

Morris Hills Regional District
Plans for Virtual/Remote Instruction in Case of a Public Health-Related Closure
Board Approval: 8/21/2023

Please note: This plan will only be used in the event of a public health-related emergency closure.

Student Internet/Device Access: Morris Hills Regional is a 1:1 district; all students and staff will have a Chromebook that they can use to access instructional materials. Students or staff without internet access at home will be provided access by the district via our contract with Optimum/Lightpath.

Schedule for Home Instruction Days: The district operates on an alternating A/B schedule; students typically take 4 classes on A Day and 4 classes on B Day. Our home instruction plan will continue that format.

Our schedule will be primarily **synchronous**. Students and staff will follow a set bell schedule Monday through Friday. Teachers will be teaching live via videoconferencing software. Staff members will contact counselors if students are not turning in assignments; counselors will call home to check in on students. The instructional day will be the same length as in-person instruction (7:27 AM to 2:27 PM at Morris Knolls and 8:05 AM to 3:02 PM at Morris Hills) or at least 4 hours in duration each day, depending on the nature and duration of the emergency.

Curriculum: Existing curriculum will be followed to the greatest extent possible. In instances where implementing curriculum is not possible (e.g., CTE areas where students do not have access to machines and tools), alternatives planned collaboratively by teachers and instructional supervisors that address appropriate NJSLs will be utilized.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken each block as students log in from home via videoconferencing software. Counselors and case managers follow up on any attendance issues via email, phone, and videoconference check-ins on a regular basis.

Accommodations/Modifications for ELL/504/IEP Students: Lessons will be differentiated to provide supports (extended time, directions via Screencastify, staff assistant help via videoconferencing software, etc.). Grading options past the usual deadlines, such as Pass/Fail, may be extended to ELLs and students with 504s based on the recommendation of the ESL Advisory Committee or 504 Team. Students with disabilities are already afforded this option through the Child Study Team.

Grading: The district will follow its usual grading procedures for the year. Department supervisors will ensure that all teachers are employing equitable grading practices and are responsive to the challenges many students face in working virtually from home.

Support Services

School Counselors/CST/Educational Specialists: School counselors and CST members will be available via videoconferencing software as needed. Ed Specialists may use their time for virtual conferencing with students, IEP meetings, reviews, re-evaluations, etc. School Counselors will also be reaching out to students who are not turning in assignments or checking in to ensure that all students have access to the instructional

materials. Case managers, ESS staff, and nursing staff may be reaching out for wellness checks as determined by the student's individualized Health Plan, 504, or IEP.

Special Education Related Service Providers: Related Service providers such as SLP's, Physical and Occupational Therapists, and Reading Specialists will have a repository of materials and videos for students to access. Staff members will be meeting with their students to provide telehealth services. Frequency and duration is determined as per IEP. Effective School Solutions will be available via email, Google Meet/Zoom, and phone conferencing to provide support.

Special Education Instructional Staff Assistants: Staff Assistants will be required to check in with their teachers and to join them in their virtual class as needed. Staff Assistants will work with students at the direction of the teacher and case manager. Staff Assistants will complete professional development through NJ Vector Solutions and other reputable sources.

Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities/OOD: Students will be transported to their placement provided it remains open. The placement will be responsible for coordinating services if the school were to close.

Considerations for Medically Fragile Students: If school is open, the IEP and/or 504 team may consider a temporary change in placement for a student that is medically fragile. This will incorporate traditional and/or virtual home instruction.

Meals: The District will be providing meals to eligible students. Meals will be picked up curbside at each school with days and hours to be determined.

SFA Name: Morris Hills Regional District

Agreement #: 02703379

Date Meal Distribution will begin: first day of public health-related closure

Date Meal Distribution will end: last day of public health-related closure

Schools/Site where distribution of meals will take place: Meals will be picked up curbside at each school

Meals to be claimed for reimbursement per day: breakfast and lunch each school day

Meal Content: shelf stable meals and freshly prepared cold meals to include milk and juice meeting breakfast and lunch claimable meal requirements

Meal Counting & Claiming Procedure: Free and Reduced meals will be available and claimed

How Food Safety Requirements will be met: Meals served will be prepared following ServSafe procedures and will be accounted for on a checklist from the POS system for each meal type served.

Support Staff/Administrators: The district has the ability to forward phone calls. Administrators and support staff will be able to work from home as the need arises. Administrators will also be available to assist staff.

Tech Support: The district has an online ticket system for issues. Tech support staff will also be available to teachers and students to assist remotely.

Enhanced School Cleanliness and Disinfection Protocols

Our buildings are cleaned daily with attention to specific areas of concern. Student desks, cafeteria tables and our entire restrooms are cleaned with a disinfectant cleaner daily. The food service area is cleaned and sanitized daily. Our locker rooms, floors and showers are also cleaned with a disinfectant cleaner daily. Wrestling mats are disinfected before and after use. The Nurses area is also cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. Drinking fountains are disabled and water bottle fill stations are limited but are cleaned and disinfected daily. Building entry doors/handles are cleaned and disinfected daily.

Our building floors are cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis. Handrails are cleaned daily, and we increase disinfecting during the flu season.

Communication with Families

All families will be kept informed via School Messenger phone calls, letters, and emails in both English and Spanish. In addition, parents will still be able to reach school officials via Voice over IP; voicemails left on school phones automatically go to district personnel emails for remote access.

Decisions regarding school events or changes to the school calendar will be made according to the latest state guidelines; students and families will be notified of these changes via the communication methods listed above.

Communication for families of ELL students: The district will continue to provide email/letter communications in the native language of the family. The district website has an auto-translation feature at the top right-hand corner. Families will also be notified that the Google Translate app on a smartphone can be used to view any document in any language using the camera function. Interpreters will be available for virtual or in-person meetings as needed.

Professional Learning

The district offers teachers job-embedded training in Sheltered English Instruction and differentiation to meet the needs of English Language Learners. All teachers also receive individualized instructional recommendations for current ELLs from the ESL staff at the beginning of the school year.

Essential Personnel

The following personnel are considered essential: administrators, teachers, custodians, transportation staff, secretarial support staff, instructional coaches, technology support staff, school counselors, Child Study Team members, and maintenance staff. All staff members are on call in the event they are required by the Superintendent to be on site. Social distancing guidelines will be observed.

Other Considerations

Accelerated Learning Opportunities: Students will be afforded the opportunity to participate in summer preview courses or after-school assistance to help mitigate any learning loss due to emergency school closure.

Social/Emotional Health: Staff and students will be provided opportunities to meet with mental health professionals or counselors to address individual needs, either in-person or virtually as appropriate. In

addition, the district provides resources to staff through the Human Resources office and referrals for students to community programs through the School Counseling Office

Title I Extended Learning Programs: The district's Title I extended day programs will continue to operate in the event of a public health-related closure, via virtual instruction.

21st Century Community Learning Center Programs: N/A in our 9-12 regional district

Credit Recovery: The district's credit recovery program will continue to operate in the event of a public health-related closure, via virtual instruction.

Other Extended Learning opportunities: The district's extended learning opportunities will continue to operate in the event of a public health-related closure, via virtual instruction.

Transportation: Transportation will continue to be offered, as appropriate.

Extra-curricular programs: The district's extra-curricular programs will continue to operate in the event of a public health-related closure, either in person with enhanced safety protocols if viable, or via virtual platform.

Childcare: The district will provide staff members with resources regarding local childcare facilities, as needed.

Community Programming: The district will work with local health officials to determine viability of in-person community programming; virtual options will be reviewed as needed. The district will also send communications to families regarding available community resources.