

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan

Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act



West Long Branch School District

December 2021

Original Plan Date: 06/24/2021

Date Revised 12/24/21

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

The NJDOE continues to mandate the wearing of face masks, so the district will follow adopted [Policy 5141.10](#), which includes the provision that students are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. Exceptions are outlined in the policy, and include that masks are not required in any outdoor settings.

The district will update masking policies in alignment with NJDOE requirements and allowances that are in effect at the time of the plan's implementation.

The school nurse will be consulted in the event of any questions in this regard, and individual accommodations will be addressed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

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

The District allows for physical distancing in instructional and non-instructional areas of the building to the greatest extent possible. Measures taken to maximize physical distancing include: separating student desks into rows, repurposing spaces to align with population needs, balancing class numbers, removing excess furnishings as needed, and other measures. Course rosters and student schedules are based predominantly on academic student needs, though efforts have been made to limit excessive cohort mixing whenever it is reasonably possible to do so. The district continues to ensure that static seating charts are created, maintained, and adhered to for each class and for lunch periods in order to facilitate quick and effective contact tracing should the need arise.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The West Long Branch School District designates times when necessary on the schedule for students to wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water, including, at a minimum:

- at the start of the day when children enter the classroom
- before snacks and meals
- after using the toilet
- after sneezing, wiping, and blowing noses
- after snacks and meals, particularly if hands are sticky, greasy or soiled
- when students come in from outdoor play or recess

Students and staff use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if washing with soap and water is not possible.

Students are encouraged and reminded to practice proper hygiene and respiratory etiquette while in school.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

WLB continues to adhere to existing required facility cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. Surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, restrooms, drinking fountains, school buses, and other items and areas are cleaned and sanitized regularly, using all cleaning products according to the directions on the label.

WLB ensures that indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, including operational heating, and ventilation systems where appropriate. All recirculated air has the maximum percentage of fresh air recommended by the manufacturer. All areas are air conditioned. If air conditioning is not provided/available, windows will be opened and/or a class may be relocated while repairs are made. Filter(s) for A/C units are and will be maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

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

WLB implemented [Policies 5141.2](#) and [5141.3](#) regarding contact tracing, isolation and quarantine. All procedures adhere to applicable federal and state law and regulations regarding privacy and the confidentiality of records.

The NJDOH and CDC continue to use proximity of six feet or less for more than 15 minutes to determine the need for quarantining persons in contact with a COVID-19 case. The creation and maintenance of static seating charts for all classes will enable accurate and expeditious contact tracing.

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others. All spaces used for isolation will ensure that individuals are a minimum of 6 feet apart or a safe distance deemed appropriate by the CDC and/or state health officials.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Diagnostic Testing

The school nurse will assist parents/caregivers seeking testing from an outside source by providing them the information to contact a testing site to schedule an appointment.

Screening

The district continues to adhere to existing [Policy 5141.3](#) for safely and respectfully screening students and staff for symptoms of COVID-19. In addition, families are requested to screen their children each day before school.

Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations. Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed. Screening procedures shall take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students.

In compliance with the state mandate of weekly testing for unvaccinated school employees, the district has contracted with a state approved vendor to provide weekly testing in our schools that is available for faculty and staff that are not vaccinated and for any school employee that signs up for testing. Unvaccinated employees are required to either test in district or privately and submit those results to the superintendent's office.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible (1000 character limit)

The West Long Branch School District will continue to facilitate connections between educators, staff, and students (if eligible and upon parent request), to community-based health resources which can provide access to vaccinations as desired and needed. The district will provide information about events and community-based resources which might accelerate or facilitate easier access to vaccinations for those who want them. Such community-based resources may include, but are not limited to:

- The Visiting Nurse's Association of Central Jersey
- The VNACJ Community Health Center
- The Monmouth County Health Department
- NJ VAXRIDE initiative: <https://www.njtransit.com/vaxride>

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies

In our effort to ensure the general well-being, health and safety of all students, the following protocols continue to be implemented.

- A. Maintain clear lines of communication between families and school staff, especially Nurses, Counselors and Leadership Team members.
- B. Seek information from families regarding their child's specific medical needs and corresponding accommodations.
- C. Encourage all families to keep their children home when appropriate; promote the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; provide supports as needed in modifying ot
- D. Reasonable accommodations will be provided based on a child's IEP, 504 Plan or individual medical needs in order to maximize student learning in a safe manner.
- E. Encourage frequent communication between building based medical professionals and high risk students.
- F. Continue to monitor progress in each student's goals and objectives in the 21-22 academic year and we continue to make any accommodations needed to ensure their health and safety.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

The West Long Branch School District is committed to the academic success of all students and to the social-emotional well being of all our students and staff. The district supports these critical areas by:

- Implementing a tiered system of support for academic needs, including academic differentiation in the classroom and additional small-group and/or individual support as needed provided by appropriate certificated staff.
- Implementing a social-emotional learning approach, supplemented by interventions as needed by appropriate certificated staff (school counselors, school psychologist, school social worker, etc.)
- Allocating grant funding to support the social-emotional climate of the school through professional development for staff members.
- School health services provided by the school nurse inclusive of medical screenings and access to the nurse for day-to-day health concerns.
- All students will continue to have access to free lunch daily through June 2022.

3. Public Comment

The West Long Branch School District sought public comment on the plan by providing a copy of the draft plan to the public via posting on the district website and district social media platforms. Hard copies are also available for public review at the main office of each school building. A Google Form survey was shared with staff and the community to elicit feedback on the initial plan, and this feedback was considered when finalizing the initial submission of the plan document to the NJDOE in June 2021.

The updated Safe Return Plan was posted on the district website and social media platforms. Hard copies are also available for public review at the main office of each school building. Staff and the community were encouraged to send an email to the Superintendent with their feedback. Stakeholders may also provide feedback at the Board of Education meetings.

In June 2021, the Safe Return Plan was translated into the three dominant spoken and read languages in the school district (English, Portuguese, Spanish). A digital version of the plan document is available on the district website, accompanied by a link to web-based translation services, and such document is screen reader-friendly. Upon request by any individual needing an accommodation or alternative format of the plan, the district will provide the plan in a form accessible to that individual. The form of such access shall vary depending on the need of the individual. The same will hold true for this updated plan.