

Pompton Lakes School District
ARP ESSER Safe Return Plan*



1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county), the New Jersey Health Department guidance, and applicable Governor's Executive Order regarding the wearing of masks protocol in school district buildings. For example, if staff and students are required by the Governor's Executive Order to wear face coverings (masks are available to students) when social distancing cannot be maintained, unless doing so would inhibit the staff or student's health, then the district will continue to provide reasonable accommodations for staff and students at higher risk for severe illness and promote behaviors that reduce spread. The Superintendent of Schools will continue to communicate regularly with parents regarding mask protocols. School nurses will continue to train staff and students regarding the correct way to wear a mask.

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

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county) and the New Jersey Health Department guidance when implementing physical distancing measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. These may include staggering eating times and providing alternate areas inside and outside of the school buildings for students to eat breakfast/lunch, using directional signage in hallways and common areas, and decreasing class sizes where applicable and fiscally feasible. Extra desks were purchased for the elementary music program to further allow for physical distancing during lessons and rehearsals.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county) and the New Jersey Health Department guidance when implementing handwashing and respiratory etiquette measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. For example, bathrooms and common areas contain signage regarding the importance of proper handwashing and responsible respiratory etiquette to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. School hallways and other public areas are equipped with hand sanitizer dispensers which are refilled regularly. School nurses also provide yearly training to staff regarding the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases such

as COVID-19. Health teachers provide training to students regarding the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county) and the New Jersey Health Department guidance when implementing cleaning and disinfecting measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. The district will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. The school district will continue to maintain and implement a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects, and sanitize bathrooms daily and between use as much as possible. The district also plans to replace non-functioning windows in school buildings, add air conditioning systems in selected buildings to improve ventilation, and has opened the bidding process to replace a nonfunctioning heating system.

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

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county) and the New Jersey Health Department guidance when requiring contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. School nurses will continue to implement the district's contact tracing procedures, as well as educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others. If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials will continue to immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county) and the New Jersey Health Department guidance when recommending diagnostic testing to district families. Parents/Caregivers will be responsible for screening their children for COVID-19 symptoms on a daily basis using the District's screening protocol, which was shared and will continue to be shared with all families. Per the mandate for State employees, public school staff must be

vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to weekly testing. A mobile testing unit is available for staff who require weekly testing.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

Staff and students were invited to participate in three COVID-19 vaccination events sponsored by the Atlantic Health System and the Passaic County Health Department, respectively. The latest event occurred at one of the district's elementary schools. School nurses will continue to work with interested families to facilitate the necessary steps to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine appointments for eligible students with the local and county health departments.

8) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

The district continues to comply with recommendations from local health departments (town and county) and the New Jersey Health Department guidance by providing reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

Safe Return Plan Updated*

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional mental health and other needs which may include student health and food services.

Appropriate district staff including but not limited to the Superintendent of Schools, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Business Administrator, Director of Special Services, Supervisor of Special Services, Director of Athletics, Director of School Counseling, building level principals/APs and department chairpersons, the K-8 District Learning Acceleration Coordinator, the District Technology Coordinator and Coach, Head of Buildings and Grounds, and Maschio's Food Service will ensure a continuity of services to address students' academic needs, students' and staff emotional mental health and other needs, and food services. Frequent meetings with appropriate staff, ongoing parent/caregiver communication, student counseling/services, and other activities, as deemed appropriate or applicable, continue to occur to maintain a continuity of services.

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.

The district presented the Safe Return Plan and sought public comment at the Board of Education meeting on June 8, 2021. Community input such as improving ventilation (e.g. adding air conditioning to selected classrooms) in district schools and changing the mask protocol for students to read as optional based on local health department guidance were added to the Safe Return Plan. Ongoing public comments continue to be accepted at subsequent board of education meetings and via email (pl.boemembers@plps.org).

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 is written in an understandable and uniform manner. It is posted on the district website which contains an embedded translation application for all languages. Google Suite, which is the district's student learning platform, contains an application for oral interpretation of any text for an individual with a disability. Upon request for a translation or interpretation service not listed here, the district will comply as defined by ADA and ESEA mandates.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

Ongoing applicable professional learning opportunities are available for district staff using the Frontline Professional Growth portal. Technical assistance is provided by applicable staff.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.
<https://www.plps-k12.org/>

***Updated, submitted, and posted by the Pompton Lakes School District on 12/23/21 in compliance with the ARP ESSER Grant 6-month review requirement.**