

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Fairfield Township School

Date 06/2023

Date Revised : 06/2023

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), 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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

It is optional for students and staff members to wear masks inside of the school building for the 2022-2023 school year. Updates will be made as DOH guidelines are revisited.

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

Students will resume standard scheduling unless there are changes to requirements based on the health status of the region. Best practices are regulated by CDC and NJDOE regulations and will change accordingly. There will be limited sharing of communal materials, students will have individual materials and laptops assigned to them.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

Students and staff will continue to regularly wash hands throughout the day and before and after meals. The school will continue to provide hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. Classrooms without sinks will also be provided with hand sanitizer. Staff will review proper cleanliness protocols with students at the beginning of the school year and as needed. Best practices are regulated by CDC and NJ DOE regulations and will change accordingly.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

The same contracted cleaning company will be employed by our school. There will be two cleaning shifts (day & evening). As part of the cleaning effort, the cleaning company will display enhanced and intensive daily cleaning efforts as recommended by CDC and NJ DOH regarding COVID-19 and all health concerns. In addition, upgraded cleaning products to disinfect will be administered by the cleaning staff. Classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas will be cleaned daily throughout the day. Classrooms with sinks will be provided with soap. Classrooms without sinks will be provided with hand sanitizer. Classrooms, offices and communal locations will be cleaned each evening, Bathrooms and cafeteria will be cleaned on a regular schedule. Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout the building.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

When deemed appropriate, the school will adhere to contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, Local, and territorial, or Tribal Health Departments as appropriate. Contact tracing, quarantining, testing will all be aligned to the state and local health department mandates. The nurse and administration will keep staff and the community updated on any changes in procedures.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The school will continue to adhere to the diagnostic and screening testing according to the CDC guidelines and Department of Health regulations as appropriate. The District has contracted with the Rover testing program to offer on site testing.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:

The school will continue to display efforts in providing vaccinations to educators, or other staff, and students according to the CDC guidelines and the Department of Health regulations and recommendations.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:

Fairfield Township School District will continue to ensure students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of IEP and 504 Plans. The district will provide reasonable accommodations for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions, or medically necessary exemptions from COVID mitigation protocols. The district is committed to ensuring the appropriate delivery of Special Education and Related Services to students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible. Within the standards of IDEA, Fairfield Township School will ensure our obligation to the delivery of special education and related services, including Extended School Year (ESY) services to students with disabilities.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

The LEA will utilize new and current diagnostic programs to determine skill acquisition and ensure learning continuity through K-12 curriculum adjustments, alignment of learning materials, deployment of multiple learning delivery modalities, provision of corresponding training for teachers and school leaders, and proper orientation of parents or guardians of learners. Updated Scope & Sequence documents will emphasize that the broader review of the K to 12 curriculum remains ongoing. The experience for this school year will be used to inform and enrich curriculum review. The Curriculum and Instruction department will be tasked to monitor the implementation of curriculum and assessments and evaluate its effectiveness, making adjustments as needed. The LEA supports the streamlining of the K to 12 Curriculum to allow instruction amid challenging circumstances to focus on the most essential learning, addressing pre-requisite standards in remediation periods and offerings in the extended day programs.

To address students' social-emotional needs, the LEA will continue to implement a robust Character Education program, anchored in SEL lessons, along with Restorative Classroom practices. Teachers were trained in ACEs (adverse childhood events) and HCE (healing centered engagement) in which educators use strengths-based approaches to respond to stressors and support healing from trauma.

The Student Services Department will schedule classroom visits and be available for on-demand counseling. In addition, Student Support Services will continue our outreach efforts to support the staff and the community at large. Students will continue to receive free lunch and breakfast meals daily.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit):

The LEA will seek public comment and/or input from stakeholders by facilitating a community meeting that will promote the safe reopening plan and allow for opportunities for stakeholders to offer comments, concerns and suggestions in meeting formats. Furthermore, stakeholders will be asked to participate in a brief survey to ascertain their comfortability regarding the wearing of masks in schools.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)

The safe return to school plan will be communicated in English and Spanish in order to cater to the population demographics regarding our school community. The information will be shared in multiple languages through a range of communication efforts, including school website, class dojo, and school messenger alert, among others as appropriate.