



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

Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan). A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

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

LEA Name: Borough of Rumson School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 6-23-21

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 12-15-21

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.

Masks -

- Under Executive Order No. 251 “all public, private, and parochial preschool and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises.”
- The wearing of masks outdoors is optional. In areas and periods of high transmission or highly crowded conditions, it is recommended that individuals who are not fully vaccinated wear masks during outdoor activities.
 - The RSD recommends that parents have this discussion with their children.
 - The RSD asks that any parent requiring their child to wear a mask outdoors notify the school principal in writing so the school may support this.
- Mask breaks will be provided for students. This will be done indoors while maintaining appropriate distancing. When weather permits, students will be taken outdoors for mask breaks.
- The RSD will guide individuals on proper mask wearing:
 - Most effective fabrics are tightly woven
 - Tight fitting
 - No valves or gaiters
 - Disposable changed daily
 - Reusable washed daily
- The following circumstances are exceptions to mandatory use of face masks indoors.
- Under Executive Order 253, each would require medical documentation from a medical professional to support the exemption that will be reviewed by the RSD before determination of accommodations and implementation.

Updated 12/2021

- Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient for this purpose.
- The implementation would not be immediate.
- Where appropriate, accommodations for protocol or program development will occur.
 - 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 the face mask without assistance;
 - When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 precludes the use of a face mask;
 - When the individual is under two 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;
 - When the individual is engaged in high-intensity physical activity during physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals;
 - When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Distancing & Cohorting -

- The RSD will implement physical distancing measures of 3 feet for independent seating arrangements where possible.
- The RSD will implement distancing of 3 feet when masked or 6 feet when unmasked in common areas where possible.
- Students in grades PreK-5 will be cohorted throughout the day as homerooms, where possible based on program.
- Students in grades 6-8 will be cohorted throughout the day as grade levels, where possible based on program.

Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette -

- The RSD will continue to teach and reinforce with our students and staff:
 - Proper handwashing (20 seconds or more)
 - Use of hand sanitizer (60% alcohol)
 - Covering of coughs or sneezes with proper hand-sanitizing
 - Sanitizing hands upon arrival to school, after bathroom use, before & after meals, when sneezing or coughing has occurred
- The RSD will ensure proper supplies are maintained, including:
 - Soap where sinks are located
 - Hand sanitizer in each classroom and at entry points to the school and cafeteria
 - Facial tissues in each space where students and staff are located

Shared Supplies & Equipment -

- The RSD will minimize sharing of supplies & equipment
 - When sharing of materials is necessary, hand hygiene practices will be enforced and/or disinfection of supplies/equipment will be carried out between uses

Cleaning & Disinfecting -

- The RSD will utilize EPA - registered products
- The RSD will clean & disinfect surfaces at least daily and more frequently where appropriate
- When areas contain COVID-positive person, within 24 hours the RSD will:
 - Close off the area for several hours
 - Increase air circulation to the area
 - Clean and disinfect the area
 - Return individuals to area only after such protocols are followed

Airflow -

- The RSD will maximize the HVAC system's outside airflow to the classrooms, beginning at least an hour before students arrive and two hours after students are dismissed
- The RSD will utilize air purifiers for 8 hours per day in each instructional space
- The RSD will hold activities outdoors whenever appropriate to program
- The RSD will allow for the opening of windows & doors in strict accordance with security protocols
- The RSD will ensure appropriate service and code requirements for HVAC systems with the use of high-efficiency air filters
- The RSD will utilize exhaust fans as much as possible in appropriately designated areas (kitchens, etc.)

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

Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, contact tracing occurs as outlined:

Response to Symptomatic Students & Staff -

- The RSD will respond to students or staff with COVID-like symptoms by:
 - bringing individuals with COVID-like symptoms to an area away from other students and staff
 - ensuring hygiene practices are utilized by both the attending staff member and the student or staff member with symptoms
 - ensuring the cleaning and disinfecting of areas where the individual with symptoms was located
 - ensuring the individual with symptoms and the attending staff member are masked

Exclusion -

- The RSD will separate & send for COVID testing individuals who meet the criteria of the COVID-19 screening in Section 3.1.
 - The decision to return individuals to school may not occur until COVID testing results are reported to the district
 - Regardless of vaccination or being COVID-positive in past 90 days , COVID-compatible symptoms will be sent for COVID-testing before being able to return to school
- The RSD requires all COVID testing for clearance to be a PCR test. Rapid or antigen tests will not be accepted.
- When illness occurs at school the RSD will:
 - Ask parent/student if possible exposure to COVID or positive has occurred
 - If no COVID exposure is known and community transmission is low
 - No notification to the Monmouth County Health Commission # 1 will be made
 - The district will follow the [NJDOH School Exclusion Document](#)
 - If COVID exposure may have occurred OR community transmission is moderate or high:
 - Notification to the Monmouth County Health Commission # 1 will occur
 - COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria listed below to be followed:

CDC & NJDOH Exclusion Criteria

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| COVID- Positive Individual | 10-day school exclusion from test date & fever-free for 24 hours w/o fever-reducing medication (an alternate diagnosis w/o a negative PCR COVID test is not acceptable) |
| Unvaccinated Individual in Contact with COVID-Positive | 10-day school exclusion without a PCR test, 7 day school exclusion with a negative PCR test given on days 3-5 after exposure and symptom watch for 14 days |
| Contact of COVID-Positive within School | <p>No quarantine but monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Additionally, unvaccinated contacts are required to get a COVID PCR test on day 5-7 after exposure. If symptoms develop follow procedures in Section 3.1.</p> <p>Parents of close contacts will be notified and may opt for quarantine.</p> |
| Vaccinated Individual in Contact with COVID-positive | No quarantine but monitor for symptoms for 14 days |
| Individual that was COVID Positive in Past 90 days in Contact with COVID-Positive | No quarantine but monitor for symptoms for 14 days |
| Individual that is COVID-Vaccinated or was Positive in Past 90 Days Showing COVID-like symptoms | No attendance at school. If COVID PCR is negative, can return to school subject to NJDOH School Exclusion Document |

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| All Domestic Travel | No exclusion from school required but monitor symptoms for 14 days. |
| International Travel for vaccinated individuals | No exclusion from school required but monitor symptoms for 14 days. |
| International Travel for unvaccinated individuals | Exclusion from school for 7 days with a PCR test done on day 3-5 after returning to NJ or 10 days if no PCR test is done. Monitor symptoms for 14 days in all cases. |
| Individuals with COVID Antibodies | Those with antibodies will need to follow appropriate quarantine procedures for unvaccinated individuals. |
| Close Contact of an Individual In the home that is testing for or pending test results for COVID as a result of COVID-like symptoms. | <p>Vaccinated individuals or those who have been COVID+ in the past 90 days are not required to quarantine from school but should symptom watch for 14 days.</p> <p>Unvaccinated individuals stay home until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.</p> <p>If results of a person in home are positive, in-home unvaccinated/non-90 day positive contacts will follow close-contact quarantine guidance.</p> |

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- Remote Instruction - Where an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the COVID-19 exclusion criteria found in Section 3.3, under the [NJDOE 8.11.21 Educating Students During Quarantine Memo](#), the RSD will provide virtual instruction to the student in all cases.
 - Virtual instruction will be in the form of live-streaming into the classroom
 - Procedures for access to and protocols for participating in virtual streaming will be communicated to parents and students as found in the [21- 22 Road Forward Parent/Student/Staff Handbook](#)
 - Notification of quarantine by 12:00pm during school hours- quarantine begins on the next school day
 - Notification of quarantine after 12:00pm during school hours or after school hours - quarantine begins after one school day is complete
 - Streaming is available in the event that you choose to test as a result of symptoms or close contact.
 - District staff will be in touch regarding access to live streaming for your child and your child will be marked as present virtual.
 - Live Streaming occurs 8:30am-3:05pm per teacher's posted [LANDING PAGE](#)

- For Live Streaming, students may use their own device or sign out a Chromebook per [Chromebook Acceptable Use Agreement BOE Regulation # 2361](#)
 - Students in need of wifi at home may contact the principal for a district issued hotspot
 - Meal access during virtual learning can be secured for eligible students by contacting the district Business Administrator
- Following school breaks as per the 21-22 BOE Approved Calendar, on-site testing may be available.
 - [2021-2022 District Calendar approved by RSD Board of Education](#)
- It is not permissible for the RSD to provide full remote access to school for students.
 - If a student is deemed eligible for home instruction under an IEP or 504 or other health-related circumstance, instruction will be delivered through home instruction under [Policy 2412 Home Instruction Due to Health Condition](#)

CONTACT TRACING -

- The RSD must identify school-based close contacts of COVID-positive individuals within the schools
 - A close contact is an individual within 6 feet of a COVID-positive individual for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hr period
 - **EXCEPTION:** Close contact in indoor K-12 classrooms do not include students within 3-6 feet of COVID-positive person when:
 - Both individuals were wearing masks
 - This exception does not apply to unvaccinated adults
- The RSD must notify parents & staff if they or their child was a possible close contact to a COVID-positive individual within school, even if they do not need to quarantine.
- The RSD must notify Monmouth County Health Commission # 1 of COVID-positive cases and close contacts within the school so they do further contact tracing
- The RSD must, in accordance with Executive Directive 21-011, report weekly student and staff case counts as well as information on student/staff census, and the total numbers of fully vaccinated students/staff to the NJDOH.
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F. Diagnostic and screening testing - Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, testing and screening occurs as outlined:

Parental Screening

- The RSD will not utilize a daily COVID-19 screening tool.
- The RSD will provide information on and encourage parents to monitor signs of illness
 - Any indicators of illness must prompt parents to keep children home from school and inform the school nurse
 - Any indicators of illness will prompt RSD to follow the guidance of the [NJDOH School Exclusion Document](#)

- Parents must keep students home if showing any of the following COVID-19-like symptoms and notify the school nurse:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - New loss of smell
 - New loss of taste
- If a student develops any of the following symptoms within 14 days of when an individual in their class has tested positive for COVID the following symptoms will prompt the school nurse to ask for the student to be tested with a PCR prior to returning to school. If the PCR test is negative, the student may return to school immediately.
 - Two or more of the following: chills, shivers, muscle ache, headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, congestion/runny nose and/or
 - One of the following: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell
- This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
- If COVID PCR is a negative, can return to school subject to [NJDOH School Exclusion Document](#)
- The RSD will provide information on close contact and travel restrictions and encourage parents to monitor these scenarios & keep students home if they meet one or more as per the following CDC/NJDOH guidance.
 - This applies to unvaccinated individuals only.
 - Vaccinated individuals should monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- The RSD asks parents to report close contact and travel restrictions to the school nurse as per the following:
 - The student/staff member is unvaccinated and has had close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 within the past 14 days
 - Someone in the unvaccinated student/staff member's household is diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days
 - An unvaccinated individual has traveled, domestically or internationally, outside of the NJ, NY, PA, DE area within the past 7 days.

TESTING -

- Diagnostic testing for COVID-compatible symptoms or coming into contact with a COVID-positive individual must be a PCR test. Rapid or antigen tests will not be accepted.
- The RSD will not be participating in screening testing at this time.
- After BOE-approved calendar breaks, the RSD, when possible, will provide on-site testing for those who have travelled.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible - Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, dissemination of information on vaccinations occurs as outlined:

Vaccines -

- The Rumson School District (RSD) will provide information to the school community on availability and eligibility of vaccinations via the COVID-19 Tab of the district website: www.rumsonschools.org . This is being provided for those interested.
- The RSD asks that parents voluntarily notify the district when a student becomes fully vaccinated. There will be a check-box in the Genesis Parent Portal for those interested in providing this information to the district.
 - The provision of this information will be treated as part of the student's confidential medical records.
 - This confidential and voluntary information will be used by the district in the event the student is involved in contact tracing or meets the need to quarantine as vaccinated individuals are exempt from certain quarantine requirements.
 - If a parent voluntarily notifies the RSD, via the process above, the RSD requires proof of vaccination be submitted to the school nurse. This record will be kept confidentially in the student's medical file.
- As per Executive Order 253, RSD Staff will be required to be vaccinated by October 18th. Those not being vaccinated will be required to go for weekly COVID testing.
 - This includes all employees, contracted services, contractors, and providers of the school district.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies- Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, accommodations for children with disabilities occurs as outlined:

- Reasonable accommodations are provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions and medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students with complex disabilities with IEPs; or students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan).
- Even if social distancing is possible and being practiced, face coverings are required for students while at school or on school buses, however, enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for individuals with disabilities.
 - Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering are addressed according to that student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.
 - A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of face covering.
- Any screening policy/protocol takes into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students.
- In addition to taking the steps to address the health and safety of our students' and educators' physical health, the district has also considered the impact of social isolation on students.
 - The district's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) system has been revised to reflect supports during the pandemic for all students. These include Social-Emotional-Behavioral supports, School Culture & Climate supports, Academic supports, and Wraparound Supports.

- The district MTSS plan will be utilized to provide support for students in both the virtual and in-person modes of the operational plan.
 - These supports will be identified and delivered under the Social & Emotional Learning Team, Intervention & Referral Services Team, and the Intervention Specialist Team.
 - Wraparound services differ from traditional school-based services in their comprehensive approach to addressing the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students with interventions both inside and outside of the school environment. These will also be identified and delivered through the MTSS systemic approach.
 - The district Restart Committee includes staff and parents representing students with disabilities, whose families speak languages other than English at home, and who reflect diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic demographics.

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) In addition to taking the steps listed in the Health and Safety Guidelines section to protect students' and educators' physical health, the district has also considered the impact of social isolation on students.

The district's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) system has been revised to reflect support during the pandemic for all students. These include social-emotional-behavioral supports, academic supports, and wraparound supports. The district MTSS plan will be utilized to provide support for students in both the virtual and in-person modes of the operational plan. These supports will be identified and delivered under the Child Study Team, Social & Emotional Learning Team, Intervention & Referral Services Team, and the Intervention Specialist Team. Specific services will be identified and delivered through the MTSS systemic approach. Access to these supports will occur through both parental reporting and educator reporting to our teams. Although the district has a waiver for free and reduced lunch services, parents in need have access to support for food-related needs through these teams as well.

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). Throughout the 2021-2022 school year and Summer 2021, the Rumson School District has held monthly parent academy meetings to share updates and revisions to the district's Operational Pandemic Plan. This plan is posted on the district website on a COVID-19 tab and all changes in response to state and federal guidelines and local data are tracked. These meetings are held via Zoom so all parents/guardians can access the opportunity. The December 1, 2021 Parent Academy highlighted the components of the Safe Reopening Plan and Social, Emotional, & Academic Initiatives in the district. In addition, all monthly Board of Education meetings provide a review of the Operational Pandemic Plan updates. The December 2021 BOE meeting highlighted the updated components of the Safe Reopening 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)

The Rumson School District has ensured the Safe Return Plan is in an understandable format by following the same format utilized throughout the pandemic and highlighting monthly changes. These are followed up with monthly Parent Academy sessions via Zoom. While it is not practicable to provide written translations of the plan to a parent with limited English proficiency, the district is able to provide oral translations for such a parent. Any parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA will be provided with an alternative format accessible to that parent upon request.