

Pemberton Township Schools
Safe Return Plan to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Date: Revised March 23, 2023

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

- A. Masks are optional for all staff and students, unless required by law/mandate/executive order, inside district buildings **except** individuals who have Covid symptoms and are waiting to leave the building or from days 6 -10 after testing positive.
- B. Masks are optional for all staff and students, unless required by law/mandate/executive order, on school buses.
- C. Staff and students who are required to wear a mask must do so at all times they are inside a district building unless the person is eating or drinking.

Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.
- D. **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)** - Staff and students must eat separately from days 6 -10 after testing positive. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.
- E. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette** - Hand washing or hand sanitizer is encouraged before and after eating. Students and staff are reminded to always cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

- F. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation** - All classrooms, offices and large areas in each district building have been equipped with a HEPA H13 filter. Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

- G. **Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments** - Contact tracing and quarantining may occur as required, to the greatest extent practicable, with input from the BCHD and depending on the regional risk category. A district administrator will be the liaison between the school district and health department. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

- H. **Diagnostic and screening testing** - Any student or staff displaying symptoms associated with COVID are sent directly to the nurse's office for screening. Home Covid testing that is verified by a third party is permitted. Home Covid testing without a verified third party will only be accepted in determining positive results, though a PCR or Rapid test is also required. **Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.**

- I. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible** - When appropriate, the district has and will provide information to the learning community in regard to local vaccination opportunities. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

- J. **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies** - Students with disabilities are governed by the IEP. Accommodations are provided for students as required. If determined by local health agencies, students and staff will have PPE available to further promote the health and safety of students in low incidence populations. Executive Orders, Department of Education guidance and/or guidance from the county health department may supersede all BOE policy language and may lead to a change in our district protocols.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

- A. **Continuity of services** - All students are required to attend in person 5 days a week. Tutoring will be provided for students in need of additional support and intervention. Revisions to the instructional framework enables teachers to provide targeted and direct instruction individually and in small groups. A summer acceleration program was created for all grade levels as well as STEM camps for students in grades 3-8. An Intervention and Enrichment schedule is incorporated in K-8, with a credit recovery program initiated in grades 9-12. Intervention is provided to all students requiring additional remediation. A mental health screening process at the teacher level was implemented in September 2021, with a tiered approach for services. Coordinated mental health services are available to students, staff and the community through Care Solace. A Mindfulness Program designed to provide brain breaks has been implemented with resources for targeted developmental and grade levels.