

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

**LEA Name:** Kearny Public Schools, Kearny NJ  
**Date:** 1/19/2022

**Date Revised:** 12/21/2023

## 1. Maintaining Health and Safety

### A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

KSD will continue to make optional the consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks with proper filtration by all students, teachers, staff, and visitors, with the exception of those returning to school day 6-10 after positive Covid diagnosis. Those testing positive for Covid may return masked at all times day 6-10 of the infectious period. Face shields are not a substitute for masks.

Exceptions to requirements for face coverings shall be as follows:

- Doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- The individual is in extreme heat outdoors.
- The individual is in water.
- A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an IEP, precludes the use of face covering.

Removal of masks may be permissible with certain exceptions for certain people approved by KSD, or for certain settings or activities, such as while eating or drinking. Masks should be required in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc.

### B. Physical distancing (use of cohorts /podding)

KSD will continue to implement physical distancing measures to the greatest extent possible as directed by the regional risk matrix level based on the NJDH COVID -19 CALI and Variant Surveillance report weekly data on school property and school maintained transportation services and based on guidance or requirements from NJDOH and LDH.

### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

KSD will continue to enforce established handwashing protocols and promote a culture of hand hygiene based on CDC and NJDH guidelines including, cleaning hands at key times with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not readily available:

- Upon arrival at school
- Before and after meals and snacks
- After going to the bathroom
- Before leaving for the day
- After blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue;
- When hands are visibly soiled

Respiratory etiquette measure will be reinforced with students, teachers, and staff including:

- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when you coughing or sneezing
- If tissue unavailable, use of elbow, not hand, to cough or sneeze into
- Disposal of tissues after use
- Immediate washing of hands after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

**KSD will continue to maintain and improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants, by the use of: Bringing in as much outdoor air as possible. Ensuring that Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation. Filter and/or clean the air in the school by improving the level of filtration as much as possible. Using exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens where possible. Opening windows in buses and other transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk.**

**Regularly clean high touch surfaces and objects (for example, playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, toilets, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible.**

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

**At this time, contact tracing is no longer a requirement or recommendation as a mitigation strategy. In the event that it is reinstituted the KSD School Nursing Staff will: Quickly prepare for and respond to cases and exposures of COVID-19 by providing case investigation measures and contact tracing of staff, educators, and students to identify, notify, and isolate cases and notify, test, and quarantine close contacts to reduce transmission. Isolation and quarantine timelines will be instituted based on CDC Guidance, NJBH, and KBH guidelines and directed by the regional risk matrix level based on the NJDH COVID -19 CALI and Variant Surveillance report weekly data. Preparation and response will also include, but not be limited to: providing isolation of suspected cases awaiting pick up, reporting to KDH, intervention to control clusters, examination of testing and vaccine strategies, knowledge of applicable legislation, regulations, guidelines, and policies, establish roles and responsibilities for support staff, provide COVID-19 education as needed, use of technology tools to improve efficiency and evaluation.**

#### F. Diagnostic and screening testing

**KSD will strictly enforce exclusion criteria for both students and staff due to illness. Parents/caregivers will continue to be encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children**

**At all levels of community transmission, KSD will require testing of and assist in the location of diagnostic testing services to any student, teacher, or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 at school or has reported symptoms occurring outside of school.**

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

**KSD will continue to promote vaccination of teachers, school staff, and eligible students and support messaging and outreach about vaccination for members of school communities. KSD will provide education regarding vaccination and timely links to vaccine distribution information, sites, schedules, as we are provided that information from governing agencies including NJDOH and KDOH. We will continue to utilize school communication platforms to encourage vaccination of household members of school-age children as they become eligible. We will include outreach in a language that limited English proficient family members of students can understand and in alternate formats as needed to facilitate effective communication for individuals with disabilities. We will continue to coordinate local clinics with both Hudson County and KBOH to provide opportunities for vaccination of students and staff. We will allow excused absences for the purposes of vaccination.**

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

**In addition to KSD's general obligation to ensure the health and safety of its students and staff pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-6 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1, all appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities will be honored including all medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students with complex disabilities with IEPs, and/or students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan).**

## **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.

**Students will continue to receive services to the fullest extent possible in whatever capacity is determined to be safe by the NJDOE and CDC.**

**In addition to delivering the core content curriculum, wraparound supports will continue to address the needs of the most vulnerable students:**

**Child Study Team members will continue to be in contact with at risk students.**

**Counselors will remain in contact with students exhibiting frequent absences, failing grades, and concerning behaviors identified by teachers.**

**District leadership will continue to support families and students as needs arise.**

**School-based Youth Services will provide mental health services to high school students.**

**The Kearny School District will work in collaboration with our food service provider, Pomptonian, to provide daily breakfast and lunch for all students. If the need arises for classes to go virtual, Grab & Go breakfast and lunch will be available for pick-up at locations designated by school.**

**Staff support:**

**The district began the school year with a Faculty Field Day. This year's theme was Wellness at Work and was opened with a keynote speaker who presented on this topic. Teachers were provided with overall wellness strategies and resources, and were encouraged to relax with colleagues and engage in activities such as yoga, trivia, crafting, painting, culinary, etc. Our inservice days throughout the school year integrate wellness, when appropriate. There are also building-based initiatives such as Wellness Wednesdays where building administrators reach out to the staff on a particular topic/mantra related to mental health. Funday Fridays with games and trivia are also in place to help build staff morale.**

**District leadership will continue to support teachers as needs arise.**

### **3. Public Comment**

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment 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.

The district reached out to stakeholders representing an array of school/community members. A list of allowable uses was provided to the stakeholders and the group focused on discussing the most critical needs of the district. The group was provided with a brief overview of how the funds were allocated for the other ESSER funds received (CARES and CRRSAA) in order for the participants to know what areas had already been addressed. The group discussed the benefits and challenges related to proposed uses of the grant money.

The district will make an ongoing effort to seek public comment should any major changes need to be made related to how the funds are allocated.

The plan will be posted to the district website and will be updated to maintain accuracy.

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.

In an effort to maintain an understandable and uniform format, the district utilized the Safe Reopening Plan template located on the NJDOE's American Rescue Plan website. This template clearly identifies each section and subsection of the plan.

To address the needs of multilingual families, the plan was posted to the district's website in a manner in which parents could use the translate feature on the website to translate the text. Should the need arise for oral translations or requests made by individuals with disabilities, the district will use all the resources at its disposal to meet the requested needs of parents.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. (398 of 1000 maximum characters used)

**The district continues to provide ongoing professional development to all certificated staff in the areas of instructional planning, technology and social emotional learning. Similarly, the Technology Department has available technicians in every building to support our infrastructure and online programs. This support extends to our students, their families as well as faculty and administration.**