



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service  
Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)**

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

**LEA Name: Plumsted Township School District**

**Date:** 6/24/21

**Date Revised:**

**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**

Plumsted Township School District will comply with Executive Order requirements with respect to universal and correct wearing of masks. As the mandated regulations evolve, in turn, so will the district. The District will continue to allow for the mask wearing exceptions delineated by the State of NJ. The District will ensure that staff and students are reminded that proper fit is an integral part of masking and that gaiters/bandanas are not acceptable. Professional staff who may require different types of masks and/or face protection (i.e. face shields, goggles etc.) because of the type of work they do with specialized populations will be addressed on a case by case basis.

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

Students will be distanced to the extent possible within each classroom and learning setting. Elementary classes will be predominantly cohorted. Staff and students will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing when possible. Teachers will maintain seating charts to support accurate contact tracing. Seating charts will be maintained on school buses as well. Desk barriers will be used on a limited and targeted basis.

### **C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Students/staff will be reminded of the importance of hand washing because keeping hands clean is integral to prevent illness from spreading. For example, germs spread when people touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands and/or blow their nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects. Key times to wash or sanitize hands includes but it not limited to: touching one's eyes, nose, or mouth, touching one's mask, entering and leaving a public place, touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, before/after eating, after using the restroom. Additionally, staff and students will be reminded of appropriate respiratory etiquette. To help stop the spread of germs: cover one's mouth and nose with a tissue during a cough/sneeze and throw used tissues in the trash. If one does not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into one's elbow.

### **D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

District cleaning practices include: building sanitizing on an ongoing basis throughout the day, nightly sanitizing of surfaces, sanitizing high touch areas with frequency throughout the day, ideally every 20-30 minutes. Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers will be provided in classroom and strategic locations across each school. Further, all HVAC units will be checked at the beginning of each week for functionality and quality, filters for A/C units will be maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations, HVAC units will circulate air at least 2 hours prior to the start of each school day and HVAC units will incorporate fresh air as part of their regular cycle. A COVID confirmed case is confirmed while in school: the relevant areas will be closed off, custodians will wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfecting, outside windows will be open to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, custodial staff will wait up to 24 hrs to clean.

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

The School Security and Safety Officer and/or Superintendent will remain the liaison(s) with the Ocean County Department of Health. The District will maintain open lines of communication with the Ocean County Department of Health in order to update contact tracing protocols as needed. Procedures for quarantine and isolation will be updated when necessary in accordance with guidance from the State and County. If students and/or staff present with symptoms, the District will maintain a space in which they may be isolated so as to reduce possible contagion. In the event of identified positive (or presumed positive, depending on activity level) COVID case, the district will ensure the individual is instructed to isolate for 10 days and report to the Ocean County Department of Health and County DOE. COVID positive individuals will be permitted to return to school after 10 days if fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine and a marked improvement of symptoms.

### **F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

Visitors to each building will be screened and their temperature taken before allowed entry. Parents and guardians will be asked to complete a one-time form on Genesis on which they will assure the district that they will keep their child(ren) home if they are symptomatic. Staff will also complete an assurance that they will comply with appropriate protocols regarding contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining. Each school nurse will send to the parents and guardians bi-weekly reminders about the most recent requirements for student health and safety. Parents will be reminded to consult with family physicians and/or testing centers for testing and diagnosis.

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

The district will continue to share vaccination information with staff, members of the Board of Education, and members of the community, in accordance with state and local regulations.

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

Accommodations for students with learning disabilities will be in compliance with their respective Individualized Education Plans. Particular attention to students with medical needs will be prioritized as well as communication with families to ensure the school is aware of particular needs so they can be attended to.

**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. (1000 character limit)***

The District will continue to ensure the continuity of services for our school community and intends to be open full days for in person learning. Staff will continue to deploy an array of assessments to target student needs and accommodate and modify resources and strategies using RTI teams and a tiered system of support for academics and social/emotional needs and behaviors. When the need for wrap around services are indicated, appropriate staff will support families in communicating with service providers. Food services will continue to provide lunch and breakfast. Technology (i.e laptops) will continue to be provided for all students and connectivity to be provided as necessary. Case managers, special education teachers, ESL staff, guidance counselors and administrators will work collaboratively to ensure the learning plans of out-of-district, ELL's, homeless, incarcerated, special education and 504 students are implemented.

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

The District reviewed feedback from members of the community in the development of its return to school plan. Each principal will meet with their respective pandemic response teams. Parents will be notified about the Plan using the Parent Square communication portal and their feedback will be solicited. The district will include information about the Plan for Safe Return at the June 9th meeting of the Board of Education. A draft version will be posted on the district website, as well. The District used/will continue to use community stakeholder feedback throughout the 21-22 school year as deemed necessary.

***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)***

The Return to School plan will be translated and/or read to parents and guardians, as necessary, upon request. Particular attention will be paid to parents and guardians of English Language Learners to ensure that they can access a translation of the plan.