

# New Jersey Department of Education

**Applicant:** 05 3440 Mount Laurel Township - Burlington

ARP Safe Return Plan 

**Application Cycle:** ARP Safe Return Plan - 00- Amendment 3

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

## 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)

Since the NJ Governor's Executive Orders lifted the mask mandate in 2021, the district has not required their use in school by students, staff, and others. In addition, in May 2023, the COVID health emergency was lifted by the Federal Government.

2) Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)  
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district provides full-day in-person instruction for all students without the need for social distancing.

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette  
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district maintains and provides indoor facilities with adequate ventilation, including operational, and ventilation systems. Recirculated air does have a fresh air component. The maintenance of filters for A/C units is maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations. The district continues to provide and

maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) in each classroom, at entrances/exits of buildings, and near lunchrooms and toilets. Children ages 5 and younger will be supervised when using hand sanitizer. For classrooms having existing hand washing stations, the district prepared stations with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation  
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district is committed to cleaning procedures to reduce the spread of contagions, not those only related to COVID-19. The maintenance supervisor and custodian staff in consultation with the principal continue to use procedures for routine cleaning and disinfection. These procedures include cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, methods and materials to be used, and routinely cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops). The district has replaced all HVAC and classroom unit ventilators raising air filtration levels above MERV 13. All filter(s) for HVAC units are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations and units have a fresh air recirculation component per safety recommendations.

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)

Contact tracing was actively used to identify those who have tested positive for COVID-19 during the emergency pandemic. Contact tracing has been used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. All procedures regarding contact tracing practices within the Mount Laurel Schools were aligned with applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding privacy and the confidentiality of records in partnership with the local health department procedures. The need for contact tracing has not been necessary since the health emergency has been lifted by state and federal officials.

6) Diagnostic and screening testing  
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district informs staff and parents not to report to work or school if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 until it can be verified through testing that the individual (s) are COVID-19-free. School nurses communicate with families and staff regarding any questions and health information necessary when it is relevant to them.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible  
([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

The district works with the local health department and disseminates information about vaccinations when provided. The district has worked with staff and students to facilitate vaccinations and during the COVID-19 pandemic held two vaccination clinics on-site at school resulting in 765 vaccinations being administered to both staff and students ages 5 and above including boosters for eligible populations. Vaccinations are readily available to all staff and eligible students for walk-in, free vaccines, at multiple sites within the community and from the NJDOH.



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### 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 implements extensive summer enrichment programming (learning acceleration program) for all eligible students entering K through 8th grade based on multiple measures (benchmark assessments; teacher recommendation; attendance; grades). The program will be 3.5 hours in length per day; 4 days per week; and last for 5 weeks. The program targets Title I, LEP students, students with disabilities, and other special populations. The district plans to continue high-dosage tutoring interventions in the Fall and Spring of the school year as well. Students with disabilities will receive Extended School Year Services (ESY) as per their needs outlined in their IEPs. IEP Programs are offered for differing durations (4 weeks; 5 weeks, and; 6 weeks) depending on the student's disability and need. School counselors and mental health professionals are provided during summer school programs and during the school year.

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 district maintains public comment emails where it may receive input/feedback/comment from the public on the plan ([mtlboecomment@mtlaurelschools.org](mailto:mtlboecomment@mtlaurelschools.org) or [mtlreopen2020@mtlaurelschools.org](mailto:mtlreopen2020@mtlaurelschools.org)). The plan is reviewed at the regularly scheduled public board of education meeting, where public comment is accepted. The plan is posted on the district website for the public to review and submit comments.

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 district posted the Plan on the district website with the public comment option. The plan is written in simple terms consistent with the language used with parents throughout the pandemic. Parents are provided with a contact number and email to use if they have any questions on the plan or any material presented within.

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

The district regularly reviews and assesses conditions within our schools. Meetings with School Nurses and Principals are also conducted, if necessary. The Superintendent regularly disseminates information from the local health department and the Department of Education about guidance and training sessions. Information is communicated to staff about the plan for maintaining a safe in-person learning environment for students.

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

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:

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

([count] of 1000 maximum characters used)

Students with disabilities served in special programs receive services from staff with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment when necessary. Students with disabilities in general education settings follow the same health and safety policies for all students. Students with medical conditions are accommodated in the school setting according to physician and school nursing guidelines, requirements, and NJDOH recommendations.