

Applicant: 03 0285 Bergen County Special Services 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)

Masks are optional for students and staff in SY2022-2023, except when returning to school after a positive Covid diagnosis; masks must be worn for 5 days upon return.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Maintenance of social distancing will be encouraged as practicable.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

1) Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained with alcohol-based hand sanitizers: in each classroom, at entrances and exits of buildings, near lunchrooms and bathrooms. For classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, stations will provide soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Children ages 5 and younger should be supervised when using hand sanitizer.

2) Students should wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals or use hand sanitizer before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if washing with soap and water is not possible.

3) Cover coughs and sneezes using an elbow or a tissue when not wearing a mask. Dispose of the tissue. Clean hands immediately either with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer.

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

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([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

1) 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.

2) Common areas should be cleaned more frequently especially in between cohort groups.

3) Schools can adopt the cleaning protocols that work to ensure the facility is clean and safe for students and staff.

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)

Contact tracing will be discontinued for SY2022-2023.

1) 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.

2) Notification will advise as to the symptom(s) to be watched for. If staff or student(s) experience those symptoms they should stay home and get tested.

If student displays symptom(s) while in school, the protocol to be followed includes:

1) Isolation

2) Exclusion

3) COVID testing

Exclusion policies for students/staff testing positive for Covid include staying home for five days. With symptom improvement may return wearing a mask for day six through day ten.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Temperature checks are discontinued for SY2022-2023, as is the Staff Daily Health Checklist.

- 1) 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.
- 2) Staff members must remain at home if exhibiting two or more symptoms of Covid.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

BCSS 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)

Since BCSS schools provide services to medically fragile students/students with complex disabilities, schools have implemented the following:

- 1) Obtained PPE prior to opening/maintained ongoing supplies.
- 2) Staff utilizes appropriate PPE for interactions with students, i.e. addressing student's personal care, medical and/or behavioral needs as needed.
- 3) Ensure heightened monitoring/frequent handwashing.
- 4) Implement additional health/safety protocols as specified per IEP.

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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)

Schools 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/district SAC will work with students on an ongoing basis as needed.

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

BCSS continues to serve students through EYP programming and 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 BCSS website. The public have the opportunity to offer suggestions and comments at BCSS 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 BCSS 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. Should remote learning become necessary during the 2022-2023 school year, the district will implement remote learning protocols utilizing technology implemented during school year 2020-2021. 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.

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