

LEA Name: Bethlehem Township School District

Date (06/23/2021)

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

Students and staff will follow requirements of New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) regarding mask wearing for bus, classroom, hallways, cafeteria and outdoors. Teachers and the school nurse will periodically review proper mask wearing with students.

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

Students and staff will be physically distanced as per NJDOH and NJDOE requirements on buses and in classrooms, lunchrooms, lunch room area, therapy rooms, hallways, and recess. Alternate classroom spaces and alternate cafeteria spaces will be used, if necessary. As an additional precaution, plastic barriers may be used in other one-to-one and small group encounters. If a student needs to travel to a different room that area will have been sanitized. Existing signage will be updated if necessary.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Disinfectant and wipes will be available in every room and office. Hand sanitizing stations using a solution of at least 60% alcohol will be in each classroom and in hallways. Students and staff will be asked to wash their hands upon arrival for at least 20 seconds and at regular intervals including after eating, after re-entering a room, after using a restroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. Teachers and the school nurse will review proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette with students periodically. Classroom sinks and sanitizing stations will be continually inspected. Existing signage will be updated if necessary.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Custodial schedules will continue to be adjusted to enhance cleaning in all areas while students and staff are in the building and out of the building. Janitorial cleaning checklists will continue to be used.

An electrostatic sprayer in addition to manual cleaning using CDC and EPA recommended cleaning and disinfecting products and methods will continue to be used to sanitize student and staff contact areas daily. Checklists will be used to assure completeness.

High-touch surfaces will be cleaned at regular intervals on a rotating schedule. Water fountains will remain shut down and students will be allowed to have water bottles in their possession.

All classrooms will have doors open. Windows will also remain open, when possible. The HVAC maintenance plan will continue with filters being changed regularly. Air Purifiers will continue to be utilized in every classroom. Room air-conditioners will be installed wherever possible.

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

Although the NJDOE Guidance does not include any “anticipated minimum standards” for contact tracing, all school and district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee will utilize information provided by State, local, territorial, or Tribal health officials regarding the role of contact tracing. Isolation and quarantining will be enforced with guidelines established by State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments. School officials will engage the expertise of their school nurses to determine the necessity and extent of contact tracing, isolation and quarantine guidelines as required by State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The school nurse will attend Hunterdon County Department of Health and Hunterdon County School Nurses’ Association meetings. The school nurse will adhere to annual diagnostic and screening testing as required by the NJDOH.

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

District administration and school nurse will continue to disseminate information to all staff and families regarding vaccination sites.

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

The Child Study Team will continue to review individual needs of children with disabilities and continue accommodations from the previous school year, if needed. When being tested by the Child Study Team, students will be socially distanced at a desk or table and may also have a Plexiglas shield.

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.**

The district will ensure the continuity of curriculum, instruction and programs for students based on NJ DOE guidelines, statutes and mandates. Social Emotional Learning and activities as well as groups and/or individual counseling as needed, will be available. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students who wish to participate in the food program. Wellness check-ins will occur as needed.

3. Public Comment

- A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.**

The need to establish a committee and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction was discussed at the May 26, 2021 Board of Education meeting and solicited public comments. A Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Survey was sent out to all families asking for feedback on topics A – H. Parents, staff members and Board of Education members served on the committee to provide public comments and suggestions to be included in the plan. In addition, the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan and survey was discussed at the June 8, 2021, BOE Public Work Session. Committee Meetings were held 5/26, 6/3,6/7, 6/21 & 6/22 to review survey comments and to develop and write 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**

The plan is available in writing or orally to parents who need a translation. In addition, the plan is posted on our ADA compliant website.

