

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

LEA Name: Tewksbury Township Schools

School Year: 2022-2023

Date (09/12/2022)

Date Revised (12/14/2022)

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Tewksbury School District will run a traditional school year with full in-person instruction and programs for all students. All athletics, extra-curricular activities, cafeteria and transportation operations will run as in a traditional school year.

Below is an overview of the few COVID-19 protocols that will remain in place for the 2022-2023 school year as recommendation by the CDC and/or the NJ Department of Health. Positive cases should be reported to the school nurse in order to track any potential outbreaks or clusters.

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

Revisions to this plan will be made to reflect changes in directions from the Hunterdon County Health Department, New Jersey Department of Health, or the New Jersey Department of Education.

Wearing of masks

Masks remain optional in Tewksbury Township Schools for students, staff, and visitors. Each student and staff member can decide what is best for their needs. We ask everyone to respect other's decisions. In accordance with our code of conduct, bullying will not be tolerated.

Physical distancing

Students will mix with other students in class and in the lunchroom.

Meals and Cafeteria

The cafeterias will be operating for the 2022-2023 school year. They will offer daily hot meals, cold meals, and a la carte items.

Transportation

Transportation will run on a traditional school year schedule. Windows can be opened when possible to increase airflow. Buses will be thoroughly cleaned before departure in the morning, between use, after the last run of the day. Disinfecting wipes will be used between runs as well.

Hand Washing

Tewksbury Township Schools will encourage proper hand washing etiquette with students and staff. Proper hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or more will be encouraged.

We will continue to reinforce proper hand washing for all students and employees. There are touch-less hand sanitizers previously installed in classrooms and at main entrances/common areas. There is also signage regarding proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette, such as sneezing/coughing into tissue. Reminders will also be sent out from the nurses' office periodically throughout the year.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, including Ventilation

Enhanced cleaning protocols established in the 2021-2022 school year will continue into the 2022-2023 school year. The electrostatic sprayers will continue to be used throughout the buildings. Common touch points such as door handles, knobs, railings, etc. will be disinfected throughout the school day. Custodial teams will continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect the school daily once students are dismissed.

In regards to airflow and ventilation, the HVAC system checks and monthly filter changes for proper air quality will continue. Classroom windows and doors will be opened when possible to increase airflow.

Health Screening

Students and employees with COVID-like symptoms who are in school will be separated away from others until they can be sent home. Sick individuals will be provided with a mask if needed, unless the individual has a contraindication to doing so. Any confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported directly to the school nurse.

Ill students and staff should stay home and not attend school.

Isolation for ill individuals or those who test positive for COVID-19 as follows:

* Ill individuals with COVID-like symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should isolate and stay

home from school for at least 5 full days from symptom onset. These individuals can return to school after at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.

* Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 5 days from the positive test result.

Per the CDC, **close contact** is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.

Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. **Students who are sick should not attend school.** If your child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms (see below) or tests positive for COVID-19, please inform the school nurse as soon as possible.

Staff members should monitor their symptoms and not report to work if they are not feeling well. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, he/she needs to inform the school health office and immediate supervisor.

New Jersey Department of Health recommends that individuals with the following symptoms be excluded from school:

* At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigor (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR

* At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of smell, loss of taste.

Per the updated guidance from the CDC released in August 2022, contact tracing of individual cases is no longer recommended for school settings. Our nurses will be monitoring for outbreaks or clusters, which will be reported to the NJ Department of Health. If your child tests positive, we do recommend parents let others know of potential COVID exposure. Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. Any close contact that begins to show COVID-like symptoms should go get tested.

Quarantining of students who are close contacts to a positive case is no longer recommended in school settings. Please monitor your child for COVID-like symptoms and get them tested if symptoms begin. If they test positive for COVID-19, they will be excluded from school for at least five days from symptom onset or positive case as outlined above

Virtual learning is no longer provided for positive students in isolation. Parents should contact teachers to keep up with schoolwork while they are out of school.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to the Health and Safety

The IEP team will follow physicians’ recommendations and other data to provide additional accommodations with respect to the health and safety of students with disabilities. When it is determined that additional accommodations and supports are needed, the student's IEP would be revised accordingly.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

Tewksbury Township Schools will ensure continuity of services to all students. Schools will run on a full day schedule in the 2022-2023 school year.

Students’ academic needs will be addressed through data driven decisions for remediation based on benchmark assessments from the 2021-2022 school year as well as the 2022-2023 school year. Social emotional health of staff and students will be continue to be addressed through ongoing Professional Development, SEL activities, and supports during the 2022-2023 school year. Student health needs will be supported through the district health office with information and resources shared with staff, students, and parents.