



North Hanover Township School District

Road Forward reopening Plan

Date: UPDATED 3/8/2022

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.

All plans and protocols described herein reflect current conditions as of 3/8/22. This plan will be updated and any new required directives received from the Burlington County Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Health, New Jersey Department of Education or Governor's Executive Order will supersede what is described herein.

North Hanover Schools plan to operate 100% in person for full days during the 21-22 school year. There is no longer any legal authority for remote education in the State of NJ. This currently applies to emergency closure days as well, unless there is a declared State of Emergency and schools are closed more than three consecutive days.

Remote instruction is allowed in cases of school or class closure or other action due to quarantine.

Most recent guidance from the NJDOH and BCDOH will be followed for masking, physical distancing, cleaning, contact tracing and other strategies to maintain health and safety.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

As of March 7, 2022, mask wearing for all students, staff and visitors, will be optional unless required by Law or Executive Order. If masks are required by law or executive order, the following protocols will be followed

- Face coverings must be worn **at all times** (no indoor mask breaks) inside the school, with the exception of eating lunch and PE class when well ventilated and spaced.
- Masks are optional in PE class in a well ventilated, socially distant space.
- Masks may be removed outside except for students/staff on days 6-10 of isolation due to COVID infection.
- It is recommended by health professionals that fabric masks should be three layers.
 - Masks with an exhalation valve and single layer gaiters should not be worn. Multi-layered gaiters are permitted.
 - Students in general ed classrooms that are not compliant with wearing a face covering or social distancing will immediately be sent to behaviorist, counselor or psychologist to clarify reason for behavior and an accommodation plan will be developed that maintains the health/safety of other students and staff. If an accommodation cannot be made that protects the health/safety of others, then an alternate educational plan must be developed.

- KN95s and KF94 masks are preferred
- Surgical masks are more effective if layered with a fabric mask

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

Schools in the district will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable and in accordance with applicable NJ Department of Health and NJ Department of Education requirements.

- Students will sit a minimum of three feet apart wherever practical
- Classes will be cohorted in accordance with CDC and/or Department of Health recommendations

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Handwashing signs will be displayed in all buildings.
- Handwashing education will take place throughout the school day, and handwashing breaks will be required in teacher schedules, particularly after going to the bathroom, before/after eating, after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is recommended.
- We have hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom and at key entry/exit points on campus.
- Students and staff will sanitize or hand wash (depending on location) any time they enter a new space or interact with a new group
- Lessons on respiratory etiquette will be delivered by classroom teachers and supported by school-wide messaging, videos, and signage.
 - These lessons include: Coughing, sneezing, use of and disposal of tissues, and hand washing

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- **Disinfecting Buildings**
 - In the evening
 - ALL classroom desks and chairs
 - handles on equipment
 - window touch points
 - Lockers
 - cubbies
 - buttons on machines
 - phones
 - Vacuuming
 - mopping
 - During the school day
 - All entrance touch point surfaces will be sanitized
 - Student occupied classroom door handles and other corridor touch points will be wiped with disinfectant.



- Hallway bathrooms will be sanitized on a rotating shift according to CDC and DOH recommendations.
- Outdoor Eating Areas
 - All tables and benches will be wiped down and cleaned in between each use by hourly aides.
 - Large trash cans will be placed outside during lunch periods for use by students and removed after the period by the custodian.
- Classroom bathrooms will be cleaned at the end of the school day.
 - This entails sanitizing all bathroom touch points, cleaning visible messes, and checking dispensers.
- **Cleaning and sanitizer protocols**
 - The day custodian will be cleaning frequently touched surfaces such as, door knobs, touch points, handrails, drinking fountains, elevators, light switches and restrooms during shift.
 - The day custodian is responsible for checking and restocking the hand sanitizer dispensers and the bathroom soap dispensers. Hand sanitizer and soap are kept with the custodial supplies. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be in all classrooms and office areas and hand sanitizing stations should be at all entrances, exits and easy to access in common areas.
 - Surfaces must be cleaned before being disinfected. This is a two-step process. Cleaning with soap and water to remove dirt and germs, and then surfaces will be disinfected. EPA approved disinfectants will be used with appropriate tools. Custodians will be trained and the products will be used in accordance with product specifications. Custodians will wear all appropriate protective equipment.
 - Disinfecting spray and sanitizing wipes will be provided to the faculty. Teachers will be responsible for wiping down their desk throughout the day, and the classroom door knobs and other common touch points inside the classroom. Students should wipe down desks after eating meals in the classrooms with the disinfecting spray.
- **Improving Ventilation**
 - The maintenance staff will closely monitor the HVAC systems for proper air flow, and will continue to replace the air filters on a quarterly basis, which is an increase from the manufacturer's specifications. Dampers will be adjusted to increase outside air into the building where possible.
 - Classroom windows may be opened for additional ventilation where necessary and appropriate.
 - All HVAC units will have needlepoint bipolar ionization technology installed within them at UES and Endeavour.
 - All CBL units will utilize MERV13 filters until ionization technology is installed.
- **Water Fountains**
 - Water bottle filling stations will remain available and will be cleaned and disinfected every night and throughout the school day.
 - Preschool classrooms will need to use hallway bottle filling stations.
- **Isolation Rooms**
 - When a student is identified with a temperature, the student will be asked to wait in an isolated area until he/she can be picked up.
 - Each holding area (s) will be equipped with a mobile HEPA filter unit to assist in treating the areas.



- Once the holding area has been cleared, backpack or hydrostatic sprayers will be used to coat surfaces with disinfectant after surfaces have been washed with soap and water. While cleaning and disinfecting, rooms will be vented where possible. All surfaces including but not limited to, high volume touch points, desks, chairs, handles, switches and equipment will be treated.
- Supplemental UV disinfecting systems will be installed in all health offices.

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

- **Contact Tracing**
 - All Nurses have participated in the Johns Hopkins contact tracing course.
 - In a mask optional environment, contact tracing will be conducted on a “whole class”/ bus basis and parents will be notified of cases in their child’s class via a letter from the school, similar to the process for other communicable diseases.
 - Maintenance of Line List with assigned number as directed by the BCHD
 - District transportation coordinator contacted for bus seating charts
 - Each school nurse will maintain a Student Quarantine List as well as a Confidential Staff Quarantine List for all COVID positive tests
 - Each school nurse will maintain a copy of any COVID Vaccination Card provided by staff
 - Staff will be required to be vaccinated and must provide proof of vaccination to the school nurse.
 - Any staff who do not provide proof vaccination will be assumed non-vaccinated and will undergo COVID19 testing up to 2x per week. Testing will occur 1x per week when the CALI score is Green or Yellow, and 2x/week when the CALI score is Orange or Red. Staff must provide proof of negative test results on a schedule determined by the school nurse.
- **Students and staff with symptoms**
 - Students and staff with the following symptoms should be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school within 30 minutes.
 - At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose OR,
 - At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder
- **Exposure - Staff/Student**
 - Parents/staff will be signing Screening Acknowledgement Form which states that any exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school
 - If notified while at school that a specific student/staff was exposed to someone who tested positive outside of school, they will immediately be sent home unless vaccinated
 - If unable to leave building immediately, will be placed in isolation room with mask
 - Return to school will be coordinated with the school nurse and based on the public health guidance in effect at the time
- **Visitors**

Visitors are welcome to our buildings. Visitors should self-screen for symptoms and exposure. If either are present, visiting a building should be postponed.
- **Travel**



There are no travel restrictions affecting return to school in effect as of this update.

F. Diagnostic and screening /testing:

For the purposes of school related testing for symptomatic students or staff, antigen tests or PCR tests will be accepted for re-entry.

- **NURSES OFFICE:**
 - Maintain social distancing with students at all times
- **TRIAGE**
 - Ask teacher, when they call to send student, what symptoms they are exhibiting
 - Triage should be done outside nurse's office if necessary
 - If meets criteria for isolation - immediately isolate in room with hepa filter
- **CRITERIA for ISOLATION:**
 - At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose
 - OR
 - At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder
- **ISOLATION ROOM:**
 - Separate room (preferably with bathroom to avoid movement)
 - Door closed to contain air flow (baby monitor or window to visualize student)
 - Hepa Filter in room
 - Full PPE for nurse (N95, shield, gown, gloves)
 - Eliminate flow of traffic of others by isolation room
 - Red trash bag
 - Should be closed off after student leaves and wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) prior to thorough cleaning
- **NURSE EXPOSURE**
 - Nurse is considered *exposed* if isolated student/staff test positive for COVID-19 and full PPE was not worn (must wear a fit-tested N95 mask to be considered full PPE)
 - Would have to quarantine if required by the Burlington County Department of Health
 - Wearing a N95 without being fit-tested is not considered full PPE
 - N95 can be reused multiple times if wearing surgical mask on top and also depending on how saturated they are underneath
 - ****limit time exposed to isolated individual to at least 6 feet and less than 15 minutes if possible (if not wearing fit-tested N-95 mask)**
- **ADDITIONAL NURSE OFFICE INFORMATION**
 - Log all students sent home with symptoms or temp for follow-up and contact tracing if necessary
 - Teachers to call nurses office prior to sending any student to assure social distancing can take place and prepare for possible full PPE
 - No student should sign in (to be signed in by the nurse)
 - If clothes given out - NOT to be returned, even if washed
 - Discourage non-essential visits to nurses office (bathroom, getting tissues, staff visits)



- Nurses office high risk area - encourage teachers to handle minor issues in classroom if possible
- Nurse to be available in nurse's office at all times for potential students
 - Nurses should limit their exposure outside of the nurse's office if dealt with isolated student
 - All students (already inside of the building) needing evaluation will need to come to nurses office
 - Screening area should be set up for students/staff who require additional screening prior to entering building
- No nebulizer use in school. Students may use inhalers. If nebulizers are necessary during school hours, they must be administered outside of school by parents.
- Students going home sick will be walked outside to parent (no parents in nurse's office)
- 911 for students - parents NEED to be screened prior to entering building
- Parents will make an appointment with nurse to drop off medication and/or to discuss medical information
- **RETURN TO SCHOOL:** Students/Staff
 - Individuals sent home from school with symptoms of COVID-19 can return as follows:
 - **Standard exclusion criteria:** If ill individuals have been given an alternate diagnosis by a healthcare provider and have a negative COVID test, they should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List.
 - **COVID-19 exclusion criteria:** Ill individuals with suspected or known COVID-19 should stay home until at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms. Individuals may return to school on Day 6 if they are not symptomatic. Masks are encouraged through Day 10.
 - Persons who test positive for COVID-19, but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 5 days from the positive test result. Masks are encouraged upon return, through Day 10.

- **QUARANTINE FOR EXPOSED INDIVIDUALS**

Who does not need to quarantine?

Individuals in the following groups who had close contact with someone with COVID-19 do NOT need to quarantine but should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days and get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact

- Students and staff who were exposed in-school no longer need to quarantine.
- Adults \geq 18 years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine AND have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Children and adolescents 5-17 years old who completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (positive viral test).

Who should quarantine?

Individuals in the following groups who had close contact with someone with COVID-19 DO need to quarantine and should take additional precautions during and after quarantine:

- Adults \geq 18 years old who completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine but have NOT received a recommended booster shot when eligible and were exposed outside of school.



- Persons who were exposed outside of school who are not fully vaccinated (haven't completed a primary vaccine series).
- Persons who were exposed in the home, are unvaccinated, and who cannot be isolated from the COVID positive family member(s).

During quarantine

Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after the last close contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of the exposure is considered day 0.

- If COVID-19 symptoms develop, get tested and follow isolation recommendations.
- If asymptomatic, get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact.
 - If the test is positive, follow isolation recommendations.
 - If the test is negative, you can end quarantine after day 5.
 - If testing is not available, you can end quarantine after day 5 (as long as there were no COVID-19 symptoms throughout the 5-day period).

Exception: persons who recently recovered from COVID-19 (tested positive and recovered in the past 90 days) do not need to be tested. For the purpose of quarantine, someone is considered "boosted" upon receipt of the booster dose.

Additional suggested precautions during and after quarantine

- **MASK:** Continue to wear a well-fitted mask when around others at home and in public through day 10. For those ending quarantine on day 5, this would be during days 6 through 10. Persons who are unable to wear a mask when around others should continue to quarantine for a full 10 days. In very limited circumstances when a 5-day quarantine is not feasible, it is imperative that a well-fitted mask be worn when around others at home and in public through day 10.
- **MONITOR FOR SYMPTOMS:** Watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days after last close contact. If symptoms develop, get tested and follow isolation recommendations.
- **TRAVEL:** Get tested at least 5 days after your last close contact and make sure the test result is negative and you remain without symptoms before traveling. If testing is not available, delay travel until a full 10 days after the last close contact. If travel is necessary before the 10 days are completed, wear a well-fitting mask around others for the entire duration of travel. Persons unable to wear a mask should not travel during the 10 days.
- **AVOID HIGH-RISK ACTIVITIES:** Avoid people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, including nursing homes and other high-risk settings; do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask, such as restaurants and some gyms, and avoid eating around others at home and at work until a full 10 days. If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19, as well as others outside your home throughout the full 10 days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19.

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

North Hanover School District is committed to supporting our staff and student health in every way.

Three vaccination clinics were arranged and scheduled for North Hanover staff and contractors. Additionally, notifications of available vaccination appointments were circulated to all staff during the Spring of 2021. As of publication date, the vast majority of North Hanover students are younger than the minimum age for vaccination. If that changes, every effort will be made to



hold on site vaccine clinics to make vaccines readily available to students. Parent communication and information will be distributed if vaccines are approved for our age group.

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

- Special Education/Related Services
 - IEP programs will be provided to students based on their individual needs in accordance with their individualized plan. The school district will work with families to adjust IEP's as needed to ensure the health and safety is the main priority for student learning. will receive specialized instruction in accordance with their IEP by certified special education teachers.
 - Manipulatives, calculators, specific IEP driven mods/accommodations - will be given to individual students for their use only.
 - Related services will be provided to students in accordance with their individualized education plan. Services will be given with healthy and safety protocols in place as needed. Proper cleaning protocols will be used for all service provider areas.
 - 504 Students
 - Students with 504 accommodation plans will receive their accommodations according to their 504 plan. Teachers will review the 504 plans to ensure that the implementation of the accommodations can be delivered. Teachers and 504 coordinators will work with families to adjust the plans accordingly.

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)

Our district has been operating in person instruction since September 2020. For the 2021-2022 school year, we will implement a more traditional instructional program as restrictions for gathering and moving are eased. A tiered approach to intervention is being honed and will be instituted in September.

Our detailed plan will include the provision and assignment of mobile devices for students and the employment of building substitutes to ensure continuity of learning in the event of quarantine and if State law allows students to participate remotely in instruction.

The state and our district recognize the important role of climate and culture, more specifically, social and emotional learning (SEL) and how critical it is in re-engaging students, building a sense of community, supporting adults and students, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning.

We have developed a plan to implement many strategies related to staff and student well-being, trauma informed SEL, school culture and climate and the provision of meals to students.

3. Public Comment

North Hanover School District has been open for full days of instruction since September 2020. The plan that was developed to facilitate that reopening was done so with the involvement of all who volunteered from the staff and community. Every job category was represented and



every Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) was represented. Formal presentations of that plan were scheduled, followed by 8 open Q and A sessions conducted in two languages. The implementation of the 2020-2021 Reopening Plan was discussed at every Board meeting throughout the 2020-2021 school year. All updates to the plan were discussed at Board of Education meetings and the Board received public comment.

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 2021-2022 plan is an abbreviated version of the 2020-2021 plan. This format is already familiar to our stakeholders. Additionally, a presentation using both slides and spoken word will be given. One or two Q. and A. sessions will be scheduled. One Spanish Q and A will be scheduled, with a translator present.

If a request is made for an alternative format or language translation, that request will be granted.

