the parent. Scholars will be escorted from the isolation room to the parent/guardian upon their arrival at the designated school entrance to limit visitors within the school building. The parent/guardian will be instructed to call their health care provider, or if they do not have a healthcare provider to follow up with a local clinic or urgent care center. A list of resources to assist the family with getting the scholar assessed and tested can be found [here](#). All reports by the school nurse will be made in compliance with HIPAA, FERPA and the DOH. Additionally, any staff member in the building that arrives at the school or develops Covid-19 symptoms throughout the day will follow the same protocol as mentioned above for scholars. The dance room on the first floor near the main office will function dually as the isolation room. When the isolation room is needed, dance classes will be relocated temporarily to accommodate the need for isolation. Dance classes will be invited back to occupy the dance room only when the room has been thoroughly sanitized.

Safety Drills

Our school has written a protocol to conduct required school safety drills with modifications to ensure social distancing between scholars and staff. The MBO will conduct BRT team meetings to ensure staff are aware of the changes to drill protocols. Drills will be conducted as normally mandated by the New York City Department of Education.

Vaccination

The CDC states that "vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the Covid-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports."

NUASIN is following all of the City and State mandates in regards to Covid-19 vaccinations. NUASIN currently tracks the vaccination status of all teachers. NUASIN will also begin to track the status of scholars who are vaccinated starting August 30, 2021 for those eligible to receive the vaccination from ages 12 years old and up.

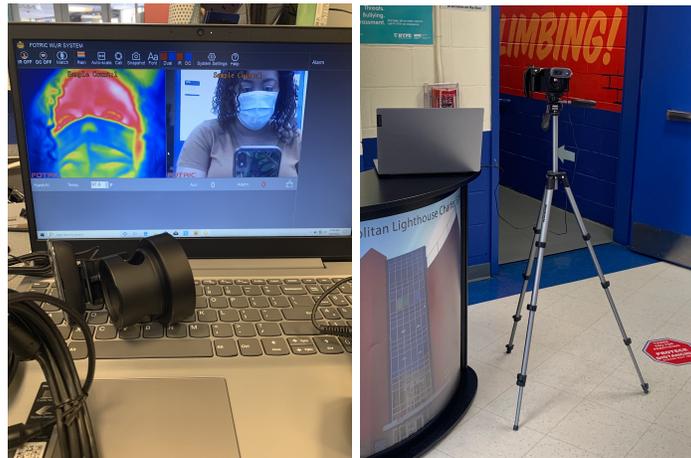
People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have [symptoms](#). However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Preventative Health Measures including PPE

The school will look a lot different than in the past. Change is necessary in order to ensure the safety of scholars, families, and staff. All DOH and CDC guidelines will be followed inside of the school building at all times. Scholars are required to come to school with a properly fitting mask every day to ensure that they are protected from possible Covid-19 exposure on their travels to school. All scholars and staff are required to have a properly fitting mask to enter the building. Additionally, if a hybrid model is adopted for the start of school and parents identify their scholar as being high risk, accommodation requests should be made with the Manager of Business Operations directly by email or phone. For those scholars who are at increased risk for severe illness from Covid-19 as per the CDC [guidelines](#), the school recommends that if families are able to keep their scholars home for full remote learning, that they do.

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Those that arrive at the school without a mask, will be provided a mask by the school upon arrival. Masks must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded. Guidelines in regards to mask selection, how to wear masks and how to wash masks can be found on the CDC website [here](#). Upon entry into the building, all scholars and staff will be screened through a Thermal Imaging System. This system consists of a camera on a tripod and a computer. This screening will check for elevated body temperatures. If elevated body temperature is displayed, the operations team will utilize the manual forehead thermometer to check the staff member's or scholar's temperature again. If a staff member is found to have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, they will not be allowed to gain entry into the building and will be immediately sent to refer to their general doctor for clearance before they will be allowed to return into the building. If a scholar is found to have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and their parent is attempting to drop them off at school, the operations team will direct the parent to take their child to their general doctor for clearance before they will be allowed to return into the building. If a scholar is found to have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and they arrive at the school by walking, on the yellow bus service, or through public transportation, the scholar will be taken to the isolation room immediately.



The isolation room is a room on the first floor of the school building, closest to the lobby, where scholars who have shown signs of Covid-19 will be placed until their parents can pick them up. This room, when a scholar occupies the room, will always be supervised by a staff member. Additionally, the windows in this room will always be open to ensure proper ventilation. This room is different from the nurse's office, as those scholars experiencing Covid-19 symptoms need to be isolated from other scholars who need to check in with the nurse because they may have preexisting conditions and/or other non-related illnesses such as a stomachache. If a scholar presents symptoms that would deem them necessary to enter the isolation room, the nurse will evaluate the scholar before parents are called. If it is necessary for the scholar to be isolated, an authorized adult must come to pick up your scholar within 1 hour of being notified by the school.

Parents are required to send their scholars to school with a well fitting mask each day, however, if a scholar arrives at the school without a mask, a mask will be provided to the scholar by the school on an as needed basis. The school will maintain a minimum of 30 days of PPE stock on hand throughout the school year as a precautionary measure.

Monitoring of Health Conditions and Containment of Potential Transmission of COVID-19

Parents, we are counting on you! If your scholar wakes up feeling ill please do not send them to school. We understand that this may be a hard task, as scheduling conflicts can arise as a result. However, if we all commit to this, our school community will remain as healthy as possible. Please also take your scholar's temperature daily before sending them to

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school. If your child's temperature is 100 or above, please call the school to speak to the Manager of Business Operations and do not send your scholar to school. You should visit the doctor and update the MBO on the prognosis. Only the MBO can approve your scholar to return to school with appropriate medical clearance, once notification has been received. The MBO will maintain a school Covid-19 prevention log. This log will be tracked daily and will provide clearance tracking for staff, visitors and scholars.

As of September 28, 2020, all parents and visitors must register for our daily health screener. This health screener clearance will be mandatory for your scholar's entry into the building. You will receive an email at 5am every morning. The health screener must be filled out and sent ahead of the arrival of your scholar to the building. The daily survey consists of four questions. If you are clear to enter into the building based on the answers to your four questions, the website will indicate that. Additionally based on your questions, the survey may deem you not eligible to enter into the building. If this happens, please call the Manager of Business Operations for follow up and next steps. If you do not call the Manager of Business Operations (MBO) the MBO will call you by the end of the day. The third potential outcome of the survey is a "needs review." Based on your answers, if you are given a needed review answer, please wait for a resolution to your survey before sending your scholar to school. Daily, the MBO will review all surveys in the "needs review" category from 5:30am-8:30am daily. After the MBO reviews the answers to your questions, the MBO will determine your eligibility to come into the building. Once completed, you will receive an email indicating whether you have been given approval to enter the building or if you will be denied access. If you are denied access to the building, expect a call from the MBO by the end of the day with next steps.

We will continue the school's protocol called the "Sick Scholar Protocol." This protocol can be found in the scholar handbook for the 2021-2022 school year and will be available on orientation days in August in paper form. This protocol outlines the guidelines that the school has created for sick children. In general, if your scholar is sick you must utilize caution for others and keep them at home. All scholars that look visually sick, will be sent home upon arrival to the school. This is a practice that we will continue to follow as we have done in past years. The Sick Scholar Protocol outlines with detail, what documentation and the approval process by the Manager of Business Operations, to allow a child back into school. The school will not house visibility sick scholars in the building under any circumstance. Approved (by the Manager of Business Operations) clearance from a medical professional must be obtained and submitted for re-entry into the school building after an incident of your scholar being visibly sick has been identified. The MBO will maintain a tracker for all scholars who show signs of illness and approval for re-entry into the building pending the approval of appropriate and acceptable medical clearance. The sick scholar protocol can be referenced [here](#).

Infected Individuals

Our school nurse will make all determinations in regards to symptomatic scholars in the school building. The nurse, in partnership with the MBO will make a determination in regards to next steps and requirements to return into the school building after symptoms are present. Potentially infected staff will be sent home by the MBO, scholars will be placed in the isolation room until they can be picked up. Scholars must be picked up within 2 hours of notification to the scholar's parents, if they are placed in the isolation room (see sick scholar protocol). If a scholar is confirmed positive for Covid-19, regardless of vaccination status, NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will follow the DOH recommendation for a 10 day period of isolation for a probable case based on symptoms. If an individual who is vaccinated tests negative, they are not required to quarantine. In the case of a positive confirmed test from a staff member or scholar, please see page 6 under closure of school facility and in person instruction. Documentation from a healthcare provider indicating symptom resolution, or if a Covid-19 test is positive, release from isolation, indicated by there CDC guidelines will be required for scholars to return to hybrid learning or to return to work for staff. Staff members should consult with the DOO for additional information in regards to time out of the building due to symptoms and/or positive Covid-19 testing.

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Exposed Individuals

Exposure or close contact, is defined as a being within 6 feet of a person who is confirmed to be infected with Covid-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, unless you have been fully vaccinated.

Being fully vaccinated mean:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, regardless of your age, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking all [precautions](#) until you are fully vaccinated.

Exposed or close contact scholars must remain home and immediately switch to remote learning if the scholars' symptoms allow for instruction to be productive and comfortable. Unless vaccinated, negative Covid-19 tests for an exposed scholar, as defined above, will not allow the scholar to return before the 10 day exposure quarantine period. The MBO will track this information and notify the parent/guardian of the approved return date to the school. If a staff member has been exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19, please contact the DOO for further instructions immediately. After the 10 days in isolation for positive cases and 10 days in isolation for exposure, documentation from a healthcare provider indicating symptom resolution indicated by the aforementioned guidelines or a negative test (for exposure only) will be required to return to in person learning for scholars and must first be approved by the MBO.

Contact Tracing Program and Communication

NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will provide our families with regular updates about health and safety, school scheduling and other necessary communications via Alma messenger, school messenger, written forms and on our website. Scholar confidentiality will be maintained at all times in accordance with HIPAA and FERPA guidelines.

The Manager of Business Operations will be the main contact upon the identification of a positive Covid-19 test for scholars and staff for K-12. The MBO is Kisha Perez. Kisha can be reached at kisha.perez@nngcs.org.

Contact Tracing

The DOH will notify the school of any cases that affect the school identified by the NYC Contact Tracing Corps. NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will not try to determine who is to be excluded from school based on contact without guidance and direction from the local department of health once notification has been made. NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will cooperate with state and local health department contact tracing by knowing who may have had contact at school with a confirmed case by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records of scholars and staff members.
- Ensuring scholar schedules are up to date.
- Keep an internal log of all scholar and staff symptoms/confirmed Covid-19 cases and identified exposures.
- Keep health screener data archived and up to date.
- Keeping a log of any visitors which includes date, time and where in the school they visited.
- Assisting local health departments in tracing all contacts of the individual at school in accordance with the protocol, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

Closure Triggers

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One confirmed case of a staff member or scholar who was in physical attendance in the building will not automatically trigger the school to close. The determination of school closure will be determined by the Executive Director and communicated through the MBO. If the building is closed due to Covid-19 or a specific class or grade is switched to remote learning, remote instruction will commence the following morning.

NUASIN Next Generation Charter School will follow the DOE guidance to determine additional external factors that may cause the school to switch to remote learning. Some of these factors may include but are not limited to, an increased absenteeism or increased illness in the school community (even remotely), increased Covid-19 confirmed cases within the school's zip code and overall resurgence of Covid-19 in New York over the Governor's 4% indicator.

Operations

- Operations team and coordinators will:
 - Ensure all families have supplies needed to switch to fully remote learning successfully.
 - Ensure all families have technology necessary to switch to fully remote learning successfully.
 - Switch all attendance tracking to remote protocols.
 - Notify school nurse, DoH, DoE School Foods, OPT of school closure, Woodycrest afterschool partners, DoE provided paraprofessionals and the school's authorizer.
 - Notify the custodial team of school closure and request deep cleaning of all rooms.

Facilities

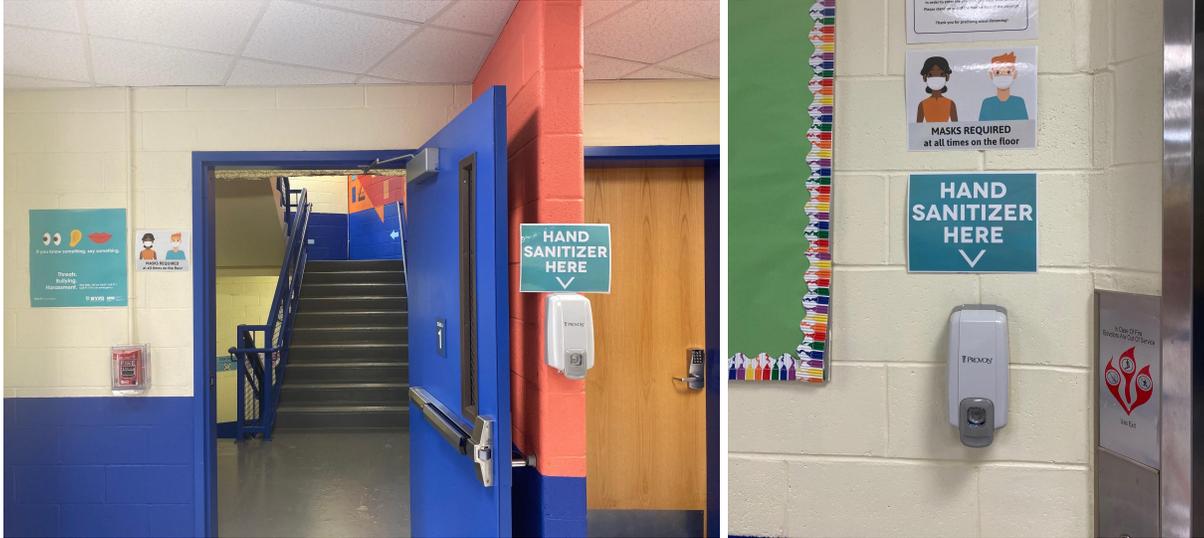
The safety and security of our scholars is our top priority. We understand that as parents you trust us to keep your children safe and we don't take this task lightly. We realize that culturally, a lot will change for our scholars in the school building. One way we plan to help ease the uncertainty of how our new protocols will look and feel, we have created a number of instructional videos that will demonstrate how to safely put on a mask, wash your hands, utilize hand sanitizer, get your temperature taken, how to safely enter the building, how to safely exit the building and how to socially distance.

Modifications to classrooms to ensure social distancing have been made and comply with all FDNY fire codes.

We have switched our standard air filters in our air and heating units to MREV 13 filters to increase particle filtration and air quality in our building.

Hand sanitizer stations have been installed in the multipurpose room, lobby, and all hallways to ensure increased access. The school has increased hand soap to ensure a generous stock as handwashing will increase significantly as per the direction of the school and the guidelines of the CDC and DOH.

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As much as the weather allows, we will keep all classroom and stairwell windows open throughout the day to increase ventilation.

Our A and B stairwells in the building have always been designated as up (A) and down (B) stairwells. This protocol will continue, as it is the most conducive to the safety of our scholars, to keep traffic flowing all in the same direction.



Another precautionary measure that the school has taken is in regards to school visitors. Visitors that are not required to enter the building will not be allowed into the building. Authorized visitors that must come into the building must wear a mask, have their temperature taken, and utilize hand sanitizer upon entering the building. While this is a big change for us, we are confident that parents will understand the level of caution we are exercising to ensure the maximum protection of our scholars in the building.

Water fountains will only be open and accessible to fill up water bottles, not to drink from directly. Every scholar will be provided a reusable water bottle at the start of school to ensure that everyone has the ability to safely access water. If a scholar forgets their reusable water bottle, cups will be available in the main office.

Another new protocol that we have developed is "Stop and Clean." Stop and Clean happens three times a day, "Stop and Clean" will be announced schoolwide over the loudspeaker. During this time, teachers will direct their scholars to stop and clean their work area. Every classroom will be equipped with a bucket of disinfectant wipes for this purpose. Stop and

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Clean will also happen in the main lobby, where the office staff will clean and sanitize all of the common areas of the lobby and entrance to the building. This will not only help us stay safe in the school but build a culture around safety.

We have also partnered with our contracted cleaning service for further precautions. Every day at 10 am and 2 pm, a trained custodial staff member will utilize our electrostatic disinfecting machine to disinfect the elevator, the stairwells, the restrooms, and all hallways in the building. Additionally, after all scholars and staff have left the building every evening, a trained custodian staff member will utilize the electrostatic disinfecting machine to disinfect the aforementioned areas in addition to all classrooms in the building.

PX300ES Cordless Electrostatic Backpack Sprayer

- Easy to train, complete system designed around optimal disinfecting and sanitizing chemistries.
- Maximize Efficiency with the ability to Disinfect or Sanitize up to 4x greater surface area than traditional cleaning programs in no additional time.
- Reduce infection rates through more proactive and comprehensive disinfection procedures.
- Touchless Disinfection or Sanitization of full rooms in under 3 minutes
- Lightweight and portable
- Quiet - Suitable for use in any environment
- Removable tank holds 2.25 gallons
- 10,000 sq/ft of coverage per tank
- Save Time, Save Money
- Increased Performance
- **4 Hour** continuous run time lithium battery
- Optimal Spraying distance of 5-8 feet



Child Nutrition

The nutrition of our scholars is a priority for our school. Healthy and nourished scholars are happy and attentive scholars that are ready to learn and grow. Our school utilizes the New York City Department of Education's School Foods Program to provide food for scholars. With that said, our school will continue to follow School Food's direction for providing breakfast and lunch to scholars. Our scholars will have daily access to cold breakfast and hot lunch in the cafeteria. When meals are served in person at the school, sharing of food amongst scholars will not be permitted. Additionally, teachers will ensure that scholars wash their hands before and after meals are served. Teachers and support breakfast/lunch staff will have access to scholar allergies via our scholar information system, PowerSchool, and will be updated by the MBO at the start of school to ensure all teachers are aware of food allergies for those scholars in their direct care. If there is a pivot to remote learning, cold breakfast and lunch will be available to scholars from the New York City Department of Education's School Foods Program, however, the location of such meals may be at a different location. If the pick up location for meals are not designated at our school, a message with the specific address and instructions to pick up meals will be sent out to all families.

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Transportation

We, as a school, recognize that parents rely heavily on reliable and safe transportation for your scholar/s. Our school utilizes the New York City Department of Education's Office of Pupil Transportation to provide our scholars with bus transportation. Whether our school reopens for in-person or hybrid schedules, we will look to the Office of Pupil Transportation to set forth bus disinfection measures. Additionally, we will look to the Office of Pupil Transportation to hold our bus companies (Pioneer and Grandpa) accountable for enforcing social distancing on the bus, providing proper ventilation, taking temperatures of scholars at bus stops before they get on the bus and wearing masks on the bus. If your scholar utilizes bus service, they must wear a mask on the bus at all times. Please note, if the Office of Pupil Transportation does not provide public schools with bus transportation then our school will also not have bus service to or from our school.

If your scholar is of an age where you feel comfortable with them walking to the school and a distance that is reasonable, you may want to consider having them walk to school to reduce the chance of exposure from Covid-19.

Budget and Fiscal Matters

NUASIN Next Generation Charter School is in good fiscal standing with the appropriate resources to ensure a healthy and safe school year for all staff and scholars. The school is asking, however, that our parents stay committed to the following in order to ensure the maximum amount of funding is allocated to our school:

- Fill out the annual school food lunch application form. (This form allows the City and State to allocate much-needed funds to our school based on the demographics of our families)
- Maintain consistent attendance in-person school (This ensures that we receive the maximum amount of funds for scholars)

Staffing

For the 2021-2022 school year, NUASIN Next Generation has been very thoughtful and intentional about increasing our teacher, leader and staff count to ensure optimal support of our scholars as we embark on our 100% in person instruction model. More specifically, we have added two more Assistant Principals in the K-8, one more Assistant Principal in the high school, an Operations Associate of Technology, two K-12 Co-Directors of College Readiness, one more ELL Teacher and two more SpEd Teachers in K-12.

The aforementioned additions to our organization chart will ensure that we have adequate staffing to support the increased needs of our scholars and families during this time. Whether in person, remote, or a hybrid of the two, our schools are equipped to ensure that we are meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of our scholars and families.