



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 Name: CLOSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: 6/9/21

Date Revised: (11/18/2021; 02/15/22. 3/2/22; 7/14/22)

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. (1000 character limit for each section)

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Following the expiration of the New Jersey state mandate requiring school universal masking and updated guidelines received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health, and after consultation with the Mid-Bergen Health Department, Closter Public Schools will follow an optional masking protocol for School Year 2022 - 2023. Mandatory masking may be re-implemented in periods of elevated community transmission for classes with active outbreaks. Students who return to school during days 6 - 10 of isolation or quarantine will be required to wear a mask or must remain at home for the full 10 days of quarantine.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Students and staff will follow social distancing within the school, to the maximum extent practical.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Hillside Elementary School classrooms all have sinks, soap, and hand sanitizer for frequent hand washing. The middle school classrooms have hand sanitizing stations for use by students and staff. Students will have their own materials, supplies, and resources. In the event that any object or material is shared, the teacher will use the district-provided disinfecting wipes to sanitize it.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Regular cleaning and disinfection of facilities will be completed by the maintenance and custodial staff, including frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk and frequently touched surfaces. Custodians will clean and disinfect lunch tables between each individual use. Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily. The daily cleaning schedules will be monitored and adjusted as needed.

The district has already taken the steps to improve ventilation and ensure the health and safety of students and staff. All classroom unit ventilators are functioning properly to make sure that outside air is introduced into the classrooms. Classrooms have air conditioning, which helps improve ventilation.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

The Board of Education policy 5141.2 directs that the contact tracing will be conducted by the health department. The Closter Public Schools' administrators and school nurses will report all COVID-19 cases to the Mid-Bergen Health Department and New Jersey Department of Education, as required. For the 2022-2023 school year, the school nurses will only conduct contact tracing when directed by the Mid-Bergen Health Department.

Quarantine may be required for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. Close contacts should quarantine, unless they are fully vaccinated, or have tested positive in the last 3 months, and do not have any symptoms. Students, teachers, and staff who are in quarantine should stay home and follow the direction of the local public health department about when it is safe for them to be around others. If a child with a disability is required to quarantine, the school is required to provide services consistent with federal disability laws. Quarantine shall not be required solely due to travel outside of the State of New Jersey.

Closter Public Schools will comply as reasonably practicable with additional directions and guidelines for contact tracing that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Prior to arrival each day, staff and students will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, and travel. Parents should keep students home if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. Further, parents should report any changes in their child's COVID-19 symptoms and exposure status to the school nurse.

Anyone with a temperature or COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be directed to the school nurse's office. The nurse will examine the individual. A student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may be required to submit to a COVID-19 test.

Closter Public Schools has partnered with FAST MED and Bio Reference Labs to provide free weekly COVID-19 testing for all staff, students, parents, and community members. The testing takes place on Tuesdays, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Hillside Elementary School upper parking lot.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for diagnostic and screening testing that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Not only does it provide individual-level protection, but high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of COVID-19 on people, schools, healthcare systems, communities, and individuals who are not vaccinated or may not develop a strong immune response from the vaccines. Closter Public Schools encourages all who are eligible to receive the vaccination to do so.

Closter Public Schools coordinated with the Bergen County Executive's office and Englewood Health to provide vaccinations to educators and staff during the 2020-2021 school year. If additional vaccination opportunities become available for educators, staff, and students, we will communicate the information to the eligible groups.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for providing vaccinations that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Students with disabilities will have all appropriate accommodations addressed based on needs identified in their IEPs, which will support their health and safety. This will include consultation with teachers, Child Study Team, and related service providers to ensure that all precautions are in place, as well as any necessary supplies or resources to accommodate their needs.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies that will be provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health for the 2022-2023 school year.

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).

For the 2022-2023 school year, Closter Public Schools will provide a full continuum of in-person services. We will follow the curriculum developed by the Northern Valley Curriculum Consortium. Students will be assessed at the start of the year, using Aimsweb (K-2) and Linkit (3-8) assessments to determine their academic levels. Teachers will use assessment data to address the needs of all students through differentiated assignments, materials, instruction, and assessments. School counselors will continue providing social-emotional-mental health support for students through the ICARE program, advisory program, and counseling services. ESSER Funds were used for an additional school counselor at Tenakill Middle School. The Intervention and Referral Services teams will utilize a collection of data and information to identify, screen, collaborate and implement

interventions to promote student success. Our district does not provide food service, but we will work with the Closter PTO to coordinate lunch ordering services for all students.

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 School Reopening Committee, which includes administrators, teachers, staff, Board of Education members and parents, met on June 9, 2021, to provide comments on the plan. The Superintendent presented the plan to the Board of Education and community at the June 14, 2021, Board of Education meeting, which was advertised as required. The plan was posted to the Closter Public Schools website, with translations in Hebrew, Korean, and Spanish.

The Superintendent presented the July 2022 revision to the Board of Education and the community at the July 14, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

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 plan will be posted on the Closter Public Schools' website in English, Hebrew, Korean, and Spanish. Individuals with disabilities can use assistive technology on their devices to access the plan on our website.