

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

LEA Name: High Bridge School District
Date: June 1, 2021
Date Revised: August 31, 2021
November 15, 2021
September 2, 2022

For the 2022-2023 school year, High Bridge School District will return to a more traditional school year with full in-person instruction for all students. The school day will return to the normal school hours. All athletics, extra-curricular activities, and cafeteria will run as in a traditional school year. *Note: Virtual instruction is no longer an option for students per the expiration of the Governor's Executive Order which allowed for virtual instruction as an alternative.*

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below, 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 NJDOH.

A. MASKS

Masks are optional. They are recommended when Covid-19 community levels are high, when there is an active outbreak. Masks should be worn after returning from isolation (after a positive test), after a known Covid-19 exposure, or when there is illness with symptoms compatible to Covid-19 in the school. Individuals should make decisions to mask based on their specific situation.

B. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Programs and classes should consider increasing ventilation and prevent crowding during periods of medium and high community levels.

Visitors will self-screen for Covid symptoms and will exclude themselves if they have had a known close contact. Any visitor with Covid compatible symptoms will be restricted from entering the building.

C. HAND WASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

We will continue to reinforce proper hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds for all students and employees. Touchless hand sanitizers installed in classrooms last school year and mobile sanitizing stations at main entrances and common areas will remain in place for the 2022-2023 school year. The signage regarding proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette posted during the last school year will remain up for the 2022-2023 school year. Reminders will also be sent out from the nurses' office periodically throughout the year. Teachers will also be reminded that the sharing of equipment and supplies is discouraged unless items can be cleaned between uses.

D. MEALS AND CAFETERIA

The cafeterias at both schools will return to full operation for the 2022-2023 school year offering daily hot meals and a la carte items.

E. TRANSPORTATION

If occupancy allows, students will be asked to physically distance themselves on the school bus. Windows will be opened to increase airflow.

All bus contractors will be thoroughly cleaning buses before departure in the morning and after the last run of the day. Disinfecting wipes will be used between runs as well.

F. CLEANING/DISINFECTION OF FACILITIES, AIRFLOW AND VENTILATION

Enhanced cleaning protocols will continue. The Protexus electrostatic sprayers will continue to be used throughout the buildings every day. Common touch points such as door handles, knobs, railings, water fountains, etc. will be disinfected on a rotating basis throughout the school day. Custodial crews will continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect daily once students are dismissed. In regards to airflow and ventilation, and air purifiers in rooms, 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.

G. HEALTH SCREENING

[District Covid Daily Pre Attendance Screening](#) survey must be reviewed by the parent/guardian prior to sending your child to school. Students who are sick should not attend school. If your child is exhibiting COVID-like symptoms (as noted in the screening survey) or tests positive for COVID-19, please inform the school health office immediately (MS: 908-638-4101 ext 4118, ES: 908-638-4105 ext 4218).

Same protocol applies to employees. Employees 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 or immediate supervisor.

For COVID-19 testing locations, please visit the Hunterdon County Department of Health's website:

<https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Coronavirus/testingsite.html#other>

H. CONTACT TRACING, CLOSE CONTACTS AND QUARANTINING

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.

Isolation is still in effect for ill individuals or those who test positive for COVID-19 as follows:

- a. Ill individuals with COVID-like symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home until at least 5 days have passed from symptom onset **and** at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- b. Individuals can return to school on day 6 and must wear a mask on days 6 through 10. During days 6 through 10 limit participation in extracurricular activities to only those activities where masks can be worn consistently and correctly.
- c. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic must stay home for 5 days from the positive test result.
- d. An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) **is** acceptable for individuals to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.
- e. For alternate diagnosis, please follow the NJDOH School Exclusion list to determine when they can return to school

The district will follow the **NJ Department of Health state guidelines** for isolation and quarantine timeframes listed here:

[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID updated quarantine timeframes.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID%20updated%20quarantine%20timeframes.pdf)

Close contacts and Quarantine

NJDOH defines a close contact as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known Covid for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period. Individuals would be considered exposed to someone with Covid from 2 days prior to symptom onset or positive test date if they are asymptomatic.

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to Covid-19. People who were exposed to Covid can continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic. Individuals who were exposed to Covid should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure. Exposed individuals regardless of immunization status are strongly recommended to get tested 5 full days after exposure on day 6 (date of exposure is considered day 0). If testing is unavailable, school attendance can continue. If the test is positive, they must follow isolation guidelines.

After exposure, carefully monitor for signs and symptoms of Covid such as fever of 100.4, or greater, cough, shortness of breath, or other Covid symptoms for 10 days. If Covid symptoms should develop, students/staff should immediately get tested and follow isolation recommendations.

Individual contact tracing is no longer required. If there is a case of Covid in classrooms, a broad based notification will be sent to notify those of a possible exposure.

If there is an identified cluster or outbreak in the school, additional layered measures, such as distancing and mask may be implemented.

Students who are isolated will receive assignments through their Google Classroom (Middle School/4th grade) and assignments will be prepared for elementary students.

Vaccinations

Vaccines are strongly recommended to protect against severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19.

- a. As of August 15th, 2022, the State is no longer requiring that unvaccinated workers in school districts and child care settings undergo routine Covid-19 testing requirements.
- b. Staff should provide proof of up to date vaccination, including all boosters.
- c. The vaccine is not a requirement for students, but if your child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, please send a copy of the vaccination record to your school nurse so that they may add it to your child's immunization file.

The school district will continue to work with the Hunterdon County Health Department to inform them of new clusters or outbreaks within the school.

I. EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO EDUCATORS, OTHER STAFF, AND STUDENTS, IF ELIGIBLE

The district has continued to share opportunities to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine in the local area with employees and parents.

J. APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

The IEP team will review physician's order and other formal and informal data to determine whether any additional accommodations are required with respect to the health and safety policies to support the safe return and/or continuity of services and in-person attendance 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 providing increased supports for maintaining appropriate hygiene in regards to hand washing, sanitizing, and maintaining social distancing.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

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.

All students in the High Bridge School District will return to a full school day for the 2022-2023 school year, as the option for remote learning is no longer in effect for the 2022-2023 school year per the expiration of the Governor's executive order. All athletics, extra-curricular programs and other programs such as food services will return to regular operation as in a traditional school year.

The district will continue to assess students' progress in key subject areas and identify where remediation is needed. Supplemental information will be provided to parents and students related to learning strategies to help students succeed. Please reach out to your child teacher if you need any assistance or support.

The district's guidance counselors will continue to focus on student mental health and continue to share resources with families to assist them in this area. If students have any issues with their Chromebooks, they are reminded to contact their building's main office.

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.

The Safe Return Plan for 2022-2023 school year was listed on the Board of Education meeting agenda for September 19, 2022 with an opportunity for public comment.

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 Safe Reopening Plan for 2022-2023 will be available on the district website in both English and Spanish. If an alternate translation is needed, parents can contact the superintendent's office and one will be provided.