

**Applicant:** 03 0290 Bergen County Vocational School District - Bergen

ARP Safe Return Plan ▼

**Application:** ARP Safe Return Plan - 00-

**Cycle:** Amendment 2

**Project Period:** 9/1/2021 - 8/31/2022

**SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**

(1) IN GENERAL - A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency's website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

*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 CDC.*

**LEA Response Table**

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

For SY2022-23, wearing of masks is optional; staff/students/visitors may choose to wear masks in all settings.

A mask will be required for those returning from Covid isolation period from day 6 through 10.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Physical distancing is encouraged where practicable. Pre-covid procedures for lunch periods will be in place.

Physical distancing on buses will be encouraged if occupancy permits.

### 3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Alcohol-based sanitizing stations are located in strategic/convenient locations throughout buildings (outside cafeteria, within classrooms, in hallways, outside restrooms, at building entrances/exits, in all common areas). Single gallons of hand sanitizer 75% alcohol stations are set up in classrooms without handwash sink.

Touchless dispensers are placed at main entrances of school sites, and manual type of sanitizers are placed in common areas.

Posted signs remind students/staff to stay safe -- wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes using elbow or tissue when not wearing a mask. Dispose of tissue; clean hands immediately either with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

### 4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Ventilation - Continue to maintain and check as per COVID protocols.

Cleaning protocols:

Continue pre-COVID cleaning protocols, except for areas where a person has been

sick or tested positive for COVID, then COVID cleaning protocols apply. Common areas will be cleaned more frequently especially in between lunches.

Frequently touched surfaces (door handles, light switches, etc) will be cleaned more frequently

If a program requires additional protocols, due to their specific student population, those cleaning procedures will be added.

### 5) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

For SY2022-23, contact tracing will be discontinued.

### 6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

For Staff/Students: Discontinuation of temperature checks, effective 9/1/2022.

For Staff: Discontinuation of morning staff health self-screening form submission, effective 9/1/2022. Effective 9/1/2022, an updated "one-symptom/two-symptom" exclusion list will be used. If presenting with more than one COVID-

like symptom from "two-symptom" list, or single symptom from "one-symptom" list, employee must stay home and contact the school nurse for guidance. For Students: Parents should not send students to school when sick; use one-system, two-system list. If students display symptoms while in school, Exclusion and COVID testing are recommended. Exclusion policies per CDC and DOH guidelines: If symptoms warrant exclusion and student not tested - 5 day quarantine; if tested and negative with symptom improvement, may return to school; if test positive, remain out and isolate for 5-day quarantine. If symptoms improve, may return on day 6 and mask through day 10.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

BCTS in conjunction with Bergen County Health Department and New Bridge Medical Center provided several opportunities for staff to receive vaccinations on our campus in Paramus and notified families of students of availability of vaccines at New Bridge Medical Center.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Underlying medical conditions to be considered and reasonably accommodated. Students unable to wear masks due to underlying health issues will be provided appropriate PPE Plexiglass shields and headgear as required.

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### Safe Return Plan Updated

Safe Return Plan text and assurances must be agreed to every six months.

Date Plan Updated

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

BCTS will utilize CST/district SAC to address ongoing mental health issues. They will assess students/staff regarding mental health concerns and provide resources as needed. CST and district SAC will work with students on an ongoing basis as needed.

BCTS nurses provide routine health screenings for students, and provide resources to families to assist them in obtaining medical/dental services.

The district works with LEAs through IEP process to provide compensatory services if/when need is determined. Pre-covid food service procedures will return in SY2022-2023. Our food service vendor, Chartwells, will continue to follow established procedures for cleaning/disinfecting food prep areas.

Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The draft of Safe Return plan was placed on our district website. A Google form was created for the public to comment and make suggestions regarding the plan within a one-week timeframe. An email notification was sent to families to let them know the draft plan was on our website and they were given a link to click on to enable them to comment. Subsequent updates are posted on the Bergen Tech website. Additionally, a letter was sent to parents/guardians prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year to apprise them of updated health and safety protocols. The public was given the opportunity to offer suggestions and comments at BCTS Board Meeting.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The Safe Return Plan is written in a narrative format that is understandable and uniform. The District website has the Google Translate feature to translate the plan into various languages. Oral translation will be provided as needed. An alternate formatted plan will be provided for an individual with a disability upon request.

Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district has worked with the local Bergen County Health Department and utilized the services of its Emergency Medical Services division to provide the most up-to-date information regarding health and safety procedures during the Covid pandemic, and continues to stay informed of the most up-to-date information from the CDC and NJDOH. Should remote learning become necessary during the 2022-2023 school year, the district will implement remote learning protocols utilizing technology implemented during school year 2020-21. Professional development will continue to be structured to reflect changes required by Covid restrictions as needed.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.

[www.bergen.org/bctssrp](http://www.bergen.org/bctssrp)

By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that they will assure that the information contained in the Safe Return to School plans will be updated within this system every 6 months during this grant project period.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

Howard Lerner, Superintendent