

New Hanover Township School District-Safe Return Plan

Renewal Date-1/4/22

Universal and correct wearing of masks

All persons entering New Hanover Township School are required to wear approved face coverings unless covered by a certified exemption. Exemptions are reviewed and approved/denied by school administration in consultation with appropriate professional services provider. The District provides face coverings to those who do not have and staff is trained how to fit masks on younger students correctly.

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

To the greatest extent possible, students maintain 6 feet distance from each other. As each grade level consists of one collective, students are organically cohorted.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Staff reinforces proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette with all students. Emphasis is given to younger grades. Additionally, staff at each grade level staggers student restroom use to avoid overly unnecessary congregation and stagnation.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Using grant monies, the District has employed additional person hours to clean high trafficked areas. Cleaning staff have staggered schedules to overlap during increased stress times including meals and dismissal.

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

The District Superintendent conducts contact tracing in collaboration with our assigned county Department of Health official.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Students are visually screened and temperature checked each morning.

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

The District has provided information to the community seeking vaccinations.

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

The District has provided required services to students with disabilities. This has required alternate scheduling, alternate locations, and general flexibility.

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional mental health and other needs which may include student health and food services

The District has remained open, full time since September of 2020. We are committed to staying opened for in-person instruction. Students and staff receive academic and mental health support in school. Health and food services have maintained operations as well.

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

On 12/28, the District sent an email to families seeking input from families regarding the progress of the existing plan and suggestions for an amended plan. Families were provided a dedicated email link that went directly to the District Superintendent.

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.

All information is provided to families in their preferred language as indicated in home language surveys.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

The district provides professional development in accordance with appropriate regulations. During this time, the District has placed emphasis on SEL, conflict resolution, and mitigating learning loss.