



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: Aug 23, 2021

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. Virtual instruction will be offered to students according to quarantine guidelines. At this time, 100% remote instruction is not an option. Extracurricular activities and sports will once again be offered to students. This plan is a "living document" and is subject to change based on guidance/mandates as stated above.

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Executive Order 251 requires every individual inside district and school buildings to wear a face mask, regardless of vaccination status. Exceptions include the following circumstances:



- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

If EO 251 is changed then masks will be optional for students and staff. 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. Masks are also required while on a school bus as masks are mandated on public transportation. Required masks are 2ply-fabric or disposable masks. Gators, bandanas or vented masks will not be allowed. Face shields (unless part of an IEP/504) are not allowed as the sole face covering. However, face shields can be worn in conjunction with an approved mask. Masks will not be required outdoors. Mask breaks will be provided during each class period.

The District shall accept correspondence from an individual's health care provider, without being subject to District Physician review, that wearing a facemask inhibits an individual's health.

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.

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/NJSBA) 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 contact 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.

FTS may be confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases amongst staff and/or students. If FTS is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of COVID-19, while the school itself remains open for in-person instruction, FTS will offer remote instruction to those students.

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).

FAQs

- When can students and staff remove their masks?
 - Participation in outdoor recess/gym/sports do not require masking. Masks are not required whenever outdoors. Masks can be removed when eating or drinking.
- Will Field Trips resume?
 - Yes.
- Will Extracurricular activities and sports resume?
 - Yes.
- Is there a travel advisory?
 - As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect.
- Are masks required on buses?
 - Yes.
- Can students share instructional items? Such as crayons, markers, lab equipment, sports equipment.
 - Yes.
- Will students travel between classes in the hallways?
 - Yes.
- Will middle school students be able to use their lockers?
 - Yes.
- Will elementary students be able to use their cubbies?



- Yes.
- What will “Back-to-school night” and parent-teacher conferences look like?
 - Back-to-school night will be in-person with a possible virtual option. Parent-teacher conferences (November) will be completely virtual.
- What will lunch look like?
 - Students will be seated 3 feet apart at an assigned table in the cafeteria and/or theater. Students will be able to have input in their seating arrangement.
- What will recess look like?
 - When outdoors- Recess will be offered daily for at least 20 minutes. Students will be able to interact with any student within the particular lunch period.
 - When indoors- Recess will be offered daily for at least 20 minutes. Students will participate in indoor activities.
- Will online books be available (to avoid carrying an excessive amount of books between home and school)?
 - Yes.