

New Hanover Township School District Plan for Safe Opening of School Year 21/22

LEA Name: New Hanover Township School District

Date (07/22/2021):

Date Revised : 8/19/2021

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

Since September 8th, 2020, New Hanover Township School District students and staff have complied with CDC and NJDOH recommendations regarding face coverings. Doing so has been successful and we intend to continue this strategy during SY 21/22. ~~On July 6, 2021, the County Superintendent indicated that the final decision on mask wearing would be the prerogative of individual school districts. Given current conditions, the New Hanover Township District chooses to make mask wearing optional for all students and staff. This decision is subject to change as health conditions evolve.~~

On August 6th, Governor Murphy announced that “all students, educators, and staff will be required to wear masks inside of school buildings regardless of vaccination status for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.” As such, New Hanover Township School District will require universal indoor face coverings for SY 21/22.

Additionally, all visitors entering the building will be required to wear masks while inside the building.

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

Since September 8th, 2020, New Hanover Township School District students and staff have complied with CDC and NJDOH recommendations regarding physical distancing. Doing so has been successful and we intend to continue this strategy during SY 21/22. As of July 9, 2021, the CDC has recommended that students maintain physical distance of 3 feet. The District will follow this recommendation subject to change as health conditions evolve.

C. Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

Staff will teach students proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette in a manner that is age appropriate. Staff will set aside time for periodic hand washing.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

During SY 20/21, the district employed supplemental staff to conduct cleaning during and after regular school hours. The district plans to continue this practice. District custodial staff focused supplemental efforts on high touch areas including, but not limited to, doorknobs, computers, and light switches.

The District maintains a service contract for regular inspection and maintenance of the HVAC system. In the summer of 20/21, all inspections and corrective actions were completed prior to school opening. We will do so again this year.

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

During SY 20/21, district officials developed a strong relationship with local and county health officials. The district actively participated in contact tracing and communicated all decisions with local health officials. This collaboration was seamless and allowed the district to make correct decisions related to student/staff health and safety.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

During SY 20/21, the district screened each student upon entry to the building. Screenings included temperature checks and visual checks for other symptoms. This district will continue this practice on SY 21/22.

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

The District will partner with local health providers to facilitate vaccination for interested school community members.

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

District personnel will review accommodations for students with disabilities. The District Director of Special Services will ensure that all students will receive entitled accommodations with respect to health and safety.

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)

The District remained open, full time for students choosing in-person instruction during SY 20/21. During SY 21/22, the District will pivot away from some of the accommodations needed in SY 20/21, most notably mandatory mask wearing, 6 feet social distance, and maintaining cohorts of 12-15 students. To assist students/staff, the district will provide dedicated mental health counseling and supplemental instructional experiences after school and during summer recess.

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)

On June 4, 2021, the District established a dedicated email address for families to provide input for the development of the plan. That email address was sent to families via the District's mass communication system on the same date.

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)

Upon final approval, the plan will be translated into Spanish and posted along with the English version. Families who speak a language/s other than English or Spanish can request and obtain a translated version in the language of their request.