



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):

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):

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** - Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, the universal and correct wearing of masks occurs as outlined:
- Students bring own /supplemental available by district per room/school
 - Mask with behind ear straps required
 - Mask with nose clasp and surgical grade recommended
 - Tightly woven fabric with three layers highly recommended
 - No handkerchiefs or gators
 - While the indoor mask mandate remains in effect for NJ schools and other childcare facilities frequent mask breaks will be provided and environmental temperatures in the classroom will be monitored and responded to accordingly.
 - While the outdoor wearing of masks is lifted in public spaces but in place for schools and other childcare facilities,
 - When students are appropriately distanced outdoors during inactive events (reading a book, watching an event, socializing with friends, listening to a lesson, etc.) they will be able to remove their mask.
 - When students are engaged in activities outdoors where contact is minimized (kickball, tag, etc.) students are to be able to be without a mask because contact is likely to be less than 15 minutes within 6 feet.
 - Under no circumstances is the removal of masks required. We ask parents to speak to your children about what they are comfortable having them do.

- Exceptions for mandatory mask wearing to include:
 - Children under the age of 2 years
 - Extreme outdoor heat
 - Water activities
 - Documented medical condition
 - Disability as reflected in an Individual Education Program or 504
 - During eating and drinking
 - Engagement in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity
 - Unsafe condition during operation of equipment or execution of a task
- Staff bring own/ supplemental available by district per room/school
 - Worn when with students
 - Worn with other vaccinated staff and with consent by both staff members

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding) - Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, the use of physical distancing occurs as outlined:

- Students in PreK-5 are cohorted in class sections and do not mix from one class cohort to another.
 - Students travel to specials by class cohort.
 - During lunch and recess, students remain in class cohorts within their classroom or in the designated space outdoors on school property.
 - Within class cohorts, students are either distanced by 3 feet or separated by desk barriers if three feet cannot be secured.
- Students in grades 6-8 are cohorted by grade level and do not mix from one grade level to another.
 - Students travel to specials by grade level cohort at a designated passing time different from other grade levels.
 - During lunch and recess, students remain in grade level cohorts and eat lunch in their homeroom pod. During recess they are assigned to designated space outdoors on school property by their homeroom pod.
 - Within class cohorts, students are either distanced by 3 feet or separated by desk barriers if three feet cannot be secured.
- On buses, families are seated together and separated from other families by empty seats.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette - Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, the use of handwashing and respiratory etiquette occurs outlined:

- Handwashing occurs as per CDC guidelines
 - grade-appropriate education and modeling provided
 - before and after lunch/recess
 - after bathroom usage
 - after respiratory event such as coughing or sneezing
- Hand sanitizing occurs as per CDC guidelines and with the use of EPA-approved products
 - 60% alcohol-based sanitizer in all spaces
 - Per classroom
 - School entrances
 - Bathrooms
 - Offices
 - before and after lunch/recess
 - after bathroom usage
 - after respiratory event such as coughing or sneezing
 - upon entrance to bus and school building
 - after traveling from one room to another
 - after use of materials or equipment
- Refill protocol by custodians for all soap dispenser and sanitizing dispensers
- grade-appropriate education and modeling provided for respiratory etiquette as per CDC guidelines
 - tissues and trash receptacles available in all rooms

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Ventilation (as per ASHRAE)
 - Recirculated air requires fresh air component
 - reduced night set back times for air handlers
 - Minimized use of ceiling recirculating fan systems
 - Rooms with AC have filters maintained/changed as per manufacturer recommendations
 - MERV 13 or higher filters have been installed
 - Hydroxyl air processors have been added to the quarantines rooms
 - Air Purifiers run 8 hours per day in each room
 - Rooms with no AC have windows opened, weather dependent

- All rooms will have windows open when students not in room when possible
- Self-Sanitizing
 - Provide wipes to staff members for frequent sanitizing of items to be handled by teacher only
 - Phones
 - Teacher desk
 - Teacher's keyboards/mouse/touch pads/SMARTBoard/Elmo
 - Light switches
 - EPA-approved for killing viruses
- Cleaning and Sanitizing (CDC Sanitizing guidelines)
 - Established daily checklist protocol for daily and weekly cleaning/sanitizing
 - EPA-approved for killing viruses
 - Cleaning/Disinfecting of following student/staff contact areas daily by custodial staff
 - Desks/tables/countertops
 - Work barriers
 - Chairs/stools
 - handles/push plates/handrails
 - Glass surfaces
 - Devices
 - Cleaning/Disinfecting of following student/staff contact areas multiple times a day by custodial staff
 - Bathrooms
 - Water refill stations
 - handles/knobs
 - faucets/sinks
 - Removal of items from classrooms prior to school
 - Extra surfaces
 - Plush seating
 - Area rugs
 - Toys, manipulatives, instruments
 - Avoid sharing by having single use items
 - Avoid sharing by having multiple sets of items

- Chromebooks and chargers
- Sanitizing procedures in place when sharing is needed

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:

- The district carries out contact tracing, in alignment with CDC guidance by identifying any students or staff members who are confirmed to have met one of the following conditions:
 1. Were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more. *Despite changes in the 3ft vs. 6ft social distance guidance, the guidance for contact tracing has NOT CHANGED under the CDC latest update on 3.19.21 and NJDOH latest update on 3.23.21.*
 2. Had direct physical contact with the person who has COVID-19
 3. Was sneezed on by, coughed on by, or someone who got respiratory droplets on them from a person who has COVID-19
- The district DOES NOT automatically quarantine full classrooms, entire grade levels, or full schools/districts unless absolutely necessary.
- In response to students, teachers, or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 and/or contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 a referral for diagnostic COVID testing will be made

Definitions:

- Close Contact: A person who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 cumulative minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic clients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated (CDC)
- Isolation vs. Quarantine - isolation is separation of a COVID-positive or COVID-like symptomatic individual from others even in own home, quarantine is separation of a COVID-positive contact or person who traveled to a restricted area from others (CDC)
- The district follows the most current CDC guidance and NJ State guidance for quarantine procedures. These include:
 - COVID-19 Positive Individuals - Quarantine for 10 calendar days and be symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
 - Close Contacts of COVID-19 Positive Individuals - Quarantine 10 days without testing or 7 days when receiving a negative PCR test result where the test must occur on day 5 or later of the quarantine. Monitor for symptoms throughout day 14.
 - Travel
 - For **Domestic Travel**, All travelers do not need to quarantine or be tested. Monitor for symptoms throughout day 14.
 - For **International Travel, Fully Vaccinated Travelers** do not need to quarantine but still need to be tested five days after returning to the US. Monitor for symptoms throughout day 14.

- For **International Travel, Travelers Clinically Recovered from COVID-19** in the past three months do not need to quarantine and do not need to be tested upon return to the US. Monitor for symptoms throughout day 14.
- For **All Other International Travelers (not vaccinated or clinically recovered from COVID-19)** Quarantine for 10 days without testing or 7 days when receiving a negative PCR test result where the test must occur on day 5 or later of the quarantine. Monitor for symptoms throughout day 14.
- Individuals that have had COVID-19 in the Past - No quarantine needed if an individual is within 3 months of having been COVID-positive and have remained symptom free since.
- Individuals that have had the COVID-19 vaccine- No quarantine needed if the vaccinated individual is fully vaccinated, within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series, and has remained symptom free .

F. Diagnostic and screening testing - Based on the Borough of Rumson School District Operational Plan under COVID-19, testing and screening occurs as outlined:

Diagnostic Testing:

- The district carries out contact tracing, in alignment with CDC guidance, by identifying any students or staff members who are confirmed to have met one of the following conditions:
 1. Were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more. ***Despite changes in the 3ft vs. 6ft social distance guidance, the guidance for contact tracing has NOT CHANGED under the CDC latest update on 3.19.21 and NJDOH latest update on 3.23.21.***
 2. Had direct physical contact with the person who has COVID-19
 3. Was sneezed on by, coughed on by, or someone who got respiratory droplets on them from a person who has COVID-19
- The district DOES NOT automatically quarantine full classrooms, entire grade levels, or full schools/districts unless absolutely necessary.
- In response to students, teachers, or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 and/or contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 a referral for diagnostic COVID PCR testing will be made
- At various points in the school year, COVID PCR testing is set up at the school for parents to have their children tested.

Screening Testing:

- Parents Complete Digital CDC-based Questionnaire on Genesis
 - Meet Criteria - send student to school
 - Do Not Meet Criteria - keep student home from school
 - contact school nurse
 - follow CDC guidance

- Data from Genesis Questionnaire pushed out to identified personnel and homeroom teachers for those students in their supervisory responsibility
- Designated staff member to contact those who did NOT COMPLETE the survey to have completed and assurance they are home if not attending school

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:

- Bi-Weekly Updates sent to school community regarding vaccinations per CDC guidance
- Through partnerships developed, the Rumson School District staff and their families have access to vaccinations. Links to sign up for vaccinations have been shared with staff for themselves and their families. Through these partnerships, appointments for interested district staff have been secured at various locations. These partnerships included:
 - Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey
 - Hackensack Meridian Health
- Through partnerships developed, the Rumson School District eligible student population has access to vaccinations. Links to sign up for vaccinations have been shared with district families through postings on the district website. These partnerships included:
 - Hackensack Meridian Health

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 2020-2021 school year, 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, as approved by local jurisdiction, are tracked. This meetings are held via Zoom so all parents/guardians can access the opportunity. The June 2nd Parent Academy highlighted the components of the Safe Reopening Plan. In addition, all monthly Board of Education meetings provide a review of the Operational Pandemic Plan updates. The June 23rd BOE meeting highlighted the 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 a monthly Parent Academy session 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.