

eGrant Management System

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Applicant: 03 4870 South Hackensack Bergen County

Application: 2021-2022 ARP Safe Return Plan - 00 -

Project Period: 9/1/2021 - 8/31/2022

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SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

(1) IN GENERAL - A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency's website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

2) COMMENT PERIOD. Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Support for Schools: Describe how the LEA will support its schools in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining safe operation. This description must include:

For each mitigation strategy listed below, 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.

LEA Response Table

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Face coverings are currently optional in the school buildings, grounds and activities. Students and staff may choose to wear face coverings at their discretion. Parents and staff may make masking decisions based on their specific situation, for example, if a student or staff member or their family members are immunocompromised or at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19. The district supports mask use by students and staff who choose to mask at any time.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

According to the CDC memo from May 11th, people who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases to other people. People who are at risk for getting

very sick with COVID-19 who test positive should consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible treatment, even if their symptoms are mild. The district is cognizant of considerations for high-risk activities during high COVID-19 hospital admission level. Within and outside of classrooms, schools maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable in any situation.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district promotes behaviors that mitigate the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate and encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Hand washing and hand sanitizing are permitted and encouraged throughout the school day. Each school maintains hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Such stations are located in each classroom; at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets; children five and younger are supervised when using hand sanitizer. School officials developed a school-wide plan where students are required to wash hands at least 20 seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing and/or sneezing.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district adheres to the South Hackensack Custodial department cleaning procedures. The district maintains an adequate supply of cleaning supplies, including hand sanitizer, gloves, and face coverings to allow for a two-month supply. The staff disinfects during the school day for touchpoints, including but not limited to, phones, door handles, light switches, handrails, etc.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Schools have transitioned from a case-investigation model to a routine disease control model. This model focuses more on responding to clusters of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of ongoing transmission in schools and less on individual case investigation and contact tracing. The district still files a weekly CDRSS form, as required for the New Jersey Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System. Procedures for symptomatic staff and students include students and staff with symptoms are safely and respectfully

isolated from others. Students remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. The district follows current Communicable Disease Service guidelines for illness reporting. An adequate amount of PPE is available, accessible and provided for use. Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19 except in certain high-risk congregate settings according to the latest CDC memo (May 11).

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The New Jersey Department of Health recommends that schools work with their Local Health Department to identify rapid viral testing options in their community where they can refer ill or exposed students and staff. The CDC no longer recommends routine screening testing in schools. According to the May 11th CDC memo, testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. Repeated testing may be necessary.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

According to the CDC memo from May 11th, for COVID-19, staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. It provides individual-level protection and high vaccination coverage which reduces the burden of COVID-19 on people, schools, healthcare systems, and communities. The district distributes all health notices, including notices of locations offering vaccines or boosters.

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Reasonable accommodations were provided for individuals that the CDC identified as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 such as medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students with complex disabilities with IEPs, or students who require accommodations under a plan in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan). Accommodations were also made for those younger students or individuals with disabilities in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Reasonable modifications or accommodations must be provided to ensure equal access to in-person learning for students with disabilities as stated in the May 11 CDC memo.

Safe Return Plan Updated

Safe Return Plan text and assurances must be agreed to every six months.

Date Plan Updated

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district has identified certain needs that are being funded by the CRRSA-ESSER II grant and will continue to be funded under the ARP-ESSER III grant to provide a continuation of services for students and staff impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The district has increased its use of interactive technology, particularly for students with disabilities in our primary grades (K-1). The district has continued therapeutic care for identified students who have experienced isolation, trauma, depression and anxiety. The therapeutic care has included individual and family counseling to support students' academic success and mental health needs. Summer programs in English Language Arts and Math will again happen during summer 2023 for Grades K-8, funded by ESSER grants.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The Safe Return to in-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services was initially approved by the South Hackensack Board of Education on June 28, 2021; updates were approved on February 7, 2022 and June 22, 2022 and December 27, 2022. The current update was approved as an amendment on June 22, 2023. These approvals occurred at public meetings of this governing body. There were opportunities for public discussion at these meetings and at subsequent Board of Education meetings. The reopening committee will continue to review this template and the ARP Mandatory Subgrant Award for revisions as required. Public comment will be solicited as required by the subgrant award. Updated plans are posted on the district website.

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. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The School Reopening Plan is published on the district website at www.shmemorial.org and the amended Safe Return to in-Person Instruction and Continuity will be posted there as well. For those members of the public whose first language is not English, the website has the ability to translate text into many different languages. The text of the Reopening Plan is understandable and follows a clear format, making it easy for people to access the area they wish. Upon request and if necessary, an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act will be provided information in an alternative format that is accessible for that parent or guardian.

Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools. ([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Professional learning and technical assistance will continue to be provided for two online support programs that reinforce most content areas. This support increases students' success in a variety of content areas after the disruption of learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The district continues to support social/emotional learning training for staff to promote SEL for students to better deal with the emotional fallout of the trauma of COVID-19.

Provide current link to the district's website where the plan is posted.

www.shmemorial.org

By checking this box and saving the page, the applicant hereby certifies that they will assure that the information contained in the Safe Return to School plans will be updated within this system every 6 months during this grant project period.

Assurances Fully Agreed to By:

Jason Chirichella
