



Cliffside Park School District

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Date 06/23/2021

Updated: 12/22/2021

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), 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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

School staff, students and visitors are required to wear face coverings unless it inhibits an individual's health or child is under two years of age at all times. Students must wear face coverings at all times (Governor's order, August 3, 2020) unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. All schools will follow the current directives from the NJ Governor's Office and NJ Department of Education regarding the universal wearing of masks. Some reminders are:

- Masks are worn to protect others as well as oneself.
- A mask is not a substitute for social distancing.
- The enforcing of face masks for young children or special needs may be impractical.
- Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.

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

The following guidelines are in place regarding physical and/or socially distancing;

- Students and/or staff who are comprised and unable to wear masks must socially distance and must be referred to the school nurse for additional guidelines that will prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- In elementary **schools**, students must be at least 3 feet apart.
- In Middle and High school students must be at least 6 feet apart when transmission is high unless the schedule allows for cohorting.

- We schedule classes together to include the same group of children each day (cohorts).
- We allow minimal mixing between groups/cohorts.
- Students in the MS and HS will move through the hallways on a scheduled basis following one-way directions provided by the administration. Elementary students will follow social distancing and when using hallways upon entry and dismissal.
- Whenever possible we will limit mixing between groups.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others.

Students and staff are reminded that covering coughs and sneezes and keeping hands clean can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Germs can be easily spread by:

- Coughing, sneezing, or talking
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- a. Routine cleaning and disinfecting of all school classrooms, hallways, shared equipment.
- b. Sanitize and clean bathrooms and hallways throughout the school day.
- c. The following items have been addressed to increase ventilation in all schools and offices;
 - Increase outside air flow.
 - Use of fans, when possible, to increase the effectiveness of open windows.
 - Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and provide acceptable indoor air quality for the current occupancy level for each space.
 - Improve central air filtration:
 - Ensure restroom exhaust fans are functional.
 - Inspect and maintain exhaust ventilation systems.
 - Use portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems or [ultraviolet germicidal irradiation \(UVGI\)](#) to enhance air cleaning (especially in higher risk areas such as a nurse's office or rooms and offices without windows).

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

Contact tracing is a strategy that is used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. A contact tracing team from the Cliffside Park Local Health Department and/or the NJDOH will call anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Contract tracing will be conducted for

close contacts (any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more) of laboratory-confirmed or probably COVID patients.

- Remote communications for the purposes of case investigation and contact tracing will be prioritized; in-person communication may be considered only after remote options have been exhausted.
- Testing is recommended for all close contacts or confirmed cases.
- Those contacts who test positive will be managed as a confirmed case of COVID.
- Those contacts who test negative should self-quarantine for 10 days from their last exposure.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

All staff and students will have their temperatures taken when entering the school building and be visually screened for symptoms of COVID-19. If a staff member's temperature is above 100.4F, he or she will be required to visit his or her physician for an evaluation. If it is determined that a staff member or students has COVID-19 the district will follow guidelines set by the borough health department which will include but is not limited to 10 days of isolation.

Each school will manage student daily drop off and pick up in order to maintain social distance and to ensure that students and parents are wearing masks when approaching school grounds.

Visitors will enter a school building using the main door while satisfying all entry protocols with the school's security officer. In addition to providing valid identification, visitors must wear a mask and have a temperature reading below 100.4F.

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

The Cliffside Park School District has partnered with the Borough of Cliffside Park to provide vaccinations to all students, 12 years and above, and all staff. Vaccinations have been available through Palisade General and Englewood Hospitals. In addition, mobile units have been brought to the Cliffside Park Senior Housing Facility to allow for students and staff who were unable to travel to out of district locations.

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

Students with IEPs that contain accommodations due a student's health or physical limitations are being addressed while following all COVID guidelines. Students attending in-person instruction may be given masks breaks, exempt from wearing a mask, adjusting of social distancing requirements and relaxing of snack or eating guidelines. Additional accommodations may be provided to any student with an IEP which would provide for his or her health and safety.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address academic needs and students' and staffs' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Learning loss support will be provided across the district for all students. Students with IEPs will benefit from a tighter collaborative planning and monitoring system between the classroom teachers and support teachers including shared lesson plans and formative assessment data collection. This provides consistent, targeted instruction and aligned interventions. Our ESL students will be serviced based on their needs as indicated on WIDA. Guidance counselors and contracted mental health professionals, Care Plus and Jewish Family Service, in each building will provide counseling services and programs that address the social, emotional and mental health well-being of staff, students and parents. Breakfast and lunch will be provided as per federal guidelines by Pomptonian Food Service.

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. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan.

Comments and suggestions from the school community were received as indicated below. Recommendations from these sources were used to develop this plan and our opening of school procedures for September 2021.

- Discussing the proposed plan at our public board meetings.
- Asking for comment from the community at our open public board meetings.
- Posting a notice on our website (www.cliffsidepark.edu) asking for public comment and suggestions.
- Using social media to notify the community that we are encouraging public comment and suggestions.

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.

The Cliffside Park School District advertised our plan in a consistent manner across several mediums, i.e., district website, Google Classroom, school websites, social media and PTA platforms. The plan is posted in both English and Spanish. Parents who may have a disability have the option of using our visually impaired, ADA approved, option on our website. Parents can request an oral translation from their child's classroom teacher, guidance counselor or any school administrator.

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

All staff will take part in professional development upon their return in September 2021. Primary topics will include: Re-engaging students in the regular school day, identifying learning loss, supporting staff's return to the classroom, rebuilding relationships, and re-creating a foundation for academic learning. PD will also include the use of various software applications which will be monitor student progress, identify areas of concern and provide students with resources to assist in learning loss.