



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

LEA Name: CLOSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

[HEBREW](#) [KOREAN](#) [SPANISH](#)

Date: 6/9/21

Date Revised: (11/18/2021; 02/15/22. 3/2/22; 7/14/22, 8/29/22, 12/8/22, 6/12/23, 11/15/23)

### 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. (1000 character limit for each section)

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

Following the expiration of the New Jersey state mandate requiring school universal masking and updated guidelines received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health, and after consultation with the Mid-Bergen Health Department, Closter Public Schools will follow an optional masking protocol. Mandatory masking may be re-implemented in periods of elevated community transmission for classes with active outbreaks. Students who

return to school during days 6 - 10 of isolation or quarantine will be required to wear a mask or must remain at home for the full 10 days of quarantine. People who have known or suspected exposure to COVID-19 should also wear a well-fitting mask or respirator around others for 10 days from their last exposure, regardless of vaccination status or history of prior infection.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

As of the August 11, 2022, CDC Guidelines for Schools, there is no longer a requirement for physical distancing or to cohort students. Students and staff may still keep social distancing to the maximum extent practical in school.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

#### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Hillside Elementary School classrooms have sinks, soap, and hand sanitizer for frequent hand washing. The middle school classrooms have hand sanitizing stations for use by students and staff. Students will have their own materials, supplies, and resources. If any object or material is shared, the teacher will use the district-provided disinfecting wipes to sanitize it.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

The maintenance and custodial staff will complete regular cleaning and disinfection of facilities. Custodians will clean and disinfect lunch tables between each use. Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily. The daily cleaning schedules will be monitored and adjusted as needed.

The district has already taken steps to improve ventilation and ensure the health and safety of students and staff. All classroom unit ventilators are functioning properly to ensure that outside air is introduced into the classrooms. Classrooms have air conditioning, which helps improve ventilation. Through the School HEPA Distribution Program, 50 classrooms/instructional spaces in the district have air purifiers.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

The Closter Public Schools' administrators and school nurses will report all COVID-19 cases to the Mid-Bergen Health Department and New Jersey Department of Education, as required. School nurses will only conduct contact tracing when directed by the Mid-Bergen Health Department.

Quarantine is no longer required for students, teachers, and staff who might have been exposed to COVID-19. We recommend anyone exposed to COVID-19 wear a well-fitting mask and get tested. The school staff will notify parents of COVID-19 exposure in classes.

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others. Isolation may end after day 5 if the person is fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms improve. If the person still has a fever or other symptoms have not improved, continue to isolate until they improve. After ending isolation,

and feeling better (no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms improving), the person must wear a well-fitting mask through day 10.

Closter Public Schools will comply as reasonably practicable with additional directions and guidelines for contact tracing provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

#### F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Before arrival each day, staff and students will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, and travel. Parents should keep students home if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. Further, parents should report any changes in their child's COVID-19 symptoms and exposure status to the school nurse. There is no requirement to complete a daily screening form.

Anyone with a temperature or COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be directed to the school nurse's office. The nurse will examine the individual. A student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may be required to submit to a COVID-19 test.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for diagnostic and screening testing provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Not only does it provide individual-level protection, but high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of COVID-19 on people, schools, healthcare systems, communities, and individuals who are not vaccinated or may not develop a strong immune response from the vaccines. Closter Public Schools encourages all eligible to receive the vaccination to do so.

Closter Public Schools coordinated with the Bergen County Executive's office and Englewood Health to provide vaccinations to educators and staff during the 2020-2021 school year. We will communicate the information to eligible groups if additional vaccination opportunities become available for educators, staff, and students.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for vaccinations provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

Students with disabilities will have all appropriate accommodations addressed based on the needs identified in their IEPs, which will support their health and safety. This will include consultation with teachers, Child Study Team, and related service providers to ensure that all precautions are in place and any necessary supplies or resources to accommodate their needs.

Closter Public Schools will comply with all updated directions and guidelines for appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities concerning health and safety policies provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

## **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, including student health and food services. (1000 character limit).

Closter Public Schools will provide a full continuum of in-person services. We will follow the curriculum developed by the Northern Valley Curriculum Consortium. Students will be assessed at the start of the year, using Aimsweb (K-2) and Linkit (3-8) assessments to determine their academic levels. Teachers will use assessment data to address the needs of all students through differentiated assignments, materials, instruction, and assessments. School counselors will continue providing social-emotional-mental health support for students through the ICARE program, advisory program, and counseling services. With the last year of the ARP Grant, the district will contract with a company to continue providing school-based mental health services and an on-site professional. The Intervention and Referral Services teams will collect data and information to

identify, screen, collaborate and implement interventions to promote student success. Our district does not provide food service, but we will work with the Closter PTO to coordinate lunch-ordering services for all 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, that the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

The School Reopening Committee, which includes administrators, teachers, staff, Board of Education members and parents, met on June 9, 2021, to provide comments on the plan. The Superintendent presented the plan to the Board of Education and community at the June 14, 2021, Board of Education meeting, which was advertised as required. The plan was posted to the Closter Public Schools website, with Hebrew, Korean, and Spanish translations.

The Superintendent presented the July 2022 revision to the Board of Education and the community at the July 14, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

After the CDC Updated Guidelines for Schools on August 11, 2022, the Superintendent presented the August 2022 revision to the Board of Education and the community at the August 29, 2022, Board of Education meeting.

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan - ESSER III funding guidelines, districts must update the Safe Return Plans at least every six months. On December 8, 2022 and June 12, 2023, the Superintendent of Schools presented the minor revisions to the plan during its Board of Education 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).

The plan will be posted on the Closter Public Schools' website in English, Hebrew, Korean, and Spanish. Individuals with disabilities can use assistive technology on their devices to access the plan on our website.