

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

LEA Name: Tewksbury Township Schools

Date (06/23/2021)

Date Revised (2/23/2022)

For the 2021-2022 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 normally as possible.

Note: Virtual instruction is no longer an option because the Governor's Executive Order has ended it.

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.

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.

A. Wearing of masks

Tewksbury Township Schools will begin to make masks optional for students, staff, and visitors starting on March 7, 2022 to align with the end of the mask mandate executive order from the NJ Governor. Masks will continue to be recommended for use on school bus transportation based on federal public-transportation guidance. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan:

A.1.a.(1)(d), A.1.b.(2) & (3), A.1.c.(1) & (2), A.1.d.(2), A.1.e.(4) ;(5);(6); & (7).

B. Physical distancing (including use of cohorts)

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most recent information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding physical distancing. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.b.(1); (2); (3); & (4), A.1.d.(2) & (3), A.1.e.(2)(a) & (c)(iv), A.1.h.(1)(a) & (d), A.1.i.(1)(b) & (3), A.1.j.(1).

The CDC's recommendation of physical distancing of three feet apart in schools will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. All student desks will be spaced as far as possible. Desks will be faced in the same direction, when possible. Students will be asked to physically distance to the greatest extent possible in the hallways and during large group settings (such as PE classes, lunches, assemblies, etc).

Cohorts will not be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. Students will mix with other students in class.

Meals and Cafeteria

The cafeterias will be operating for the 2021-2022 school year. They will offer daily hot meals, cold meals, and a la carte items. Students will have assigned seats and be physically distant by three feet when eating in the cafeteria or the classroom. On some days, students may need to eat in their classroom to allow for this physical distancing.

Transportation

Transportation will run on a traditional school year schedule. When occupancy allows, students will be physically distant as much as possible on the school bus. Windows will 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. Masks are recommended for all staff and students on the bus, as per NJ and federal orders for public transportation.

C. Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow CDC, NJ Department of Health, and local Health Department guidance regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette as indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan A.1.a.(1)(d), A.1.b.(7) & (8), A.1.h.(1)(e), A.1.i.(1)(d), A.1.j.(1).

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

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most recent information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding maintaining healthy facilities, including improved ventilation. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.c.(3), A.1.g., A.1.h.(1)(a) & (c), A.1.i.(1)(e) & (g)(i), A.1.i.(2), A.1.i.(3)

Enhanced cleaning protocols established in the 2020-2021 school year will continue into the 2021-2022 school year. The electrostatic sprayers will continue to be used throughout the buildings every day. 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.

E. Contact tracing, close contacts, and quarantine

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most recent information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding Contact Tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.e., A.1.f., B.2.g.

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 they do not have one, unless the individual has a contraindication to doing so. Any confirmed cases of COVID-19 should be reported directly to the school health office.

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

Quarantining is still in effect 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.
- * An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

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.

Exposed close contacts who are **fully vaccinated (Adults, and children ages 5 -18, who have completed the primary series of vaccines.)** and have no COVID-like symptoms:

- * Do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school.
- * Should be referred for testing for COVID-19 at least 5 days from exposure.
- * Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days following an exposure.
- * If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation of care.

Individuals identified as **close contacts** of an individual who test positive for COVID-19, **and who do not meet the definition of fully vaccinated**, should be excluded from school and quarantine for 5 days. If COVID-like symptoms develop, the individual should get tested.

Our school will continue to work with the Hunterdon County Department of Health to inform them of new cases and to assist with contact tracing as needed.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most recent information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding Contact Tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. This is indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.e, A.1.f, B.2g.

Daily pre-screening survey from the district will not be required in the 2021-2022 school year; however, 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 health office immediately.

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.

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

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most recent information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or Health Department guidance regarding efforts to provide access to vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students by giving information to staff and parents. The school district will work with staff who need to take time off to receive vaccinations.

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

Tewksbury Township Schools will follow the most recent information from the CDC, NJ Department of Health, or local Health Department guidance regarding appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies as indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: A.1.a.(1)(e), A.1.b.(2)(a), A.1.c.(1) & (2), A.1.e.(1)(d), A.1.e.(5), A.1.e.(6)(d), A.2., B.1.d.

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.

Teachers and staff will continue to provide support for maintaining appropriate hygiene in regards to hand washing, sanitizing, and maintaining social distancing.

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.

Tewksbury Township Schools will ensure continuity of services as indicated in the following sections of the Board approved 2020 Fall Return to School Plan: Section A.2 and Appendix K.

Students' academic needs will be addressed through data driven decisions for mitigation of learning loss based on benchmark assessments from the 2020-2021 school year as well as the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 school year. Student health needs will be supported through the district health office with information and resources shared with staff, students, and parents.

3. 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.

Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

Tewksbury Township Schools will present information about the Safe Return to School Plan at the public Board meetings followed by a period for public comment. A presentation on the Safe Return Plan was shared at the public Board of Education meeting on June 16, 2021; January 5, 2022; January 26, 2022, February 9, 2022, and February 23, 2022 followed by a period for public comment. Any revisions to the plan will be followed by a public presentation at a Board of Education meeting allowing for public comment regarding 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. (1000 character limit)

This Safe Return to School Plan as well as revisions to the initial 2020 Return to School plan for the 2021-2022 school year will be posted on the school website. The plan will include the Strauss Esmay template & format and easy to read tables with revisions in red. After the public presentation at the June 16, 2021 Board of Education meeting and after Board of Education approval, Tewksbury Schools will provide the written plan and the presentation to the public via the school website.