



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *SAFE RETURN PLAN (Revised 01/14/2022)*

### Maintaining Health and Safety

#### **MASK WEARING:**

With regard to the wearing of masks, the District will continue to follow the guidance of applicable Federal, state, and local governmental, educational, and health departments. Pursuant to Executive Order 251, all public, private, and parochial preschool programs and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (collectively "school districts"), must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises. This directive is to protect everyone in the indoor setting while vaccination is not available to a significant portion of the student population. It is important to note that Holmdel schools have effective HVAC systems, specialized cleaning protocols, and a low experience rate of COVID-19.

#### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:**

The district will continue to follow the applicable Federal, state, and local government and health department guidelines. The District will use a modified version of the physical distancing requirements described in the Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools that governed the return to in-person learning in the 2020-2021 school year. To the extent practicable, the District will continue to ensure that all instructional and non-instructional rooms in schools and district facilities comply with physical distancing standards. Students' families will continue to be allowed to opt out of transportation to and from school. Before and after school care options will follow all applicable guidelines. Staff members, such as classroom teachers, reading/math interventionists, speech therapists, and others, may still utilize physical barriers when working one-on-one with a student or with small student groups.

**HANDWASHING:**

The district will continue to follow the applicable Federal, state, and local government and health department guidelines. The district will continue the use of the handwashing and respiratory etiquette requirements as described in the Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools which governed the return to in-person learning in the 2020-2021 school year. This part of the Safe Return Plan will cover handwashing procedures and how the district will respond to situations where students might gather. Where and when appropriate, the District will prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) or other approved sanitizers. These stations will be located: in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer); at entrances and exits of buildings; near lunchrooms and toilets. Children ages five and younger will be supervised when using hand sanitizer.

**CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION:**

The district will continue to follow the applicable Federal, state, and local government and health department guidelines. The District will continue the use of the requirements regarding maintenance of healthy facilities as described in the Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools that governed the return to in-person learning in the 2020-2021 school year, as well as some additional procedures with regard to ventilation in the 2021-2022 school year. The district is prepared with supplies for the 2021-2022 school year including industrial sanitizing wipes, soap, and hand sanitizer. The district will continue the use of its established cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used, which are contained in a procedure manual posted on the District website. Schools will sanitize bathrooms daily, or between use as much as possible, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE, IN COLLABORATION WITH STATE, LOCAL, TERRITORIAL, OR TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:**

In collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments - the district will continue to follow the applicable Federal, state, and local government and health department guidance with regard to contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. The district will continue the use of the majority of the contact tracing/isolation and quarantine procedures as described in the Holmdel Township School District Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools which governed the return to in-person learning in the 2020-2021 school year. Students or staff members who develop symptoms, including a fever of over 100 degrees, during the day will be brought to an isolation room for confirmation of an elevated temperature and a further assessment. Health checks will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations and results will be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.

**DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING:**

Holmdel Township School District will continue to follow the applicable Federal, state, and local government and health department guidance with regard to diagnostic and screening testing. The district will utilize some of the same procedures with regard to diagnostic testing of staff and students as were used in the 2020-2021 school year.

**EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO EDUCATORS, OTHER STAFF, AND STUDENTS, IF ELIGIBLE:**

The district has and will continue to provide information to staff and the school community about local vaccination opportunities. If sufficient interest from staff warrants, the district will work with the Monmouth County Department of Health to provide a site for a vaccination clinic for staff members in the upcoming school year. The district has and will continue to work with the Monmouth County Department of Health to advertise, provide support, and a location for a vaccination clinic for eligible students. The district has also established partnerships with local medical providers who have worked with the district to provide opportunities for staff to receive vaccinations. The district will look to continue these partnerships in order to provide as many vaccination opportunities as possible to staff and students during the 2021-2022 school year.

**APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES:**

Holmdel Township School District will continue to follow the applicable Federal, state, and local government and health department guidance with regard to appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. The District will continue the use of the appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities as described in the Holmdel Township School District Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools which governed the return to in-person learning in the 2020-2021 school year. These include an exception to the face-covering requirement for a student with a documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an IEP, which precludes the use of face covering. The acknowledgement that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities and as such these cases will continue to be considered on a case by case basis and any accommodations made according to that student's need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

## **Ensuring Continuity of Services**

To ensure continuity of services the Holmdel Township School District plans to braid funds to address learning loss through learning centers 7-12, before and after school programs K-12 and comprehensive summer programs K-12. Holmdel Township School District will ensure that the services it implements to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The district will also utilize grant funding to provide classroom based behavioral intervention supports PK-6.

## **Public Comment**

Public commentary on this plan was vetted in part at Board of Education meetings, Board Committee Meetings and through Parent Councils with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The language of the Safety Plan was vetted through central administrators and shared with Board of Education members who provided input and suggestions. The plan is posted on the website. Our ELL teacher is available for translation for parents who have any questions on the plan.