

# Safe Return Plan Summary

June 20, 2022



**HACKENSACK  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

# Safe Return Plan Review

- School districts must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023 review and as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.
- Hackensack Public Schools and the Local Health Department (LHD) maintain close communication with each other throughout the year to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention and control measures, and to establish procedures for LHD notification and response to COVID-19 illness in school settings.



# Safe Return Plan Summary

**Current as of June 20, 2022**

- This presentation is intended to provide a summary of the Safe Return Plan. Please visit our District website to view this plan in its entirety.
- Please note this plan is subject to change based upon any revisions to the regulations set forth by the New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education, and/or gubernatorial executive orders.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

## A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

**Hackensack Public Schools is currently mask optional.** The mask optional status is subject to change during periods of elevated community transmission, during an active outbreak or a general increase in cases at a school and/or the district, and for specific classrooms or groups should temporary masking protocols be required to help control the outbreak/increase in cases.

Furthermore, masking will continue to be required in certain circumstances:

- After returning from isolation or quarantine – students and staff who return to school during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine will be required to mask.
- When illness occurs in school – students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school will wear a mask until they leave the premises.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

## B. Physical distancing

**During periods of elevated community transmission**, all classrooms, cafeterias, testing and therapy rooms at Hackensack Public schools will have students seated according to NJDOH regulations **between three and six feet apart wherever practicable**. When schools cannot maintain three to six feet of social distancing, schools, as deemed appropriate by Building Principals, will implement strategies to maximize opportunities to increase distance between students such as:

- Face desks in the same direction
- Avoid grouped seating arrangements
- Have students sit only on one side of the table
- Use physical barriers or desk shields



# Maintaining Health & Safety - Meals

**During periods of elevated community transmission**, for meals offered in cafeterias or other group dining areas, schools may implement other layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These strategies include:

- Maintaining physical distancing between students and staff, if possible.
- Considering alternatives to use of group dining areas such as eating in classrooms or outdoors.
- Staggering eating times to allow for greater physical distancing.
- Maintaining student cohorts and limiting mixing between groups, if possible.
- Avoiding offering self-serve food options.
- Discouraging students from sharing meals.
- Encouraging routine cleaning between groups.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

## C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students will continue to receive training and reinforcement on proper hand washing techniques with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Hand sanitizing stations containing at least 60% alcohol have been placed strategically in all classrooms, high population areas such as, offices, entrances/exits, restrooms, and cafeteria.

Signage on proper handwashing technique is posted in all bathrooms and above all hand washing stations.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

All classrooms, and other areas occupied by students or staff, shall be routinely cleaned and disinfected with an EPA-registered product for use against SARS-CoV-2.

All custodians have been trained in proper cleaning procedures.

Frequently touched areas such as doorknobs, lockers, water fountains, sinks, light switches, railings, elevators, lab equipment, etc. shall be cleaned multiple times per day whenever possible, but at least once daily.





# Maintaining Health & Safety

## D. Continued

HVAC equipment is regularly inspected, repaired, and replaced as required.

The District is actively installing new classroom unit ventilators, and improving HVAC systems for all instructional spaces over time with the current Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) project and new ESSER funds. These improvements should be completed within the next three years. The aforementioned improvements continue to be approved on Board meeting agendas throughout the year.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

## D. Continued

Schools will improve airflow to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. This will be achieved through several strategies:

- Bring in as much outdoor air as possible by opening windows and doors to increase outdoor airflow, where possible. Schools will not open windows or doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (such as falling, exposure to extreme temperatures, or triggering asthma symptoms), or if doing so would otherwise pose a security risk.
- Consider having activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

E. Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading.

All school nurses completed a contact tracing certification course. The School Nurse in consultation with the Building Principal shall establish measures for a system of open communication that allows staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure. If a staff member shall observe symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, communication will be from the staff member to the school nurse who will then notify the Principal and Director of Special Services who will then notify the Central Office and the LHD. The district will assist the LHD with contract tracing by identifying who the individuals were in close contact with.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

## F. Diagnostic and Screening Testing

- Parents/caregivers (and Staff) were asked to complete a COVID-19 screener attestation form at the beginning of the school year or commencement of their child's schooling (employment) to ensure that their child (they) will not attend school if they are ill.
- Parents/caregivers (Staff) are strongly encouraged to monitor their children (Self) for signs of illness on a daily basis. Further, parents/caregivers (staff) will complete a health screener if they become ill, test positive for COVID-19 or are exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 since their last health screener submission.
- COVID-19 Testing will be made available as required by NJDOH recommendations.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

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

Hackensack Public Schools will continue to share where vaccines are administered and seek out opportunities for students and staff to be vaccinated.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 253, Hackensack Public Schools requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum once to two times weekly.



# Maintaining Health & Safety

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

Accommodations for children with disabilities are and will continue to be made according to their Individualized Educational Plans.



# 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 staffs social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

A few examples:

- After school tutoring is being offered to targeted students.
- Intramural sports are being offered at the middle school.
- The district hired an ELA Coach, two Math Coaches, and two social workers to focus on learning loss and to support student and staff mental health respectively.
- District partnered with Care Solace to support student and staff mental health needs.
- District partnered with Hey Tutor! to expand academic support for students.
- After school enrichment activities will be offered at the elementary schools for the 2022/2023 school-year.



# 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.**

In June 2022, the District sought public comment on the proposed revisions to the Safe Return Plan.

A Google Form that includes a link to the plan was shared with all stakeholders to obtain public comment on any and all sections of the plan.

The plan has been reviewed at the June 21st, August 23rd, December 13, 2021, and June 20, 2022 Board of Education meetings.





# Public Comment

**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.**

Hackensack Public Schools has followed the suggested template provided by the New Jersey Department of Education for this plan. The District Reopening plan is accessible in Spanish and English on our website. Parents with disabilities will be provided with an alternative format accessible to that parent upon request.



**Thank**

**You**