

Bergen County Technical Schools **Restart Plan SY 2021-22**

Our Purpose Today and for Upcoming Meetings

- Distributed to committee the latest guidance from the CDC & NJ DOH
- Committee will review guidance together and, as a committee, recommend District plan

Setting Our Health & Safety Protocols for September 2021

- As of present, we are not required to submit/publish any additional plan
- Committee will revisit many areas of the plan and see what revisions are needed for September.
- Based on how the summer goes -- we may need to revise further

Vaccinated & Unvaccinated

- Discussion of issues in various programs/settings
 - District wide confidential database of staff vaccination records has been compiled and verified. Those who have not been vaccinated must submit to weekly Covid-testing.
 - Vaccination status is monitored by Human Resources and a team of verifiers.

Masks - Discussion

- CDC & NJDOH masking for all unvaccinated
- Who would be required to wear mask - vaccinated or all (staff/students)
- Staff/Students could choose to wear mask even if vaccinated
- Transportation requires all to wear masks regardless of vaccination status
- Moving throughout the school (outside of the classroom)
- Parental objection to masks
- Per BCSSEA - younger students not eligible for vaccination need to wear mask
- Mask protection may be needed as even those who are fully vaccinated, can still get COVID

Committee Recommendation on Masking:

- Maintain a policy, as of the start of school in September 2021, requiring all to wear masks indoors. This would apply to all staff and students in BCTS and Host School programs.
- Revisit September mask policy on November 1, 2021 benchmark) and discuss whether the district should amend/re-evaluate the mask policy. If so, district nurses to track vaccination status of students and staff in their schools. Disclosure strictly voluntary. If so, district nurses to track vaccination status of students and staff in their schools. Disclosure is strictly voluntary.

- Once information regarding vaccinations has been obtained, look at Nov. 1 as the date on which mask wearing could be optional for fully vaccinated individuals. All students under the age of 12 would continue to be required to wear masks since unable to be vaccinated at this time.
- Masking outdoors would be optional while maximizing social distancing

Distancing- CDC & NJDOH

- Issue - Required to operate at full indoor capacity in September 2021 cannot maintain 6 ft distance and accommodate all students/staff CDC & NJ DOH - 3 ft. distancing if possible.

Committee Recommendation on Distancing: Masking and ventilation to start; after reassessment of masking at the November 1 benchmark, then possibly only the unvaccinated would need to wear masks, for vaccinated individuals, it would be optional.

Facilities - CDC & NJDOH

- Ventilation - continue to maintain and check all systems and vents, etc. as per COVID requirements.
- Cleaning Protocols - Recommendation: Cleaning & disinfecting - 1 X daily is sufficient, except for areas where a person has been sick or tested positive for COVID (then COVID cleaning protocols apply).

Committee Recommendations on 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 lunches.
 - Checklists can be utilized as needed for common areas
 - If a program requires additional protocols, due their specific student population, those can be included
 - Custodians must be given schedules for common areas so that in-between cleaning can be done
 - Utilize signs to indicate whether or not an areas or room is ready to be occupied.
 - Staff training on the transmittal of COVID to be done as part of orientation Each school will develop their protocols regarding common areas in conjunction with their Pandemic Response Teams
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- Bathrooms: try to limit to cohorts with flexibility
- Hallways: Maintain dividing lines, social distancing, signage, etc. ... no need to change this
- Common areas: Cafeteria, Gym, Cardio.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Committee Recommendation on Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

- All protocols to remain the same

Cafeteria/Food Service /Meals – CDC & NJDOH

- Distancing in common areas
- Consider alternatives to group areas
- Avoid Self-service options

Committee Recommendations of Cafeteria/Food Service/Meals

- Continue with current protocols:
- No Buffet/self-service options to start
- Several staggered lunch periods both inside and outside of buildings

Transportation – CDC & NJDOH:

- Masking for all
- If occupancy allows, maximize distancing as much as possible

Health Screening – CDC & NJDOH:

Everyone (Staff/students/parents) continues to monitor health/symptoms on a daily basis.

Committee Recommendation on Health Screenings

- Schools will continue student temperature checks to begin the school year.
- Health screens for all staff and students before entering buildings
- 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 even one symptom.
- Staff will continue the utilization of the staff daily health checklist to start the year.
- The need for temperature taking and the staff daily health checklist to start the year.
- The need for temperature taking and the staff health checklist will be reviewed at our first benchmark date, November 1, 2021. After review of these procedures, their effectiveness and the COVID status in our schools and the community on November 1, perhaps there could be a recommendation to discontinue both around November 1.

Exclusion - CDC & NJDOH & BCDOH

- District receives NJDOH guidance.

Committee Recommendation on Exclusion/Isolation

ISOLATION (INFECTION or SYMPTOMS) – An employee/student must isolate if s/he: a) receives a positive result from a lab test for COVID-19 infection; or b) has one or more symptoms reflecting mild illness but does not have a negative result from a lab test taken after the symptom(s) first appear.

- Stay out for 5 full days after “infection date” (i.e., date of symptom onset, or date the test was taken if asymptomatic; “Day 0”); and
- Return on-site on or after Day 6 if asymptomatic through Day 5, or as soon after Day 5 as symptoms start to improve, including no fever for at least 24 hours.
- Parents should not send students to school when sick (have a single symptom(s) as outlined by NJDOH document
- If student displays single symptom while in school, same protocol followed
 - Isolation
 - Exclusion
 - COVID testing
 - Any situation that warrants a test - DOH will be notified

QUARANTINE (CLOSE CONTACT) – “Close contact” is still 6 feet or closer to a COVID-positive person for 15 minutes or longer within a 24-hour period. “Close contact” exposure occurs during the COVID-positive person’s initial isolation period (Days 1-5) or within the 48 hours prior to that person’s “infection date” (Day 0).

- No quarantine is required upon “close contact” for asymptomatic employees/students: a) who have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters when eligible; or b) who have recovered from COVID-19 infections within the last 90 days (from date of test or date of first symptom onset).
- Quarantine is required for asymptomatic “close contacts” who: a) have not completed a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine; or b) who have completed a primary series of a vaccine, but have not received a booster dose when eligible. Initial quarantine is for 5 days after last possible exposure to the COVID-positive person. Return is allowed after Day 5 if the employee/student remains asymptomatic through the entire initial quarantine period.
- Any “close contact” who experiences symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, must get tested for COVID-19 infection and follow isolation guidelines above.
- A shared-household “close contact” quarantine period starts on the day after the COVID-positive person completes his/her full 10-day isolation period. If the COVID-positive

person is able to isolate away from others in the home, or wear a well-fitted mask in the home at all times, the “close contact” quarantine starts on the day after the COVID-positive person completes his/her 5-day initial isolation period.

- Employees who are identified as “close contacts” because of workplace exposures to COVID-positive individuals will be advised of this regardless of their vaccination status and quarantine requirement.

RETURN TO WORK - An employee returning from isolation or quarantine after 5 days must wear a mask at all times (indoors and outdoors) when on-site from Day 6 through Day 10. Extra care should be taken to ensure adequate social distancing distance (6 feet or greater) during all activities when mask wearing is not possible (i.e., eating).

Employees unable to wear a mask upon their return must isolate/quarantine until for at least 10 days and may only return if they remain asymptomatic or experience symptom improvement including no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducer.

- District will have ongoing discussions with the NJDOH to see where county is heading with regard to COVID case (e.g., low/moderate/high)
- District will provide a letter to program administrators to send out to parents/guardians prior to the start of the school year (once approved by Superintendent)
- District will send out a letter to staff regarding policies prior to orientation

Committee Recommendation on Contact Tracing

- All protocols remain in place
- Quarantine requirements outlined above
- BCTS & nurses can inquire if student/staff are vaccinated & enter in district tracking mechanism as
- a starting point for collecting this information
- Technology to provide spreadsheet in Google Drive that gives edit privilege to nurses & viewing privilege to administrators