

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

LEA Name: Old Tappan

Date: 10/2/2023

Date Revised: 10/2/2023

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:** Masks are optional for students, staff, and visitors in our school district. The Federal Order requiring masks on school buses was lifted as well, making them optional. We will continue to monitor guidance from the State and collaborate with the Health Department to monitor local data should districts be permitted to make additional decisions. We will continue to share updates as we receive them.
- B. **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):** The District will continue to adhere to the latest NJDOE/NJDOH guidelines (The Road Forward, June 2021). "Consider maintaining three feet of distance between students in classroom settings to the extent possible while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students." Students will return to schools in un-cohorted formats. Social distancing protocols will be implemented as much as possible. While our classrooms are being returned to their typical configurations, all instructional and non-instructional spaces will be configured to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent practicable while considering best instructional practices and the risk/benefit for the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of students and staff.
- C. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:** Hand sanitizer stations are located at main entrances in each building and throughout the schools. We have prepared and will maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol): in each classroom (for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer); at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets. Hand hygiene opportunities will be provided during the school day. Students will be reminded to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds: Upon arrival to school and before leaving school; Before and after eating; After using the bathroom; After blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing; and, When hands are visibly soiled. If washing with soap and water is not possible, it will be suggested to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer/wipes.
- D. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:** The custodians will disinfect all rooms every night. Adequate ventilation shall be ensured in indoor facilities, including operational heating and ventilation systems where appropriate. Filters must be maintained

and changed according to manufacturer's recommendations. When weather allows, windows should be opened to the most reasonable extent possible to allow for greater air circulation when air conditioning is not in use, unless doing so poses a safety or health risk. All room unit-ventilators and rooftop units are operable and in good repair. Units are maintained, and filters are changed per manufacturer's specifications. All windows are operable with opening restrictions for student and personnel safety. Air conditioner units and filters are maintained per manufacturer's specifications. Every instructional space has an air purifier and units are maintained and filters changed per manufacturer's specifications.

- E. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments:** School officials maintain communication with our Department of Education, Local Health Department, New Jersey Department of Education, and our School Physician to determine appropriate local guidelines and protocols, share information and resources on COVID-19 transmission and procedures in school settings.
- F. **Diagnostic and screening testing:** Families will be reminded of the COVID symptoms and will be responsible for screening their children daily before sending them to school. School newsletters will regularly remind families of this responsibility. School nurses are in regular contact with the School Physician and the Principals. When a student or staff member comes to the health office and presents symptoms typical of the COVID-19 disease, following the NJDOH guidelines, students will be placed safely and respectfully in isolation. This isolation will be supervised in a reasonable manner, maintaining appropriate physical distancing. Appropriate PPE will be worn to protect the staff member. The parent/guardian will be notified and instructed to pick up the child promptly. Upon being sent home, the student shall be in consultation with the family physician in order to determine the appropriate diagnosis and recommended treatment plan, which may result in a required COVID-19 test.
- G. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:** When conducting contact tracing, families may choose to inform the school nurse of a child's vaccination status, which will aid in determining the need for quarantine. When Bergen County hosts local vaccine sites, they will be shared with the community as information. Faculty and staff vaccination status has been collected and is maintained. Weekly, the school nurses submit the District's vaccination status to the New Jersey Department of Health.
- H. **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:** Students will be granted reasonable accommodations for their health and safety in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Accommodation plans will be written, given the proper documentation, in accordance with the allowances as outlined in Section 504 and/or special education.