

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

LEA Name: LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): JUNE 21, 2021 Date Revised(mm/dd/yyyy): AUGUST 6, 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

- Reference BOE Policy 1648 – RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN
- As per Governor Murphy's August 6, 2021 announcement ALL staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear masks at all times while in school starting in September and until there is further guidance from the Governor's office.
- Face masks will be provided to all staff and students when needed.

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

- Reference BOE Policy 1648- RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN
- School will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable.
- This will be achieved by ensuring students are seated at least 3 (three) feet apart.
- All instructional and non-instructional rooms in school and district facilities must comply with social distancing standards to the maximum extent practicable.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing

- Reference BOE Policy 1648 – RESTART AND RECOVERY PLAN
- Hand sanitizing dispensers (with at least 60% alcohol) will be placed and maintained in each classroom, at entrances and exits, near eating areas, and hand washing capabilities in bathrooms.
- In the event hand sanitizing dispensers/hand soap needs to be refilled the building secretary will be notified and will facilitate the refilling with the building custodian.
- Classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, will have soap, water, and alcohol-based sanitizers (with at least 60% alcohol).
- A school-wide initiative where students are required to wash/sanitize their hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals (upon entering each room) during the school day and always before and after eating. Handwashing with soap is required after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing, after using the bathroom.

Respiratory etiquette

- Students will be provided individual desk shields when students cannot social distance or when requested.
- Students will be reminded of respiratory etiquette.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Maintaining healthy facilities

- Reference BOE Policy 1648 – RESTART AND RECOVERY
- The Long Branch Public Schools have been continually maintaining a deep cleaning concept for the district since the onset of the virus, to include sanitizing, disinfecting, and using an ultraviolet process to insure our staff and children are safe.
- Custodial staff will continue to maintain all facilities to their highest levels to help prevent the spread of the virus, additionally any area that is being used during the school day will get additional resources applied to the areas.
- Medical grade cleaner will be used to disinfect all areas of the school after working hours.
- The district has purchased an additional 39 electrostatic sprayers that will follow a 10-minute dwell time for all areas to be disinfected.
- Training will be provided for use of hydrogen peroxide as a cleaning solution in heavy touch areas.
- Training to the custodial staff will be provided on use of electrostatic sprayers.
- Training will be trained on the chemicals they are using and techniques to ensure cleanliness.
- Hand sanitizer has been purchased.
- Bathrooms and high touch areas will be cleaned routinely.
- We will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. We have developed a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, and sanitize bathrooms daily and between use as much as possible

Improving Ventilation

- We are improving ventilation in three ways.
 - We are installing air purifiers into every HVAC unit in the district. They will improve the air filter rating from a MERV 7 to a MERV 13. They do not produce any ozone.
 - We are also replacing all windows at Morris Ave. The school has key locking windows that while they may open, do not provide any security for students. We are replacing the solid windows with a hopper window allowing teachers to increase the outside air circulation while maintaining safety for all students.
 - Third action is to replace the Building Management System at the High School allowing us to improve the air circulation throughout the school day as needed.

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

- Reference BOE Policy 1648 – RESTART AND RECOVERY
- Procedures will be set up to coordinate with local health officials to exchange information regarding COVID-19
- CrisisGo has implemented a new feature that will assist with student and staff whereabouts during each school day. We will use this feature to aid in this process.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing-resources.html>
- Our student information system, Genesis, will be used to identify family members in other schools and this information will be shared with the local health official.

- The school nurses, as liaisons to the school Pandemic Response team, will communicate with the district head nurse and Asst. Superintendent for PPS to provide information as needed.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Protocols for Symptomatic Students and Staff

- The school district will encourage parents to keep their child home when they are sick
- Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated. Students should remain in isolation with supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
- The school district will adhere to current Communicable Disease Service guidance for reporting illness.
- If the school district becomes aware of an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, the district will follow the Contact Tracing procedures.
- The school district will follow re-admittance BOE policy 8451 consistent with Control of Communicable Disease Regulation.

Screening Procedures for Students and Staff

- The school district will adhere to BOE Policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and staff upon arrival at school or work locations for symptoms and history of exposure.

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

- During the 2020-2021 school year the school district collaborated with outside agencies to vaccinate staff: VNA and the City of Long Branch. This resulted in vaccinating approximately 50% of the staff.
- We also partnered with Walgreens to vaccinate students ages 12-17 on-site.
- We will continue to collaborate with the aforementioned if need arises.

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

- During the 2020-2021 school year students with IEPs were afforded virtual and in-person instruction. Students in self-contained classrooms had in-person learning, 5 days per week starting September 17, 2020. However, when necessary these classrooms could also become virtual.
- Appropriate accommodations included, but were not limited to protocols for mask wearing, understanding social distancing, understanding and learning how to participate virtually.
- In addition, all related services were integrated into the students' schedules, whether in-person or virtual.
- Progress is continuously monitored for academic, social, and emotional growth.

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)

- We will continue supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning through Social Emotional Learning.
- We will continue to utilize our Multi-Tiered System of Support to address student individual learning gaps and needs. It will assist with prevention, intervention, and enrichment in grades Pre-K through twelve for academics and behavior that offers educators and families a mechanism to identify individual students who need extra support.
- We will continue adhering to the guidelines of the NJTSS students are identified by academic data and referral for additional tiered support and interventions. Students' growth is continuously monitored and plans revised to provide the best interventions and support for the student.
- We will continue to provide behavioral instruction to all students in all settings and consist of district and school expectations, rules and procedures.
- Students who exhibit behavioral and/or social concerns will continue to receive interventions.
- The school district will continue to provide wraparound support to families. The district has a range of supports through partnerships with diverse organizations that help to meet the needs of the school community. Supports include but are not limited to mental health assistance, social emotional supports, housing, and financial assistance.
- We will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to 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. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000-character limit)

- A public hearing is scheduled **MAY 26, 2021**.
- Prior to the meeting a draft of the proposed plan will be shared with the community
- Input from the public will be taken into consideration by the Board of Education and District Administration and if warranted changes will be then made to the draft plan.

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)

- Long Branch Public Schools Safe Reopening Plan will be shared via the district's website. It will be translated in multiple languages, including on the district website compliant with ADA.