

GREENWICH TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health and Safety Plan

2022-2023



## **Overview**

The Greenwich Township School District will support the educational, social, and emotional development of its students by implementing, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation strategies and practices in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the State of New Jersey, the Office of the Governor, the NJ Department of Health, the NJ Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and/or local authorities. The goal of this education, health, and safety plan is for the District to provide a thorough and efficient education in a safe and healthy environment to the greatest extent possible.

### **1 General Health and Safety**

Where possible, the Greenwich Township School District will use multiple measures to help prevent the spread of communicable disease. The District will review many factors and will use federal, state, and or local to support decision-making. The District will endeavor to balance guidance on health and safety measures and in-person learning as the preferred method of education.

#### **1.1 Vaccination**

Although recognized federal, state, and local organizations have deemed vaccination safe, effective, and accessible, not all school-aged children are eligible to be vaccinated. Most K-12 schools will have a mixed population of fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals at any given time. The Greenwich Township School District will support vaccination efforts in our state and local community as is feasible and appropriate.

#### **1.2 Communication**

The Greenwich Township School District will maintain appropriate communication between and among health care officials and designated school personnel to provide information and share resources on communicable disease transmission, prevention, and control measures. The District will review and follow established procedures for Local Health Department notifications and response to communicable disease in school settings as directed, necessary, or appropriate.

#### **1.3 Masks**

The Greenwich Township School District will comply with prevailing directives, mandates, or executive orders provided by the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, County Department of Health officials and/or local personnel. Masks will be provided to all students and staff as need dictates. Information regarding proper wearing of masks will be disseminated. This includes:

- Masks should be multi-layer, tightly woven cotton or cotton blend masks.
- Masks should be washed daily after use or when visibly soiled.
- Disposable masks should be changed daily.
- Masks should be worn to cover the nose and mouth and wrap securely around the face.
- To be most effective, masks must be worn correctly and consistently.

All staff and students will be encouraged to wear cloth face masks consistently and correctly; failure to do so will be reviewed and disciplinary action may be imposed if infraction is deemed to be insubordination.

#### **1.4 Maintaining Physical Distancing and Cohorting**

Both students and staff within the Greenwich Township School District system will apply and maintain physical distancing of 3 feet when available and necessary due to the outbreak of a communicable disease . Student cohorts will be utilized to minimize possible exposure when deemed critical. Additionally, the District will utilize structural barriers including shields and restricted seating in classrooms and at lunch to minimize transmission to the greatest extent possible during an outbreak or when deemed medically necessary.

#### **1.5 Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

Staff and students will be encouraged to utilize available hand sanitizing stations, sinks, and other hygiene supplies regularly. Staff and students will be expected to observe commonsense respiratory etiquette, including covering cough or sneezes and properly discarding of used tissues.

#### **1.6 Meals**

The District will implement multiple mitigation strategies during meal times. This may include cohorts of small groups, physical distancing, restricted seating, eliminating self-serve options, physical barriers, and eating outdoors when possible.

#### **1.7 Transportation**

When deemed medically necessary or under executive order, all students and staff will be required to wear masks when on school buses per federal and state directives. During times of high transmission or outbreak, open windows will allow for increased air flow, when weather and situation permit. The District and contracted service providers will provide for increased cleaning of high touch surfaces as appropriate or necessary.

### **2 Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow**

The Greenwich Township School District will employ a variety of strategies that emphasize cleaning, disinfection, and airflow to mitigate transmission of communicable diseases. This may include increased cleaning of high touch services and use of approved cleaning products and equipment to foster a clean and safe environment. The District will utilize air purifying equipment and other recommended strategies to maintain air quality within classrooms, offices, and other common areas.

#### **2.3 Improving Airflow**

When practical, all or a portion of windows in classes or on busses may be kept open to increase air flow. HVAC systems will work at the highest possible vent allowance/air exchange rate feasible. Air purifiers will be employed in offices and some common areas; needlepoint bipolar ionizers have been installed in classrooms to support overall air quality.

### **3 Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff**

#### **3.1 Parental Screening**

All parents/guardians will be expected to support the health and safety of students and staff by ensuring that their children will remain at home if symptomatic. The District will require a signed, parental COVID-19 acknowledgement form; this form will not address individual vaccination status, but will include basic COVID-19 information, identify the current mask mandate, review contact tracing procedures, and reiterate the need for those in ill-health to remain at home.

#### **3.2 Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff**

The Greenwich Township School District will follow prevailing procedures from the CDC, NJDOH, NJDOE, Office of the Governor, local health authorities, and/or the guidance of District medical personnel including our school physician and school nurses. Both schools will have isolation rooms. The District will provide personal protective equipment to staff and students as necessary.

#### **3.3 Exclusion**

The school nurse in each building will complete contact tracing procedures and communicate critical information with health authorities based on approved procedures and guidelines. It will be expected that those who exhibit identified COVID-19 symptoms outside of school hours will be kept at home and the school nurse will be notified. For those who exhibit symptoms at school, our school nurses will complete preliminary contact tracing and exclusion procedures; this will follow current exclusion standards as provided or advised by the CDC, the NJDOH, local health authorities, or in consultation with the District school physician.

Exclusion criteria will follow prevailing guidance for identified symptoms, close contact identification, and duration. School District personnel may also consider current state, county or local data such as community transmission rates to inform exclusion practices.

### **4 Contact Tracing**

The District will continue to follow protocols and advice recommended by the school physician and/or state and local Department of Health Officials. Their guidance and District guidelines may change as circumstances warrant. The District will continue to follow contract tracing investigations and appropriate notifications as advice from school physician and/or state and local DOH officials dictate. The District will continue to balance the need to inform those at-risk or exposed with the right to privacy of our students and staff. The nurses will continue to serve as point people for all medical information, notifications, and contract tracing following the guidance of our school physician and/or state and local Department of Health officials.

### **5 Testing**

The Greenwich Township School District will comply with testing requirements identified for employees within the guidelines provided and as feasible. *Revised 12.22.21* Testing has been made

available for students as part of the NJ testing plan, under Option 1. Revised 7.12.22 The District will comply with and support testing as required and/or appropriate.

## **6 American Rescue Plan Safe Return to In-Person Instruction**

The District has completed the ARP Esser Safe Return Plan and Safe Return Plan Updates.

### **Remote Instruction/180 Requirement**

The Greenwich Township School District will comply with all requirements identified to ensure that school is in session for 180 days. As circumstances dictate, this may include in-person, hybrid, or remote instruction as is allowable under state law or executive order and dependent upon federal, state, or community health and safety indicators. Full-time, in-person learning will be considered the preferred method of instruction. Students who are required to quarantine or isolate will be provided with remote instruction that complies with prevailing guidance and will count toward student's required attendance. All in-person or remote learning days will meet minimum contact requirements for content and length, including four hours at a minimum. Regular review of data will be implemented to ensure appropriate student progress.

**Technology Access-** All K-8 students have been provided with a one-to-one chromebook for use both in school and at home. The District has and makes available supplementary broadband equipment to enable those without wifi to access educational programming. The District Technology Office will continue to monitor need via multiple data sources, including survey and individualized contact, and will disseminate resources as necessary.

**Nutrition Programs-** Breakfast and lunch will be made available to all of those eligible via pick up or home delivery as is necessary or practical. Food may be prepared at multiple locations, allowing those eligible to pick up grab-n-go supplies and or through delivery should it be necessary and appropriate.

**Special Education-** Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to education, health, and safety practices will be employed as situation and needs dictate. This will include modified or enhanced access to materials and platforms as appropriate. Teachers and case managers will regularly monitor student progress and ensure all IEP services, modifications and accommodations are being met to the greatest extent possible. This will include regular communication with parents to ensure that IEPs are being met to the greatest extent possible. Case managers will employ a variety of communication and access platforms for evaluations, meetings, and communication with stakeholders.

**English Language Learners-** The District will utilize current ELL plans and meet all requirements for ELL as needs and situation dictate. The District will utilize a variety of communication and access platforms for the dissemination of information and educational programming. Alternate methods of education will be employed as necessary or appropriate; this may include differentiation, access to technology, and/ or the implementation of additional instructional strategies. Any necessary professional development to support employee skills will be identified and obtained.

**Attendance-** The District will follow all approved attendance policies in conjunction with any state directives or modifications. District staff, including but not limited to building level student support services and educators, will make every effort to contact students to maintain regular in-person and virtual attendance. This may include access to and use of a variety of communication methods, including phone, electronic, and hard copy communication.

**Facilities-** The District will assess each closure situation based on current criteria to determine the best method for maintaining facilities during an extended closure.

**Other Considerations-** The District will work with local stakeholders to identify and implement situationally-appropriate programming dependent upon the nature of the emergency. This will include opportunities for accelerated learning opportunities and access to student and family support services for academic, social, and emotional health needs. Programming will examine and address strategies that address, as necessary or appropriate: accelerated learning opportunities, social and emotional health of staff and students, enhance program such as Title I, extended learning opportunities, extra-curricular learning opportunities, credit recovery, transportation, childcare, and community programming.

**Essential Employees-** The District will comply with any state, county, or other official directive requiring the identification and submission of information regarding the transition to remote or virtual instruction and the identification of essential employees.