



Bergen County Special Services Safe Return to School Plan September, 2022 (Rev. 6/22)

Introduction

The Bergen County Special Services Safe Return to School Plan describes the district's health and safety protocols for the opening of school in September, 2022. These protocols are based on current COVID conditions. All schools will be open for full-day, full-time, in-person instruction for the 2022-2023 school year.

BCSS Schools will follow all current health and safety protocols in accordance with guidelines for PreK-12 schools as recommended by the CDC, Governor's Executive Orders, NJDOH, NJDOE, and the Bergen County Health Department.

1. Masks

- Masks are optional for students and staff
- Masks should be worn when returning after a COVID+ result (days 6-10)

2. Social Distancing

- Maintain social distancing as much as possible

3. Facilities

- Ventilation – Continue to maintain and check as per COVID protocols
- Cleaning protocols:
 - Return to pre-COVID cleaning protocols, except for areas where a person has been sick or tested positive for COVID positive case, then COVID cleaning protocols apply
 - Common areas should be cleaned more frequently especially in between cohort groups
 - Schools can adopt the cleaning protocols that work & ensure the facility is clean and safe for students and staff

4. Provision of Specials – (Music, Art, Pys Ed)

- Specials to be scheduled in the manner that most benefits the school program

5. Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette:

- All protocols remain the same

6. Cafeteria/Food Service

- Return to pre-COVID food service procedures. This looks very different from school to school.

7. Transportation

- School vehicles may operate at their regular capacities

8. Health Screenings

- Temperature checks are discontinued
- Parents will be reminded through correspondences of all COVID protocols regarding symptomatic students including the need for them to check for symptoms daily and to keep their child home if exhibiting symptoms
- The Staff Daily Health Checklist is discontinued



9. Exclusion

- Parents should not send students to school when sick (have a symptom(s) as outlined by NJDOH document)
- If student displays symptom(s) while in school, same protocol followed:
 - Isolation
 - Exclusion
 - COVID testing
- Exclusion policies for positive COVID, stay home for five days. With symptom improvement may return wearing a mask for day six through day ten

10. Notification of Positive COVID Case

- When a positive case is reported for a classroom or specific work area notification will go to staff and students known to have been in that area.
- Notification will advise as to the symptom(s) to be watched for and that if staff or student(s) experience those symptoms they should stay home and get tested

11. Visitors

- Visitors allowed in building as necessary

12. Vaccination

- BCSS policy No. 1648.11M Appendix A includes our protocols to:
 - a. Determine the vaccination status of staff
 - b. Actively promote vaccination for all eligible staff

13. Other Items

Remote Instruction:

- Remote instruction will continue to only be available for students with COVID related absences

Parent Letter

- A letter reviewing all protocols will go out to parents/families before the start of school

Host Sites

- District will work with principals/supervisors on a case-by-case basis

Staff Notification

- Letter to all staff from the Superintendent before start of school
- A review of these protocols needs to be part of the Annual Building Level Orientation Meetings for staff which is scheduled in each school on either September 1st or 2nd.