

Greenwich Township School District
Education, Health, and Safety Plan
2021-2022



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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 COVID-19. 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 COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures. The District will review and follow established procedures for Local Health Department notifications and response to COVID-19 illness 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. Student cohorts will be utilized to minimize possible exposure when practical. 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.

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

All students and staff will be required to wear masks when on school buses per federal and state directives. 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.

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 Covid-19. 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.

6 American Rescue Plan Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

The District has completed the ARP Esser Safe Return Plan and Safe Return Plan Update

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.

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 and 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 or through delivery should it be necessary.