

# **BERGENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **District Reopening Plan**

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

The Board promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings. Even if social distancing is possible and being practiced, face coverings will be required for students, and face coverings are always required for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age. If the school district is providing transportation services on a school bus, a face covering must be worn by all students upon entering the bus unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. Even when physical distancing (six feet apart) can be maintained for individuals in line waiting to enter or exit a building, face coverings shall be worn while in the line.

### **2. Physical Distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)**

Each school in the district will provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to help ensure that staff and students remain at least six feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating "one-way routes" in hallways). Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. If cafeterias or group dining areas are used in the school district, the school district will incorporate the following into the Board's Plan, if applicable: Stagger times to allow for social distancing and clean and disinfect between groups. The Board's Plan regarding recess and physical education should include protocols to address the following: If two or more groups are participating in recess at the same time, there will be at least six feet of open space between the two groups. The school district will designate specific areas for each class during recess to avoid cohorts mixing.

### **3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

School districts will prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations should be in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), at entrances and exits of buildings, near lunchrooms and toilets. For classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, stations should be prepared with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers. School officials should develop a school-wide plan where students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. If washing with soap and water is not possible, washing with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be used. Require individuals must wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.

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

School officials must continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. The Board's Plan and Policy will establish cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used. Stagger times to allow for social distancing and clean and disinfect between groups. Locker rooms may be closed to mitigate risk and prohibit students and staff from confined spaces with limited ventilation and/or areas with large amounts of high contact surfaces. If it is not feasible to close locker rooms the district will stagger the use and clean and disinfect between use. The school district will mitigate risk, limit and/or eliminate direct contact with equipment, and will not allow sharing of equipment. If equipment must be shared, the equipment will be cleaned and disinfected between each use.

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

The school district will adopt Board Policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure. All school and district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the Superintendent or designee should be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing conducted by State, county, and local officials. The NJDOE will credit certified School Safety Specialists with three hours of training upon completion of Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 Contact Tracing course. The Pandemic Response Team is responsible for: Overseeing each school's implementation of the Plan and providing safety and crisis leadership. Adjusting or amending school health and safety protocols as needed. Providing staff with needed support and training. Reviewing school level data regarding health and safety measures and the presence of COVID-19 and reporting that data to the district as required. Developing and implementing procedures to foster and maintain safe and supportive school climates as necessitated by the challenges posed by COVID-19. Providing necessary communications to the school community and to the school district. Creating pathways for community, family, and student voices to continuously inform the Team's decision-making.

**6. Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Board's Plan should establish the process and location for student and staff health screenings. The school district will adopt Board Policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure.

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

The school district will continue to work with local, county, and state health officials and medical institutions to provide vaccination opportunities and information.

**8. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety Policies.**

In all stages of pandemic response and recovery, the CDC recommends the following: Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Even if social distancing is possible and being practiced, face coverings will be required for students, and for visitors and staff unless it will inhibit the individual's health. A face covering must be worn by all students upon entering the bus unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. Accommodations for students unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's need and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Exceptions to requirements for face coverings are as follows: A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of face covering. It is also acknowledged that enforcing face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.

## **Reopening Plan Update**

**1. How will the LEA 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:**

The district has increased its school counseling staff, ensuring that each of the five elementary schools will have a full time counselor. The district also will continue to partner with Care Plus to provide initial and wrap around services for students and families in need. Additionally, the elementary schools are adopting a comprehensive, school-based social-emotional learning program, while the middle school has obtained a grant to enhance its current PBIS program to support students. Academic remediation as well as enrichment and credit advancement programs will be offered, complete with counseling services, throughout the summer, and will continue to be part of the district's after school programming for the 2021-2022 school year. Staff will continue to receive professional development in SEL for themselves as well as to best support students. The district will also continue to follow all NJDOE, NJDOH and NJ DOA guidelines for providing food service to our community.

**2. 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.**

Throughout the school year, the district noted the needs of its community members as expressed through public commentary at board of education meetings and other similar venues, and incorporated this information into its re-opening plan. The June 2021 meeting was dedicated specifically to taking public comments regarding the plan, which was presented at said meeting, and was able to make adjustments as necessary based on this input.

- 3. How does the LEA ensure the plan is understandable and in 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 parents with limited English proficiency will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request be a parents who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent:**

The district has the full contents of the Reopening Plan posted on its website in both English and Spanish, the two predominant languages spoken within the community. A written and auditory communication about this posting went home to all families, which included information regarding who to contact if anyone has questions about the plan or needs the information presented in a different format. These requests, including additional translations or alternative presentation formats, will be addressed upon request.

- 4. Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.**

The district will continue to offer a comprehensive professional development and technical assistance program for all staff members. In addition to its two, district-wide professional development days scheduled in September and January, Bergenfield also has a summer professional development academy and a Teachers-Teach-Teachers after school academy throughout the school year. All professional development is sustained, and is often accompanied with coaching opportunities as applicable. For the upcoming school year, the district will continue to focus on social-emotional learning initiatives, differentiated instruction for all learners, and equitable and culturally responsive practices, in addition to other items that staff members have indicated through their completion of the district's needs assessment survey.