

Middle Township Schools Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Middle Township Public Schools

Date Revised: 12/15/22

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

Middle Township will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding universal and correct mask-wearing as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. As of June 30, 2022, mask-wearing is optional in the district.

B. Physical distancing

Middle Township will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding physical distancing as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend be expected to physically distance themselves throughout the facility during the school day in compliance with the New Jersey Department of Education, CDC, and/or New Jersey Department of Health. Email and social media updates will be distributed to students, parents, and guardians regarding physical distancing expectations, if necessary, in the future.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Middle Township will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend will be expected to utilize the hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes that are throughout the facility during the school day. In addition, signage regarding hand washing and respiratory etiquette is displayed throughout our schools and on school grounds, as proper handwashing etiquette is important for community health. Email and social media reminders will be distributed to students, parents, and guardians regarding the District's handwashing and respiratory etiquette expectations as applicable.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Middle Township will continue to sanitize, disinfect, and clean all facilities daily. The district performs regularly scheduled preventative maintenance on all HVAC systems throughout the school year to ensure compliance with ventilation standards including the required "fresh air" component that is specified in Federal and State health guidance. The District will continue to ensure that frequently touched surfaces and restrooms are routinely disinfected and cleaned.

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

Students suspected of having COVID-19 will be directed to be tested for COVID-19 and self-quarantine based on current and relevant CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health guidance. The District will continue to work in partnership and communicate with the Cape May County Department of Health regarding the necessity of self-quarantine periods for identified students, faculty, and staff.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Middle Township will continue to emphasize the importance of self-screening for any community health-related illness. Students, faculty, and staff who manifest or present symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses will be directed and expected to follow the most current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by the CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health.

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

Vaccinations were made available to educators and staff working in educational settings. The district has continued and will continue to promote opportunities in an effort to keep staff and students up to date.

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

The district will continue to accommodate students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. These accommodations will be in consultation with the IEP team, the student's healthcare provider, the school nurses, and the District's physician of record. Accommodations will also be made for students that have a 504 plan.

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)

The district will continue to utilize assessment data, including data from NJSLA and NJGPA assessments and the State mandated "Start Strong" assessments in Fall 2022, to determine the educational needs of students and the interventions necessary to accelerate learning. All schools will offer orientations for new students, current students, and students transitioning to a new building. The district will continue its practice of using multiple measures to continuously monitor student achievement and to improve our schools. In addition, mental health and counseling services will be available to students.

3. Public Comment

A. 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. (1000 character limit)

Each of the individual schools convened their restart committees at the onset of the initial plan which consisted of teachers, staff, parents and community stakeholders and discussed the safe reopening plan. The plan was made public at Board of Education meetings in which comment was welcomed. The plan is also posted on the district website. The Board of Education also provides regular updates and receives public feedback during Board of Education meetings. The same process is utilized for revisions and updates to the plan.

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 district will seek individuals that can translate the plan into various languages as necessary to reach our non-English proficient population. Additionally, when requested we will provide individuals with the necessary format that will be accessible to the parent as defined by their particular disability.