

Morris Hills Regional District ARP ESSER III Safe Return Plan

1) Universal and correct wearing of masks

The district will continue to follow the most current guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Health and our local Health Departments, which also takes into consideration [CDC guidance](#). Masks are no longer required in the district, but can be worn if desired or recommended due to individual circumstance. The latest New Jersey information regarding mask-wearing can be found here: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/reopening-guidance-and-restrictions/are-schools-open-what-are-the-safety-requirements>

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

The district no longer requires social distancing in accordance with the most recent guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and our local Health Departments, which also takes into consideration CDC guidance. The most recent social distancing guidelines for schools in New Jersey can be found here: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/reopening-guidance-and-restrictions/are-schools-open-what-are-the-safety-requirements>

3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The district will continue to follow all handwashing and respiratory etiquette guidelines as outlined by the New Jersey Department of Health, which takes into consideration the most recent CDC guidance. The NJDOH guidelines can be found here: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml

4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

The district has implemented an extensive cleaning and sanitizing program. Custodians are scheduled to sanitize high-risk, touch areas with approved sanitizers and cleaners. The district will contract an outside HVAC vendor to clean and sanitize all univents in the schools, as needed. All HVAC units that have removable filters will be changed as needed or recommended. The district ensures exhaust fans in both high schools are functioning properly greatly improving the air movement in the buildings. The district has upgraded several HVAC systems in Morris Hills and Morris Knolls High Schools. The goal of the program is to provide layered protection from respiratory illnesses and address other airborne irritants such as dust, mold, pollen, etc.

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

The Morris Hills Regional School District will work closely with and provide all necessary information to the Department of Health to assist them in Contact Tracing processes and protocol. Members of the Morris Hills Regional District Administrative Team, School Safety Specialists, and nursing staff have completed three hours of the John Hopkins University Contact Tracing Course. The NJDOH has also issued updated respiratory guidance, which can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oQgiLlbPdwaZxYKSDJbOfjTdj2nuAm_G/view?usp=sharing

6) Diagnostic and screening testing

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be referred to the school nurse for evaluation. Students with confirmed symptoms will be safely and respectfully isolated from others under the supervision of a school nurse in the Health Office. School officials will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting and quarantine periods.

Parents or caregivers are asked to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness. In addition, all staff members are asked to self-monitor for signs of infectious illness.

7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

All members of the MHRD faculty and staff have been provided with an opportunity to receive a vaccination through Saint Clare's Hospital in Denville, NJ. In addition, updated vaccines/boosters are now readily available for free in many locations throughout our communities.

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

The MHRD will follow all accommodations for students with disabilities as outlined in the Individualized Education Plan. Additional PPE will be provided for staff working closely with students with special needs as needed. Additional PPE as well as a behaviorist will be made available for all students with special needs that require additional assistance to abide by the health and safety protocols.

Safe Return Plan Update (2nd Tab)

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.

The district will continue to use a tiered system of supports existing after-school programs through Title I and Title III, which will be supplemented by additional after-school programs to meet the academic needs of struggling students, included but not limited to at-risk students, students with disabilities, and English language learners. Families and students will be provided with information regarding available services through the school counseling department. The district will use diagnostic and other assessment data, including teacher recommendations, to identify students in need of support. The District will continue to address social-emotional learning and mental health needs through our school-based programs, counseling services, parent wellness series, and by collaborating with local agencies. The district will offer meals to all students. Full service has been restored to the cafeterias with multiple fresh and made-to-order meals every day.

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.

The district has distributed surveys to staff, students, and families asking for anticipated needs. The district has also posted the Safe Reopening Plan Template on its website and invited members of the public to come to the Board meeting to provide public comment. Survey results and public comments will be considered in the development and ongoing review of the plan.

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.

The district will have a copy of the plan posted on its website in both English and Spanish as a PDF document. It will also be posted directly on the website, which can be translated into 9 additional languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Korean, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Russian). The district will have staff available to orally communicate the information to individuals with disabilities upon request.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

The district will offer professional learning, guidance, and technical assistance through Zoom meetings, in-person training, and job-embedded professional learning through our site-based instructional coaches.

<https://www.mhrd.org/domain/521>