



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

September 2023

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

LEA Name: South Amboy Public Schools

Date: 09/26/2023

Date Revised: September 26, 2023 (Every 6 months as required)

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–F), 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

The wearing of masks is optional and is at the sole discretion of parents (for students) and individuals (faculty/staff). The nurse, however, may require face coverings as/when needed.

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

Schools will follow protocols that were in place pre-COVID. We understand COVID continues to exist and will incorporate social distancing wherever practicable.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will remain in place as these procedures were part of the school's culture prior to COVID. The school has developed plans to teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff. Teachers will reinforce good hygiene practices at the beginning of the students' instructional day. Staff will be told about the proper hygiene practices when reporting back to work.

The elements below will all be addressed:

- Use tissue to wipe their nose
- Cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow
- Wash hands often, especially after coughing or sneezing
- Students will continue to routinely wash hands for 20 seconds before and after meals, and when returning from outside activities.

- Wash their hands before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after being outside; after class where shared items were handled; and before and after using the restroom.
- Wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels to dry hands thoroughly.
- Use fragrance-free hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed in every classroom
- Portable hand-washing stations have been installed in Pre-K classrooms.
- Staff and students are encouraged to wash hands during passing periods. Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer before entering each class.
- The school has supplies on hand to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, no-touch paper towel dispensers, face coverings, gloves, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant wipes

Face Coverings:

Face coverings are optional and at the discretion of parents (for students) and adult members of the faculty/staff.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

School Cleaning

- Hand sanitizing stations have been installed throughout the school.
- Custodians will conduct routine cleaning of all touch points throughout the school day. This includes: door knobs, railings, push-bars, and bathrooms.
- Custodians will follow all health and safety protocols that were in place prior to COVID and that will remain as part of good practice within schools.

Ventilation:

HVAC filters have been upgraded at both schools. The MERV rating for the filters at the Middle High School is a 13, and the MERV rating at the Elementary School is a 22. The Elementary School's HVAC was replaced approximately 5 years ago, allowing for a higher MERV rating to be installed. The MHS HVAC is over 25 years old, and the highest filter the system can accept is a 13. Most schools in the state have a MERV rating of 8 or lower. The higher the MERV rating, the more airborne particles are captured by the filters.

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

The district will not participate in contact tracing in the manner in which it was previously conducted. School nurses, however, may conduct contact tracing to identify persons of close contact and, at the recommendation of the school nurse, persons may be placed into quarantine. Quarantine and isolation guidelines will be aligned with those provided by the New Jersey Health Department and as recommended by the employee or student's physician.

While the district has two (2) certified contact tracers, they will work collaboratively and with the guidance of County Health Officers.

Certified District Contact Tracers:

1. Cathy Housman chousman@sapublicschools.com RN, Certified School Nurse MHS 732-316-7669 Ext. 3225
2. Lisa McAlonie lmcalonie@sapublicschools.com Nurse, ES 732-525-2118, Ext. 2236

All procedures will adhere to applicable federal and state law and regulations regarding privacy and the confidentiality of records.

Contact tracing for COVID-19 typically involves:

- A. Interviewing people with COVID-19 to identify everyone with whom they had close contact during the time they may have been infectious;
- B. Notifying contacts of their potential exposure;
- C. Referring contacts for testing;
- D. Monitoring contacts for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and
- E. Connecting contacts with services they might need during the quarantine or isolation period.

The school nurse shall consult with the local health department in the development, review, and revision of the district contact tracing policy and procedures. The school nurse and the building principal are the designated staff liaisons responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components of the board's contact tracing policy.

The school nurse in consultation with the building principal shall establish measures for a system of open communication that allows staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.

A staff member shall immediately notify the principal and the school nurse when he/she observes symptoms consistent with COVID 19 or becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19. The school nurse shall immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality when the COVID-19 test is positive.

When the individual exhibits symptoms, the school nurse will contact the parent and refer them to their primary care physician for care. The nurse shall report all students testing positive for COVID-19 to the health department. The health department shall conduct the contact tracing.

Symptoms of COVID 19 include:

1. A fever of 100.4° F or greater;
1. Cough;
2. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
3. Chills;
4. Repeated shaking with chills;
5. Muscle pain;
6. Headache;
7. Sore throat;
8. New loss of taste or smell;
9. Fatigue;
10. Congestion or runny nose;
11. Nausea or vomiting;
12. Diarrhea

All school and district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school and district, shall be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the spread of contagious disease.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Daily Staff/Student Screening

Unless notified via an Executive Order by the Governor or The New Jersey Department of Education, the district will not engage in any diagnostic and screening testing during the 2023-2024 academic year.

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 unable to attend school due to a COVID-19 diagnosis will follow the district's policy and/or procedures that are in place for completing and submitting missed assignments as a result of any absence from school.
- Students who require emotional and mental health services will be provided assistance through the school counselor's office and/or our resident Therapist from Rutgers Behavioral Health throughout the course of the school year. An additional school counselor has been added to assist in these services.
- Students who require additional services related to occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy will continue to receive these services and the Child Study Team will continue the progress of services with families.

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.

South Amboy Public Schools will share the revised plan with the community. The public may comment in regards to the district's plan during the Public Board 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.

The plan was revised with input from various district stakeholders and in conjunction with any information made available by The New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. In addition, the plan is being shared, via the district's website, with the entire school community (staff, parents, and community members).

The Plan will also be presented every six months during the Public Board Meeting as required.

****South Amboy Public Schools will comply with Center for Disease Control (CDC), state, and local guidelines. This plan will continue to change as new guidelines are provided by the NJDOH, NJDOE, and Governor's Office.**