

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

(1) IN GENERAL - A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency's website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

For each mitigation strategy listed below, please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

LEA Response Table

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Anyone may wear a mask at any time if they so choose. The CDC and NJ Department of Health advise that masks be worn after close contact exposure and if infected (testing positive). Individuals who need to mask due to a COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure are expected to monitor themselves. The district will not be contact tracing or enforcing masking unless extreme outbreak situations arise.

2) Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Individuals that are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 while at school will be directed to the school's Health Office, may be required to wear a mask while being evaluated, and sent home for medical evaluation including COVID-19 testing, at the discretion of the school nurse.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The school district recognizes that proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette can help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette will be taught to students in appropriate educational settings in school.

- 4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected with appropriate registered EPA products at least daily. HVAC systems will be maintained and operated to maximize ventilation and filtration within the specifications of each individual piece of equipment. Air filtration will be supplemented with stand alone air filtration units.

- 5) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district will not be contact tracing or enforcing masking unless extreme outbreak situations arise.

- 6) Diagnostic and screening testing
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Screening testing will not be conducted in schools. Individuals who are exposed or who have COVID will be provided best practice guidance for how to use home tests to inform personal health decisions and when it is appropriate to return to community. Test kits will be made available to staff and families through the nurse's office.

- 7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Periodic communication providing information and recommendations regarding vaccination will be provided including newsletters, emails, and directions to sources such as the CDC. The district will also partner with the Bernards Township Health Department and advertise the vaccination opportunities that the Bernards Township Health Department is making available locally to staff and families.

- 8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The Bernards Township School District Department of Special Services will work with families of children with disabilities to provide appropriate accommodations with respect to health and safety needs on an individual basis through the child's Individualized Education Plan.