

Laurel Springs School District LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Template: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Laurel Springs School District

Date of Implementation: June 21, 2021

Date Revised: March 1, 2022

I. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

As per CDC and CCDOH recommendations, all staff, students and visitors will have the *option to wear face masks while indoors and outdoors when on school property and on buses. This will be in effect beginning July 1, 2021. However, guidelines for wearing face masks can be and may change as per NJ DOE, CDC and or the CCDOH.*

BOE Policy 1648 and our Re-Start & Recovery Plan; Following a Pandemic will be followed with respect to mask requirements. Videos and signage will be provided to demonstrate the correct ways to wear a face covering.

3/1/22: On February 7, 2022 Governor Murphy announced the removal of the mask mandate (Executive Order 251) effective March 7, 2022. In response, the Laurel Springs School District will allow masks to be optional for students and staff within buildings and on school property. Asymptomatic students and/or staff members identified as close contacts will no longer be excluded, except in the case of immediate household contacts who are not able to effectively remain isolated from a COVID-positive individual within the home. If the household contact cannot isolate, they will be required to follow proper quarantine timelines as provided by school staff. Students infected with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts are *recommended* to wear masks inside school facilities for Days 6-10 in accordance with the shortened isolation/quarantine timelines. Anyone choosing to wear a face covering will be permitted without limitations. Administration will not tolerate the shaming, teasing, harassing, or bullying of any student or staff member due to masking preferences. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any individual who engages in such behavior. *All updated NJDOE, CDC and ACDOH recommendations will be implemented related to universal and correct wearing of masks.*

B. Physical Distancing:

As per CDC and CCDOH recommendations, physical distancing between students and staff within buses, classrooms and cafeterias will maintain a minimum of *3-6 ft. distance when and where practicable.*

Markings in hallways, offices and cafeterias designate social distancing guidance *when and where practicable.* Traffic patterns for entering and exiting buildings are marked to reduce congestion at arrival and dismissal, as well as in hallways *when and where practicable.*

Students in grades PreK-6 will remain in classroom pods for instruction, *when and where practicable*. Seating charts for classrooms and cafeterias are maintained to properly space students as well as identify potential close contacts *when and where practicable*.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

All classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizing stations. Videos and signage are provided to demonstrate correct methods of handwashing and respiratory etiquette (ie. sneezing, coughing, etc.) All students and staff are required to wash hands prior to eating/serving food. Staff wash hands immediately after removing gloves.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

A procedures manual with checklists is established for scheduled cleaning and disinfecting protocols for classrooms, lavatories, cafeterias, gymnasium, common areas and water fountains. Bathroom occupancy is limited through hall monitors and classroom assignments.

Electrostatic sprayers were purchased for the district to facilitate daily cleaning. Hydrogen peroxide-based sanitizing and cleaning solutions are used as recommended by CDC guidelines. Flat surfaces and high contact areas are wiped down and sanitized daily.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine:

In consultation with the CCDOH, contact tracing will be completed. Policy 1648 and the Recovery & Restart Plan, Contact Tracing and Screening identifies school nurses as the point of contact with the Department of Health in addition to guidance from the school physician.

Close contacts are considered to be individuals that were within 6 feet of a positive COVID-19 patient for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. Isolation areas are provided in each building for symptomatic staff and students to remove from the general population.

As per CDC guidance, symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 10 days after symptom onset and have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. Asymptomatic individuals may return 7 days after a positive result. School-based close contacts will be identified and quarantine for 10 days.

3/1/22: As per current CDC guidance, symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 can return 5 days after symptom onset and if they have been fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication. Students infected with COVID-19 or identified as close contacts are *recommended* to wear masks inside school facilities for Days 6-10 in accordance with the shortened isolation/quarantine timelines. The Laurel Springs School District will no longer exclude asymptomatic students and/or staff members identified as close contacts, except in the case of immediate household contacts who are not able to effectively remain isolated from a COVID-positive individual within the home. *All updated NJDOE, CDC and ACDOH recommendations will be implemented related to contact tracing and quarantine.*

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

Policy 1648, and the Recovery & Restart Plan, Re-opening Schools Following a Pandemic and 1648 Contact Tracing and Screening provide guidelines and procedures for screening, PPE requirements, and symptomatic students and staff. Health screening questionnaires may be provided if necessary to all parents and staff at the beginning of the year or at a designated time to recognize COVID-like symptoms and will provide specific directions on safety measures to ensure the health and safety of the school community.

Behaviors that promote reducing the spread of the virus will be reinforced such as staying at home when appropriate, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, face coverings and signage. All CDC and CCDOH recommendations will be implemented related to diagnostic and screening testing.

12/22/21: Unvaccinated staff members, pursuant to NJ Executive Order #253, will be required to submit to COVID-19 testing at a minimum of once per week.

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

The Laurel Springs School District encourages our staff to get vaccinated. For age eligible students, our school nurse provides resources to engage families about vaccines and locations to obtain vaccines. For age eligible students (age 5-12), our school district, Laurel Springs School provided a vaccine clinic for the community on November 29th and December 21st.

H. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:

Students will be identified who may require accommodations through a review of student health plans and 504s as well as parent input. If needed, a medical excuse for mask exclusion will occur with district physician review.

II. Ensuring Continuity of Services

Universal screening identifies specific skill-based interventions to meet the needs of students. Supplemental reading teachers provide reading interventions. Teachers use differentiated, small group instruction for students to demonstrate academic growth. Universal screening is conducted to determine specific skill-based interventions to meet the needs of each student. (MAP) Reading interventions are provided by supplemental reading teachers individually or in small groups. (RTI)

After school tutoring for students in grades K-6. Teachers will be able to provide differentiated assignments to students so that all students have the opportunity to demonstrate academic growth utilizing content rich materials through Big Ideas, Pearson's Ready Gen, HMH Into Reading, and Orton

Gillingham Phonics Approach to Learning. Afterschool and extended school year programs are provided to students in need of additional interventions. Afterschool clubs are available for students in grades 1-6.

Social and behavioral supports are provided through classroom lessons, presentations, and school wide curriculum. SEL supports are also provided through the framework of the Choose Love Program. Positive behavior and social interactions are promoted by the Laurel Springs School Dragon Program for Positive Behavior Management and student success.

District-wide Services

- Guidance counselors will provide counseling services for all students PreK-6.
- School nurses monitor student health needs and maintain vaccination records as per state requirements.
- Staff will implement trauma-informed instructional practices.
- Mental health professional development will be provided to all staff.
- All students have access to free meals.
- Lunch schedules are staggered to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Students currently eat lunch outdoors or in their classrooms to minimize close contact time without masks.

III. Public Comment

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.

Public comment input such as stakeholder input was collected at Schoolwide Advisory Committee meetings consisting of administrators, teachers, counselors, parents and community members. A survey was sent out to all Laurel Springs families for their input and concerns on June, 1, 2021. A public presentation was provided at the BOE meeting held on 6/23/21.

Understandable and uniform format:

Safe Return Plan will be posted on the District website in English and Spanish. Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability will be provided an alternate format specific to their disability.