



# Safe Return Plan

2021-22 School Year

BOE Approved June 15, 2021



## NJDOE Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

**LEA Name:** Franklin Township School

**Date:** June 15, 2021

**Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):**

---

### **Opening Statement**

Franklin Township School follows the New Jersey Department of Health's guidance. In absence of specific guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health, the District will then follow guidance from the Center for Disease Control.

Franklin Township will be open for all students, all day, 5 days per week as we were pre-pandemic. If social distancing is still required in the fall, we will move to 3 feet between all students. Masks will be optional for students and staff unless required by the NJDOH and/or the CDC. Extracurricular activities and sports will once again be offered to students. The District will follow all requirements regarding sports. This plan is a "living document" and is subject to change based on current guidance, recommendations, and mandates.

### **1. Maintaining Health and Safety**

#### **A. Universal and correct wearing of masks**

Masks will be optional for students and staff unless required by the NJDOH and/or the CDC. If masks are required, mask breaks will be provided throughout the day. All visitors will be required to wear a mask. Masks are required to cover the nose and mouth. When



actively eating and drinking during lunch/snack students will be able to remove their mask. The type of masks students/staff must wear are 2ply-fabric or disposable masks. Gators, bandanas or vented masks will not be allowed.

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

There will be no cohorts. Student desks will be placed at a minimum of three feet apart from each other throughout the school day. During lunch, students will be spaced six feet apart from each other. For safety purposes, unvaccinated staff will continue to remain six feet apart from colleagues and students.

#### **C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Handwashing stations are accessible throughout the buildings, stations are prepared with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Students will be required to wash/sanitize hands before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. If washing with soap and water is not possible, students will sanitize hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol).

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

The District adopted cleaning/disinfecting procedures (Strauss Esmay/NJPSA/CDC) as a foundation for developing a procedure manual to establish cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used. The District will adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. The District will follow its schedule for routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, and sanitize bathrooms on a daily basis.

The District will continue current practices for cleaning and will add any local health department recommendations including guidelines developed by the CDC. Cleaning procedures will include frequently touched surfaces and objects. Custodial staff will focus on cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day and immediately after student dismissal, custodians will repeat a thorough cleaning,



sanitizing and disinfecting of all areas throughout the building. Each school has a Electrostatic sprayer, which sprays positively charged solutions (disinfectants) that kills viruses and decontaminates facilities.

Each classroom will be sanitized daily with a focus on disinfection of touchable surfaces. Disinfecting wipes and/or spray will be provided in each classroom along with hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be located in each classroom, at entrances and exits of the buildings, near lunchrooms and toilets. Students five years and younger will be supervised when using hand sanitizers. All sanitizing products will be used in accordance with the directions on the label.

A list of products that are EPA approved for use against the virus that causes Covid 19 is available on the EPA's website. The district will be using BruTab 6s to clean, disinfect and sanitize frequently touched areas including but are not limited to classroom desks and chairs, lunchroom tables and chairs, door handles and push plates, handrails, kitchens and bathrooms, light switches, handles on equipment, buttons on vending machines and elevators, shared telephones, shared desktops, shared computer keyboards and accessories, drinking fountains, playground equipment used during recess, etc. Interactive panels will be cleaned with either 90% ethanol or a disinfectant applied to a microfiber cloth.

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

Staff and student members who become ill at school will be assessed by the school nurse. Students and their personal belongings will immediately be moved to a new location. If the staff member has symptoms related to COVID-19, the room they occupied will be deemed closed until confirmed for cleaning. Students who become ill OR have suspected symptoms that present during the day OR who were exposed to someone with symptoms that present during the day OR who were exposed to an individual that the district learns is positive will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian or other designated individual on their emergency card. Removing the child from the setting is key to preventing further spread of illness in the immediate and larger school community. The District recognizes that picking up a child in the middle of the day may be a hardship and respectfully asks families to have at least two other individuals who may be part of their contingency plan for pick up.



Contact tracing is the process used to identify those who have come into contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases, including COVID-19. It is a long-standing practice and is an integral function of local health departments. All school district administrators, school safety specialists, school nurses, school counselors, and other designated staff will be provided with information regarding their role of contact tracing in keeping our school community safe from the spread of contagious disease. The District is following the guidance of the local health department in developing and implementing contact tracing policies and procedures.

All administrators, school nurses, child study team members, and school counselors are trained in contract tracing by completing the course presented by Johns Hopkins University. The District will remain in close communication with the Hunterdon County Health Department and the Hunterdon County School Nurse Association to stay updated on local contact tracing procedures. The District has designated staff members as points of contact for communication and liaising with the Hunterdon County Health Department.

The District will create contact tracing procedures involving trained staff and health department officials that adheres to all applicable federal and state requirements regarding privacy of educational records (e.g. FERPA). The District will develop information to educate parents and staff on the importance of contact tracing. The District will allow for self reporting channels where families and staff can provide critical information to school officials in a timely manner to assist the District in notification and tracing. The District will undertake contact tracing procedures which includes contacting impacted individuals, gathering information, consulting with the local DOH, and if needed, informing school families of quarantine time periods.

#### **F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

At the beginning of the school year, all students and staff will be required to fill out a Covid Screening Form that includes an agreement to contact the school nurse immediately should staff or students develop Covid symptoms, contract Covid, or come in close contact with someone who is either Covid-positive or Covid symptomatic.



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

The District will provide information to all eligible school community members on the availability of vaccinations. The District will work with school staff to ensure all staff have the opportunity to get vaccinated.

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

The District will follow all necessary accommodations for children with disabilities as per each child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). If necessary, staff who work with children who cannot wear a mask will be provided additional PPE (such as face shields, desk shields, etc.).

---

**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).**

The District will continue to assess student learning and address achievement gaps as needed. The District will continue to offer intervention services during the school year for struggling general education students. Special education students will continue to receive the program and related services outlined in their IEPs. The District will continue to address social emotional learning through our school based programs, counseling services, parent academies, and by collaborating with local agencies. The District will continue to provide eligible students with free breakfast and lunch services.

---



### **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.

The District will survey the community through a Google form after sharing a Draft of the safe reopening plan. The District will review public comments. The final plan will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. Additional public comment will be available during the BOE 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)

Upon request, the District will provide the plan in alternative formats (language translation or for ADA purposes).