



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**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 students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

CAPE MAY COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Date Created: June 4, 2021

Date Revised: June 25, 2024

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Cape May County Technical School District (CMCTSD) has implemented optional mask-wearing in our schools since March 2022. Students and staff are taught proper mask-wearing and are provided masks, as needed. All school personnel and visitors are given the option 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 infographics are placed in various campus locations. Clear protective visors have been provided for staff and are available for any student if needed.

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

Physical distancing plans were created in classrooms, gyms, cafeterias and conference rooms to support 6 feet of physical distancing. Staff was trained on how to maintain physical distancing in classrooms, hallways, gyms, cafeterias, bathrooms, various spaces to avoid being within 6 feet of other staff or students for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period, especially during periods of high community transmission.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

CMCTSD has implemented additional hand washing protocols in our schools since March 2020. Students and staff are taught proper handwashing techniques and provided hand sanitizer, as needed for classrooms, offices, cafeteria, hallways, etc. Protocols have been established for entrance to the nurses office and for nebulizer treatments if needed including the proper PPE while administering these treatments. 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

Implemented additional cleaning & disinfecting protocols since March 2022. Staff trained using new products & new spraying equipment for buses, classrooms, desks, & office spaces. Implemented new cleaning schedules of classroom spaces, gyms & various high touch areas. Health & Safety protocols established for all visitors, staff, students entering buildings. CMCTSD developed clear cleaning protocols, including student/staff handwashing, reviewed all areas that need daily deep cleaning (bathrooms, classrooms, therapy rooms, hallways, doors, desks, "hot spots", furniture, classroom materials, communication devices, buses, etc). Supplies provided. Water fountains have been upgraded to water filling

stations. CMCTSD will adhere to all existing required facilities cleaning practices & 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 continues to work with the New Jersey Department of Health and the school's physician to determine the need of when to utilize contact tracing. These include the following:

- Administration and Nursing to provide PD to staff about the role of contact tracing in schools - SafeSchools
- CMCTSD will work with the 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

At this time, we are following guidance as directed in the [New Jersey Department of Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#), and the Cape May County Department of Health. To the greatest extent possible, we will still follow best practices and guidelines by the CDC, NJDOE, New Jersey Executive Orders, and NJ Department of Health guidance for contract tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. Continue professional development to staff & students regarding COVID-19 symptoms & screening. CMT previously participated in the State-sponsored weekly COVID-19 testing for staff who were unvaccinated- per the State requirements. Testing is no longer required but continues to be offered through the nursing department. Updated Respiratory Virus guidance became available on March 1, 2024 at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/updated-respiratory-virus-guidance.html>. We will continue to follow new guidance as it is released.

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

We continue to follow guidance as directed in the NJDOH recommendations as well as from CDC, NJDOE, NJ Executive Orders, and NJDOH guidance for diagnostic and screening testing. CMT still requires families/students to self-screen for symptoms prior to entering school. Students showing signs of illness will be sent to the nurse's office. Contacts of these students will be notified to pick up their child immediately. The parent/guardian will be required to sign out the student as per the school's protocol. Prior to the 22-23 school year CMCTSD staff, families, and students over 12 were provided information on vaccine clinics and flyers, supporting documentation, emails, and social media were used to support and encourage vaccines with all stakeholders. CMCTSD partnered with Walmart to provide vaccinations to eligible students most recently in June 2022 through a vaccination booster clinic hosted at CMCSSD. CMCTSD continues to share countywide vaccination clinic information when it is received.

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

CMCTSD has implemented the 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 158 special education students ages 13-19 in grades 9-12. Over 32 percent of our high school students are eligible for Free and Reduced meals. This student population all receive instructional and related services support in the least restrictive classroom 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.

2. 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)

The plan follows CDC & NJDOH guidelines. Instructional delivery includes special education instructional & related services for students with disabilities & the provision of school nutrition benefits & services. It encompasses all NJDOE mandated academic and career-focused curriculum. Developed protocols to ensure the continuity of services regardless of actions due to outbreaks. It calls for specific health/safety procedures for various areas in the district including facilities, instruction, nutrition, nursing care services, transportation as well as the various daily operations. Continued work with local health departments & county offices on implementing new health/safety guidelines. Main areas of focus will be prevention through social distancing, using masks, hand washing, cleaning/disinfecting & monitoring the health/wellness of our staff & students. A flexible approach will be taken to grading as necessary; PD provided on protocol for supporting at risk students.

3. 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 the required 6-month updates. Revisions will be posted on our website and shared with stakeholders. The public notification was given regarding updates to the Plan in December 2021 and June 2022, December 10, 2022, June 6, 2023 and December 8, 2023 and March and June 2024. Public input was made available through our questions@capemaytech.com email address.

- 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 updates and shares COVID-19 Resources as they are received. Many resources can be found at www.capemaytech.com. In addition, district staff sends out emails and letters to staff and families. District staff is communicating updates about procedures and expectations with parents, guardians, and stakeholders 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.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

CMCTSD will continue to provide professional development to staff on the 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, the 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 making referrals to community mental health providers as needed. CMCTSD staff will also use summer school course offerings, APEX, after school tutoring, SBYS and credit recovery to engage students who have remedial work or courses to make up in both academics and career opportunities