

# 2023-2024 Safe Return Plan



Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission

## Board of Education

# **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

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For the 2023-2024 school year, the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCESC) will continue to support districts with full in-person instruction for all students. HCESC staff will work within their assigned districts/locations and support districts with their regular class schedule. All athletics, extra-curricular activities, cafeteria and transportation operations will run as in a traditional school year.

## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **VACCINATION:**

CDC recommends that people remain [up to date](#) with their vaccines, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised and [booster doses](#) at regular time points.

### **MASKS:**

Masks remain optional both in school and while riding the bus. Each student and staff member can make their own decision as to whether they want to wear a mask. Everyone is expected to respect each other's decision, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. In accordance with our district policy and Code of Conduct, bullying will not be tolerated.

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:**

There are no cohorts in effect for the 2023-2024 school year; all students are in school full-time. Physical distancing is not being enforced, but is recommended if someone feels ill.

### **HAND WASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE:**

HCESC will continue to reinforce proper hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to all staff, students and clients. Hand sanitizer is available in all offices and classrooms. Mobile sanitizing stations located at main entrances and common areas will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Staff will also be reminded that the sharing of equipment and supplies is discouraged unless items can be cleaned between uses.

### **CLEANING/DISINFECTION OF FACILITIES, AIRFLOW AND VENTILATION:**

Enhanced cleaning protocols established in the 2020-2021 school year have continued. Common touch points such as door handles, knobs, railings, water fountains, etc. will be disinfected. Custodial crews will continue to thoroughly clean and disinfect daily once staff, students and clients are gone for the day.

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.

### **DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING:**

Applicable State, local, territorial, or Tribal health and State, Federal and local educational department guidance will be considered to determine in what circumstances screening testing may be required.

### **ISOLATION, QUARANTINE AND CONTACT TRACING:**

Contact tracing will be completed in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments. Based on the NJDOH recommendations, a routine disease control model is recommended be used. This model focuses more on responding to clusters of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of ongoing transmission in schools, and less on individual case investigation and contact tracing. NJDOH, State, Local or Tribal Health Department guidance will be used to determine if any additional response to symptomatic staff or students or non symptomatic individuals who have been exposed to an illness, would be warranted.

Virtual learning or work from home is not an option.

### **APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES**

HCESC will work with and support districts with their process and determination for any additional accommodations 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/clients with disabilities.

Staff will continue providing increased support, as needed, for maintaining appropriate hygiene in regards to hand washing, sanitizing, and maintaining social distancing.

### **ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES**

Superintendent  
School Business Administrator  
Payroll Administrator  
Program Directors  
Maintenance and Custodial Staff

### **Ensuring Continuity of Services**

HCESC will continue to support district plans to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs, which may include student health and food services

HCESC will support staff and the district's students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs. HCESC will continue to collaborate with districts and share resources.