

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

Date: Revised August 24, 2021

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

- A. **Universal and correct wearing of masks -**
- B. Masks are required for all students, staff and visitors in school per Executive Order 251
 - a. [Microsoft Word - EO-251 \(nj.gov\)](#)
- C. Masks are required for students when entering the school bus and throughout the duration of the bus ride to and from school
- D. Masks are strongly encouraged for unvaccinated individuals outdoors when there is sustained close contact, but they are not required
- E. Mask exceptions as indicated in EO
 - a. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
 - b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
 - c. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face mask;
 - d. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
 - e. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
 - f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
 - g. When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals;
 - h. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Additional guidance provided in BOE Policy 1648 A 2 (c). 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. **Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)** - All students maintain 3 feet of social distance to the greatest extent practicable. Staff are required to maintain 3 feet of social distance in the classroom, to the greatest extent practicable. Students are placed in cohorts during lunch and physical education in grades K-6. Physical barriers are also provided as an extra layer of safety at lunch and when appropriate social distancing cannot be maintained in grades K-6 or if requested by a classroom teacher or student in grades 7-12. Additional guidance is provided by BOE Policy 1648. 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.

- G. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette** - Hand sanitizing stations have been set up at the entry point of each district school. All classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizer. Anyone entering a classroom is required to use hand sanitizer. In addition, hand sanitizing stations are provided outside at each playground. Students are required to use the hand sanitizer before and after use of any playground equipment as well as before and after physical education. Hand washing or hand sanitizer is required before and after eating. Students and staff are reminded to always cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. Additional guidance is provided in BOE Policy 1648. 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. **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. In addition, each classroom is cleaned nightly with a disinfectant fogger. Staff provide additional cleaning in bathrooms and high touch areas, whenever possible. High touch areas in buses are cleaned in between runs as well. Buses are cleaned daily with a disinfectant fogger. Additional guidance is provided by BOE Policy 1648 A 3. 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. **Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments** - Contact tracing occurs as required by the BCHD depending on the risk category. A district administrator will be the

liaison between the school district and health department. Close contacts are determined by proximity, time, and PPE. Seating charts are reviewed in all areas to determine the close contacts. Isolation rooms have been identified in each school and are used for presumptive positive cases as well as close contacts. Additional guidance is provided by BOE Policy 1648 A 5 (a-e). 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. **Diagnostic and screening testing** - All students and staff are required to complete an attestation form. Any student or staff displaying symptoms associated with COVID are sent directly to the nurse's office for screening and placed in an isolation area if COVID symptoms are assessed by the nurse. Home Covid testing will not be accepted in determining positive or negative results. As per Executive Order 253 all district staff must provide proof of being fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the 2nd shot) to the school district or provide proof of a negative Covid 19 antigen or molecular test at least once a week. Additional guidance is provided by BOE Policy 1648 A 2 (a) 1-6. 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.

- K. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible** - As per Executive Order 253 all district staff must provide proof of being fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the 2nd shot) to the school district or provide proof of a negative Covid 19 antigen or molecular test at least once a week. Home Covid testing will not be accepted in determining positive or negative results. The district has and will continue to 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.

- L. **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies** - Students with disabilities are governed by the IEP. Pursuant to BOE Policy 1648 A 2(d)4, accommodations are provided for students as required. Students and staff 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. 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. Surveys were conducted for students and families to identify additional support required. Counselors have created themed-specific groups based on survey results, meeting the needs of students, which will continue into the new school year. A mental health screening process at the teacher level will be implemented in September, with a tiered approach for services. All students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year.