

Safe Return Plan Summary

December 19, 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 December 19, 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.



B. Physical distancing

The District will follow the guidelines of the NJDOE, NJDOH, and/or gubernatorial executive orders as required.

Meals

The schools will implement layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as required by the NJDOE, NJDOH, and/or gubernatorial executive orders.



Maintaining Health & Safety



C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students and staff are reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or sanitize their hands frequently after utilizing the restroom, blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing. Hand sanitizing stations have been placed strategically throughout the buildings.

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 by properly trained custodial/maintenance staff.



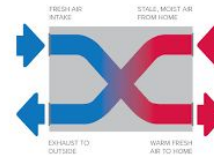
HVAC equipment is regularly inspected, repaired, and replaced as required.

Maintaining Health & Safety



D. Continued

The District is installing new classroom unit ventilators and upgrading other HVAC systems in all classrooms for improved ventilation and fresh air exchange using funds from the current Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP), utilizing ESSER II and III grant funds, and district funds. The aforementioned improvements continue to be approved on Board meeting agendas throughout the year.



Maintaining Health & Safety



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

- To support and prioritize uninterrupted, full-time, in-person learning, schools may transition away from a case investigation response model to a routine disease control model, according to the NJDOH. This model focuses more on responding to clusters of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of ongoing transmission, and less on individual case investigation and contact tracing. In lieu of individual contact tracing, the district will provide cohort notifications (classroom, cohort, team) when exposures occur. Individuals and families can then take additional precautions based on individual needs.



Maintaining Health & Safety

F. Diagnostic and Screening Testing

- Parents/caregivers will be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness on a daily basis as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. Schools will continually educate parents about the importance of monitoring symptoms and keeping children home while ill.
- 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 should the need warrant it.

- 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.

The district hired three instructional coaches for the elementary schools to support teachers in addressing learning loss and two additional social workers to support student social emotional wellness. The district continues to offer training for educators to support student and staff mental health. The district has expanded enrichment, intramural sports and extracurricular activities at all schools.



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.

At least every six months, a Google Form that includes a link to the plan is shared with all stakeholders to obtain public comment on any and all sections of the plan.

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 Safe Return 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