



LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan) A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of

MAY COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

I. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Cape May County Technical School District (CMCTSD) has implemented mask wearing in our schools over the past 15 months. Students and staff are taught proper mask wearing and are provided masks, as needed. All school personnel and visitors are required to wear masks in our buildings per the most recent guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and CDC Guidelines. Students are provided coaching and support regarding the proper wearing of masks. Student videos, and visual guides have been included in our Plan and info graphics are placed in various campus locations. Clear protective visors have been provided for staff and available for any student if needed

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

CMCTSD staff and student population have been instructed on social distancing for the past 15 months. The District maintains 6 feet distance as much as possible on campus. Physical distancing signage is posted throughout the district on doors, floors, walls, offices and classrooms. Markings in hallways and the cafeteria are posted to support maintaining 6 feet of distance, when possible. Physical distancing plans have been created in classrooms, gyms, cafeterias and conference rooms to support 6 feet of physical distancing. Staff have been trained on how to maintain physical distancing in classrooms, hallways, gyms, cafeterias, bathrooms, and various spaces throughout the district and to avoid being within 6 feet of other staff or students for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. These strategies are in place to avoid, where possible, the need for staff or student quarantines due to close contact guidance/exposure.

Student schedules have been modified to support two cohorts of students that divide our high school population in half and avoids mixing the population of each. Classrooms and office spaces have been modified by removing furniture and adding barriers to support physical distancing. Students and staff, to the best extent possible, will practice social distancing while at CMCTSD. CMCTSD has reconfigured classrooms to support social distancing. Classroom desks will be facing the same direction, and there will be predetermined entry and exit paths to be utilized throughout the district. In addition, pre-designated drop off points for parents and buses are available for the campus. Markings will be visible for buses and passengers to promote social distancing. In addition, we have reconfigured cafeteria, Media Center, Multi-Activity Center (MAC) and gym to support social distancing and determined distance and flow paths within building and marked floorings to support.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

CMCTSD has implemented additional hand washing protocols in our schools over the past 15 months. Students and staff are taught proper hand washing techniques and provided hand sanitizer, as needed for classrooms, offices, cafeteria, hallways etc. Protocols have been established for entrance to the nurse's office and for nebulizer treatments if needed including the proper PPE while administering these treatments. Outside areas and separate spaces have been created in the district for well/sick students and staff. All school personnel and visitors are encouraged to follow hand washing protocols in our buildings per the most recent guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and CDC Guidelines. Students are reminded of handwashing protocols verbally and by infographics placed in the bathrooms on campus.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

CMCTSD has implemented additional cleaning and disinfecting protocols in our schools over the past 15 months. Staff have been trained using new products as well as new spraying equipment for buses, classrooms, desks, and office spaces. The district has implemented new cleaning schedules of classroom spaces, gyms and various high touch areas. Health and Safety protocols have been established for all visitors, staff, and students entering our buildings. The district has developed clear cleaning protocols, including student/staff hand washing, and has reviewed all areas that need daily deep cleaning (bathrooms, classrooms, therapy rooms, hallways, doors, desks, "hot spots", furniture, classroom materials, communication devices, buses etc). The district continues to re-order/stock cleaning supplies and disinfectants for district use. District-wide water fountains have been turned off until further notice and water has been supplied to individual classrooms. CMCTSD will adhere to all existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures and any new specific requirements of the local health department.

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

CMCTSD has implemented very specific contact tracing protocols with the New Jersey Department of Health. These include the following:

- CMCTSD School Nurse and Post-Secondary Nurse Instructor work with CMCDOH and follow established contact tracing procedures
- Administration and Nursing to provide PD to staff about the role of contact tracing in schools – SafeSchools
- CMCTSD will work with CMC Department of Health (CMCDOH) regarding contact tracing procedures including notification requirements (NJ DOH and Families, Staff, and Public)
- Professional Development provided to staff through SafeSchools and by the district Administration and Nursing Staff regarding the role of all staff with regard to contact tracing in schools

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

The current CDC guidelines recommend screening all students and employees for COVID-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Screening will consist of self-screening, school-based screening, and/or medical inquiries. CMCTSD will communicate information to parents and employees about the symptoms of COVID-19 and require them to self-screen their child before coming to school. Students with symptoms will should not be sent on a bus or brought to school. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained, are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately. CMCTSD may take the temperature of students, employees, and visitors on school property where there is reason to believe that the person may be ill. Touch-free thermometers are available. CMCTSD will continue to provide professional development to staff and students regarding the recognition of COVID-19 symptoms and screening. Furthermore, unvaccinated students, faculty, and staff that manifest or present symptoms of COVID-19, based on the screening tool, will be directed and expected to follow the most current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by the CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health. The District's COVID-19 screening tool will be distributed to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of the school year. In addition, daily reminders and social media posts will be shared with stakeholders to reinforce the District's self-screening expectations for unvaccinated individuals. Faculty and staff will continue to monitor students for any signs of illness and report any concerns to the district school's nurses. CMCTSD has established daily screening protocols for students and staff. Emails are sent to staff each morning having them

answer screening protocol questions before coming to work. Families have been provided the screening protocols and are reminded not to send their child to school if they are ill.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

CMCTSD staff, families, and students over 12 have been provided with opportunities to get the vaccine on the Crest Haven Complex. Flyers, supporting documentation, emails, and social media have been used to support and encourage vaccines with all stakeholders. In addition, the District partnered with Walmart to provide vaccinations to eligible students in June 2021 through a vaccination clinic hosted at the campus of CMC Special Services District. The District provided transportation for students and families to and from the vaccination site.

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

CMCTSD has implemented our Reopening Plan that allowed us to safely reopen our schools to in-person instruction for all our students. The District Plan follows CDC and NJDOH guidelines. The instructional program includes appropriate special education instruction and related services for students with disabilities and the provision of school nutrition benefits and services. CMCTSD serves 121 special education students ages 13-19 in grades 9-12. Over 17 percent of our high school students are eligible for Free and Reduced meals. This student population all receive instructional and related services support in a least restrictive class room environment.

Our school physician, school nurses, and safety team have worked together to support the safe reopening of our schools. Health and safety protocols have been established and modified, as needed, to support our school population and occupational/career choices at our Technical School.

II. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

CMCTSD has developed a plan to reopen our District for in-person instruction for students. The Plan follows CDC and NJDOH guidelines. Instructional delivery includes appropriate special education instruction and related services for students with disabilities and the provision of school nutrition benefits and services. It encompasses all academic and career focused curriculum as mandated by both the NJDOE and the Office of Career Readiness. CMCTSD has updated our health and safety protocols based on the most recent guidance provided by the CDC. CMCTSD has developed protocols to ensure the continuity of services regardless of how we are required to pivot during the school year due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Our Safe Reopening Plan follows our previous Reopening Plan that calls for specific health and safety procedures for various areas in the district including facilities, instruction, nutrition, nursing care services, transportation as well as the various daily operations that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In preparation for re-opening we have worked with our local health department and county offices on reopening guidelines and implementing new health and safety procedures. Our main areas of focus will be prevention through social distancing, using masks, handwashing, cleaning/disinfecting, and monitoring the health and wellness of our staff and students. As we plan for the 2021-2022 school year, the health and wellness-of our students and staff remains our top priority. CMCTSD will continue to provide professional development to staff on protocol for identifying, supporting, and referring students who may be expressing Social Emotional, Behavioral, and Mental Health challenges such as Depression, Anxiety, Mood Instability, Behavior, Loss/Grief, Bullying, Bias, Prejudice, Fear/Anxiety, Domestic Violence, etc.

In addition, CMCTSD child study team and School Based Youth Services will address trauma and social emotional wellbeing of students and families and will provide school based counseling as needed. We will be utilizing community based resources and make referrals to community mental health providers as needed. CMCTSD staff will also use summer school course offerings to engage students who have remedial work or courses to make-up in both academics and career opportunities.

III. Public Comment

- A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

CMCTSD has shared the Safe Reopening Plan with our Board of Education and our Reopening Steering Committee who helped develop our 2020 Fall Reopening Plan. CMCTSD also sought public comment through the district's messaging system and provided an email address to forward questions, concerns or comments. The Safe Reopening Plan takes into account all required components and includes our district plan on vaccinating our staff, students and stakeholders. The Safe Reopening Plan will be revised as needed and we will take into account required 6 month updates. Revisions will be posted on our website and shared with stakeholders.

- B. 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. (1000 character limit)

CMCTSD continues to follow our communication plan outlined in our 2020 Fall Reopening Plan. District staff continue to make "All Calls" to parents/guardians updating them on COVID 19 Protocols, Health and Wellness procedures, as well as vaccine availability. In addition, district staff send out frequent emails and letters to staff and families with updates about in-person/virtual learning programming as well as community supports, student meals, and technology needs. District staff are communicating updates about procedures and expectations with parents, guardians and stakeholder via the District's website, Google Meet, email, letters and "All Calls". Communication and the Plan will be available in both English and Spanish as needed for our families to work with our Child Study Team, administration, and various other district staff to ensure comprehension of materials and procedures. Stakeholders that have a disability that prevents them from giving feedback, will be given the opportunity for a phone conference or in-person meeting to review questions/concerns.

