

Downe Township School

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

LEA Name: Downe Township School District

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/15/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 01/04/2022

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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Face masks remain mandatory for K-12 schools, based on CDC guidance. This includes prior to boarding the school bus, while on the bus and until the bus is completely empty. School staff will teach students how to correctly wear a mask and reinforce their use. Information will be provided to staff and students on proper use and removal of masks. Accommodations for heat, outdoor activities and vaccinated individuals will follow CDC, NJDOH, and Updated COVID-19 Standards for Child Care Centers, and COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.

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

Social distancing practices in all instructional and non-instructional spaces will be maintained to ensure the health and safety of students and staff at Downe Township School. Student desks and seating in classrooms, the multi-purpose room, on school buses and other spaces will be separated by at least three (3) feet and up to six (6) feet to the maximum extent practicable. Other modifications will include turning desks to face the same direction and assigned seating. In addition, The Board's Plan regarding recess, physical education, transportation, and Kids' Center follows CDC, NJDOH, and Updated COVID-19 Standards for Child Care Centers, and COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools. Appropriate signage will be used to ensure spacing.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Downe Township School will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 including requiring staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings as mandated; and posting signs and messages in and around the school building. We will prepare and maintain hand-sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) that will be located in various areas in the building. We will continue with our previous plan in which students are required to wash their hands at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. If washing with soap and water is not possible, washing with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should be used. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and the hand hygiene protocol as outlined above should be performed immediately. Appropriate signage and messages will be

placed throughout the building reminding students and staff about frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette. The district will follow CDC, NJDOH, and Updated COVID-19 Standards for Child Care Centers, and COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Our school will adhere to the recommended facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. All indoor facilities will have adequate ventilation. A/C units will be maintained, and AC filters will be changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

High touch areas shall be cleaned using products according to manufacturer instruction. Bathrooms will be sanitized on a regular schedule. All tables and surfaces in the cafeteria and/or alternative dining areas used in the school district will be cleaned and sanitized between each meal. Staggered use of instructional equipment will take place and we will follow a frequent disinfecting protocol for all equipment used by students.

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

The school will closely monitor Daily COVID Symptom Screening reports from staff and continue to require parents to prescreen students before sending them to school. Procedures for isolation and quarantine will continue as in the most current NJDOH guidance. The School Nurse will work collaboratively with the Local Health Department, reporting cases and contacts as required. The School Nurse will notify affected students, staff, and community members of the need to isolate and/or quarantine as determined by the school nurse and Local Health Department. Alternative instructional options will be provided on an as needed basis.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The school nurse will provide parents and staff members with information on testing sites if that information is requested. We will continue to follow guidance from the DOH regarding exclusion and return to school procedures. Routine testing will take place for staff as directed by the DOE and DOH.

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

We will continue to share information regarding vaccinations to our staff, students, and parents as information becomes available. The School Nurse will continue to assist our school community with obtaining appointments for those eligible for vaccination.

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

Downe Township School administration will consult with our Child Study Team to ensure that appropriate accommodations are in place to address the needs of our student with disabilities. If needed, student IEPs and/or 504 plans can be adjusted to meet their needs.

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)

Downe Township School held a Summer Learning Academy to help address learning loss associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and will do so again this summer. We plan to continue full-day/5-day a week in-person learning as we have done so far this year. We will remain open unless it is decided in consultation with the health department that it is in our best interests to close temporarily. We will focus on a Multi-Tiered System of Supports to provide interventions to students in need. In addition, we plan to return to our regular academic schedules as remote learning will not be offered as an option this year. Instructional pacing and curriculum will be adjusted as needed to meet the needs of the students. An additional teacher will be provided to address basic skills needs as well as provide social-emotional support to students. The Second Step Curriculum for grades PS-8 will be used to provide educational support to students in the area of SEL. Professional Development opportunities will be provided for staff members. We will continue to provide counseling services to our students. Additional technology will be purchased to move toward a 1:1 device initiative. Meals will continue to be provided for our students; if there is a need to return to full-remote learning, we will provide meals as we did throughout the pandemic.

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. (1000 character limit)

The Downe Township Board of Education, at their June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, presented the Plan for Safe Return and provided an opportunity for public comment. With any and all revisions, the plan will be presented to the Board and the public within the required timeframes. This plan was revised and presented to the Board of Education on August 17, 2021 in preparation of our 2021 reopening. It was reviewed and revised again and approved by our board of education on January 4, 2022.

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)

Downe Township's Safe Return to School Plan will be available via our school website www.downeschool.org. It will also be available by request in paper form. Other requests will be honored by contacting Sandra Lore, Administrative Office Manager at 856-447-3878.