

# Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Harmony Township School District

Date: 06/04/2021

Date Revised: 08/23/2021

## 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

- All staff will be required to wear face coverings (mask, face shield, etc.).
- Students will be required to wear face coverings, as per Governor Murphy’s mandate.
- All visitors entering the building must wear a mask. Anyone entering without a mask will be asked to leave.
- Masks may be removed when students and staff are exposed to extreme heat indoors.

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

- To the greatest extent possible, students will maintain social distancing when entering, exiting, and moving about the buildings.

### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- Hand sanitizers will be readily available around the buildings and in classrooms.
- Signage has been placed around the buildings.

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

- **Current disinfecting equipment:** Two – Odorox Slimline Hydroxyl Generators, Three – Odorox Boss Hydroxyl Generators, Two - Winix 5500 Air Purifier HEPA PlasmaWave filters, Three – Victory Electrostatic sprayers (Handheld), Six – Hand sanitizer on stands, (Lobbies, faculty entrances), Four– Upright HEPA Vacuums, One – 5-gallon HEPA tank vacuum, Two – 2.5-gallon hand tank sprayers. One – Tornado handheld spot carpet cleaner, One – Clarke Clean Track carpet cleaner (large areas), One – Advance SC1500 Riding Scrubber (Hallways, etc.), Forty-one pcs. Wall-mounted hand-sanitizing units (Multi-purpose room, classrooms, and halls), Thirty-two pcs. wall mounted hand- sanitizing units (classrooms

and halls) Two – Victory Electrostatic Sprayers, One – Victory Electrostatic Backpack sprayer (Auditorium, gym, locker rooms, large-area applications), One – MS Jet Motor Scrubber (Deep cleaning unit – restrooms, etc.), Four – Odorox Boss Hydroxyl Generators. (Located as needed)

- **General Overview of Daily Cleaning/Sanitizing**

- **Classrooms** – Remove trash and recycling then sanitize containers, dry mop floors, disinfect all hard surfaces with Victory Electrostatic sprayer, disinfect all light switches, and door hardware. Staff and students would use disinfectant wipes during the day as necessary.
- **Hallways** – Daily dry mop all hallways and spot clean/sanitize areas as needed. Scrubbing of all hallways with Advance SC 1500 Scrubber as necessary (minimum schedule with neutral cleaner)
- **Cafeteria** – Daily dry mop of the cafeteria and multi-purpose room floors, spot cleaning and disinfecting of floors as necessary, cleaning and disinfecting of tables, counters, etc. (Custodial and Cafeteria staff). Cleaning of floors with Advance SC1500 floor scrubber one day per week minimum (M-F). Removal of trash and recycling, disinfecting of containers, walls cleaned and disinfected as necessary. Disinfect all door knobs and light switches.
- **Gym** – Dry mop daily, spot mop and disinfect as necessary, Advance SC1500 floor scrubber once per week (neutral cleaner), disinfect water fountains, door handles.
- **Offices** – Vacuumed daily, trash and recycling removed, containers disinfected, common areas are disinfected as necessary, (not personal desks, etc.), doorknobs, copy machine touchpads and light switches disinfected as necessary.
- **Media Center/Library** – Vacuum daily, trash and recycling removed, containers disinfected, all hard surfaces sprayed with Victor electrostatic sprayer, doorknobs, and light switches disinfected daily. The Media Specialist used disinfecting wipes during the day as necessary.
- **Nurse's Offices** – Dry mop daily, wet mop restroom floors daily with disinfectant, Disinfect all hard surfaces with victor electrostatic sprayer, clean, sanitize restrooms and treatment room sinks, remove trash and recycling daily, disinfect containers, disinfect doorknobs and light switches. Nurses would use disinfectant wipes during the day as necessary.
- **Restrooms** – Dry mop, wet mop with disinfectant, clean and disinfect all fixtures, clean and disinfect walls as needed, disinfect doorknobs, and light switches.
- **Kitchen/Serving Areas** – Kitchen and Serving area floors are dry mopped daily, wet mopped daily with a degreasing cleaner, trash and recycling are removed, containers are disinfected. Doorknobs and light switches disinfected. Cleaning and disinfecting of sinks, counters, preparation areas, etc. completed by the Cafeteria staff.
- **Water Fountains/Bottle Fillers** – cleaned and disinfected daily.

***Please note:** The Harmony School District was proactive in addressing the 2019 - 2020 school year potential Flu outbreak by researching and purchasing new equipment and implementing new cleaning procedures. In addition to the previously mentioned procedures, a custodian was disinfecting door knobs and handrails during the school day prior to the COVID 19 Epidemic.*

- **In addition to our current daily cleaning/disinfecting protocol, we have implemented the following procedures/duties.**
  - a. Additional disinfecting of all restrooms during the school day with Victor Electrostatic sprayer as necessary.
  - b. All Nursing area floors to be disinfected daily versus as needed disinfecting.
  - c. Hallway cleaning with the Advance SC Floor Scrubber to be completed using Genesan # 7, One Step Disinfectant Cleaner as necessary.
  - d. Rotate minimum of two Odorox Hydroxyl Generators to address any potential issues.

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

- Our response to students and staff will follow the guidelines that are set forth by the Warren County Department of Health.
- Seating charts will be maintained by each teacher for contact tracing purposes.
- Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed. These situations should occur rarely if schools are adhering to physical distancing recommendations ([NJ DOH The Road Forward Guidance for 2021-2022](#)).

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

**1. Screening Procedures for Students and Staff**

- Parents should screen their children before placing them on a bus, driving them to school, or allowing them to walk to school.
  - Parents should not send students to school when sick.
  - For school settings, the NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:
    - **At least two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
    - **At least one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.
- For students with chronic illness, only **NEW** symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.
  - Once students are at school, the staff will do a visual check, any students not feeling well should be sent to the health office for further evaluation.
  - ***A daily reminder will be sent to parents reminding them of this information.***

- Staff will self-screen at home prior to leaving for work.
  - ***A daily reminder will be sent to staff.***
- Staff should not report to school when sick. As with the students, the following NJDOH criteria will be used for isolation and exclusion from school :
  - **At least two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
  - **At least one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

## **2. Protocols for Symptomatic Students and Staff**

- Health offices will be equipped with Odorox air purification equipment.
- Students or staff presenting with a fever or symptoms will be placed in isolation and further screening will be completed by the school nurse.
- Any staff member or student with a temperature of 100.0 degrees F or greater will be sent home.
- Potential COVID-19 cases will be reported, as required, to the Warren County Department of Health. Guidelines for what constitutes 'potential COVID-19' will be provided.

## **3. COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Persons Who Have COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms or Who Test Positive for COVID-19:**

- Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result.
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.  
(Above information obtained from [NJ DOH The Road Forward Guidance for 2021-2022](#)).

## **4. COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts**

- CDC released guidance with options to shorten the quarantine time period following exposure to a confirmed positive case. While CDC and NJDOH continue to endorse 14 days as the preferred quarantine period– and thus the preferred school exclusion period – regardless of the community transmission level, it is recognized that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances reduced burden against a small possibility of spreading the virus. Additional information is described in NJDOH quarantine guidance.

- To that end, excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19 may be considered for a reduced exclusion period based on community transmission levels as follows:
  - **High (red or orange) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 14 days.**
  - **Moderate or Low (yellow or green) exposed close contacts should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days)**
- Schools serving medically complex or other high-risk individuals should use a 14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts in all levels of community transmission.
- Exposed close contacts who are **fully vaccinated** and have no COVID-like symptoms:
  - Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
  - Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
  - If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.
 (Above information obtained from [NJ DOH The Road Forward Guidance for 2021-2022](#)).
- **Exception:** During periods of low community transmission, ill individuals excluded for COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not tested and do not have a known COVID-19 exposure may follow NJDOH School Exclusion List to determine when they may return to school. (updated August 2021)
- **Exception:** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. (updated 8/21)

#### 5. Instruction for Positive Cases and/or Close Contacts

- An instructor will be provided on a case-by-case basis in an effort to provide a continuity of instruction for our students.

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

- As per Governor Murphy, “all Pre-K through 12 school personnel are required to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021, or undergo regular testing at a minimum of once to twice each week.” This includes teachers, aides, substitutes, coaches, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and custodians.
- The district will provide resources regarding vaccine availability to both staff and students. The district will continue to provide resource information on the district website, as well as through our global communication tool.

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

In addition to the above mentioned practices to ensure student health and safety, the Harmony School District will ensure that each student with disabilities will have their individual needs considered. Staff will remain cognizant of the fact that it may not be feasible for certain students with more severe disabilities to wear masks continually or follow certain protocols to their fullest extent with or without assistance. Safety equipment, including a variety of PPE's (gloves, face shields, desk shields, wipes) will continue to be available in each special needs classroom for staff and student use, as deemed appropriate by classroom personnel.

## 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)

- Teachers will be required to provide instructional content, through a variety of platforms, that will assist the students in successfully acquiring the knowledge and skills based on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.
- The Harmony School District currently utilizes the Response-to-Intervention (RtI) Model as a mechanism for identifying those students who need extra support. As part of the model, we have Academic and Behavior coaches in place to assist those students.
- Social-Emotional Learning information and resources have been provided to the staff, and additional professional development on SEL will be provided prior to the start of the school year.
- We will continue to utilize LinkIt! to create benchmark assessments for our students, and further utilize the data to drive instructional decisions.
- Harmony School District will continue to meet our obligations to students with disabilities or ESL students to the greatest extent possible. The district will have:
  - Procedures to address the return to school of medically fragile students and students with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of an IEP or 504.
  - IEP teams review student data/progress to determine whether critical skills were lost during the 20-21 school year.
  - IEP teams consider the impact of missing services on student progress and determine if additional services are needed.
  - IEP teams develop a procedure to complete overdue and/or incomplete evaluations to determine eligibility for special education services
  - Clear communication to parents/guardians for the procedures for student referrals and evaluations to determine eligibility for special education and related services or a 504 plan.
  - ESL screening will occur for all incoming identified students
  - ESL services will be provided as dictated by the students' program.
- Staff social/emotional/mental health needs

### 3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments 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)

There will be a meeting held on August 23, 2021 where public comments will be heard. Public comments will be reviewed and added to the plan, if necessary. Revisions will also include information obtained from parent surveys, and will be presented at a future board meeting where public comments will be heard.

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)

The written plan will be available on the Harmony School District website, as well as the recording of the meeting where public comments were heard. If any parent has a problem understanding the current plan, we will provide them with a plan that has been translated into their native language or an alternatively accessible format for any individuals with a disability.