

Northern Burlington County Regional School District June 14, 2021



District's Safe Return Plan (SRP): September 2021

Northern Burlington County Regional School District

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

2021-2022

LEA Name: Northern Burlington County Regional School District

Date: June 1, 2021

Date Revised: TBD

Members of the Program Expansion Committee

Name	Position	Name	Position
Dr. James Sarruda	Superintendent	Mr. Dave Johnson	NBCRTA President
Mr. Richard Kaz	School Business Administrator	Ms. Maria Tomasetti	NBCRTA
Dr. Amy Stella	Director of Curriculum, Instruction & PD	Mr. Matthew Dodd	NBCRTA
Ms. Jamie Williams	Assistant Business Administrator	Ms. Vicki Cuneo	NBCRTA
Dr. Sally Lopez	High School Principal	Ms. Jennifer Cavalier	NBCRTA
Dr. Andrew Kearns	Middle School Principal	Ms. Theresa Pugliese	Middle School Nurse
Dr. Daniel Uszaki	Athletic Director	Ms. Mary Crane	High School Nurse
Ms. Susan Grater	Middle School Assistant Principal	Mr. Brandon Bennett	High School Assistant Principal
Ms. Holly Post	Director of Special Services	Ms. Lisa Peters	Director of Special Education

Northern Burlington's Program Expansion Planning Committee

It's Mission:

**To research and prepare recommendations for NB's program expansion in the spring of 2021; and,
To research, discuss, and prepare recommendations to guide NB's return to full day instruction in September of 2021.**



Northern Burlington's Program Expansion Planning Committee

The NB PEP Committee will evaluate New Jersey's "Safe Return" Guidelines and prepare recommendations to safely reopen schools under the following scenario:

- Full In-Person

Due to the social distancing guidelines outlined in the State's Safe Return Plan (SRP) this committee will focus reopening strategies on several areas including lunch protocols and student bus transportation guidelines.

Note: The district fully anticipates offering only full in-person instruction. Moreover, the district will support the 'optional' use of face coverings and will not require face coverings if the state guidelines allow for the option of not wearing face coverings.



Northern Burlington's Program Expansion Planning Committee

Scheduling:

Districts' SRP plan accounts for resuming 100 % in-person instruction. Scheduling decisions will continue to be informed by careful evaluation of the health and safety standards and the most up to date guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), as well the stakeholder input on the needs of all students.



Northern Burlington's Program Expansion Planning Committee

Staffing:

NB is committed to the continued practice of clearly communicating with teachers regarding expectations and support for student learning. Once again, **instructional and non-instructional staff schedules may also include designated time to support school building logistics required to maintain health and safety requirements.**



Northern Burlington's Program Expansion Planning Committee

Athletics:

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) has convened a Sports Advisory Task Force comprised of athletic directors from across the State. This task force will continue to reviewing State and local health guidelines, as well as NJDOE guidance, regarding the 2021-2022 school year to determine, among other things, the extent to which changes may be needed for each interscholastic sports season. At this time, NB fully anticipates 100% student participation in all athletic programs.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

Template: District's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

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

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

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

F. Diagnostic and screening testing:

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


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



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. **Universal and correct wearing of masks:** The district will follow CDC/NJDOH/E.O.s with regard to mask wearing for staff and students. In the event that masks are mandated by the governor, the district is prepared. The district has purchased several types of masks for use in the event that masks continue to be required in schools. Nurses, counselors, administrators, and teaching and support staff will enforce proper wearing of masks. Students and staff will provide regular mask breaks, preferably outside. Until alternate guidance is provided for schools, this protocol will remain in place. ***If the requirement for face coverings is 'lifted' by the Governor, our faculty and students will be given the 'option' to wear face coverings.***



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

B. Physical distancing: District maintenance/custodial staff will remove in class items necessary to allow for increased spacing between students. Building Principals will continue to utilize floor and wall markings to guide traffic, plan for use of separate entrances and exits and interior and exterior signage. The district will comply with recommendations from the CDC/NJDOH/EO. All events will take into consideration the social distancing recommendations of the CDC/NJDOH/E.O. and adapt accordingly. All students will maintain 3 feet of social distance in the classroom setting to the maximum extent practicable, unless otherwise directed by the current conditions of Covid-19 level conditions. All students must maintain 6 feet of social distance in the lunchroom/cafeteria setting to the maximum extent practicable, unless otherwise directed by the current conditions of Covid-19 level conditions. When appropriate social distancing cannot be maintained, additional modifications may be considered such as physical barriers, seating students facing the same direction, and/or seating students on one side of tables.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

C. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:** The district will maintain appropriate signage in hallways and classrooms. Teachers will utilize in-class instruction to reinforce protocols. The district will continue to provide hand-sanitizing stations throughout each building. All classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizer and/or soap and water. HVAC systems will be regularly inspected and upgraded as needed.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: The district will continue to follow cleaning procedures specific to pandemic response. The Facilities Department will continue to purchase products and equipment specific to pandemic response.


The cleaning protocol which was established in the Return Plan will remain in place. In addition, the installation of Bipolar Ionization technologies has begun in the Middle School and the High School HVAC systems and is scheduled to be completed by September of 2021.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: Each building will maintain an isolation room. All classrooms will maintain seating charts. Attendance documents will be maintained after all meetings. Bus drivers will maintain seating charts. Building nurses will work together to contact trace through the district's student information system (siblings, etc.). Nurses will report to the Superintendent/Designee all symptomatic cases, close contacts to symptomatic cases, and quarantined individuals. Quarantine protocol will follow DOH and CDC guidelines. Follow-up communication with the local health department and families will be necessary to ensure adequate isolation /quarantine timelines are adhered to and that all documentation is obtained to allow a recovered staff member or student to return to the building. The school district will ensure adequate information and training is provided to the staff, as necessary, to enable staff to carry out responsibilities assigned to them. Additional training will be released to staff through Safe Schools as required by September 1, 2021.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: The district will comply with CDC/NJDOH/EO recommendations for screening. The district will continue to enforce pre-screening prior to arriving at school. Students who become symptomatic will be referred to their primary care physician or other health facility. Nurses will maintain a tracking document. School officials will encourage parents to be on alert for signs of the illness in their children and to keep their child home when they are sick. Parents who do call his/her child out of school for personal illness must provide symptoms of the child's illness. The school nurse will track symptoms for any possible outbreak. Any student or staff displaying symptoms associated with COVID are sent directly to the nurse's office for screening and placed in an isolation area. Notification must be made to the building principal (or designee) and the Superintendent of School.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: The district has successfully worked with multiple organizational partners to offer vaccines to staff and students. The district plans to maintain data in the student health records.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

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

Students with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions may require additional accommodations in regards to CDC/NJDOH/EO guidelines. The exception to requirements for face coverings for students with a disability or a documented medical condition will be reflected in a student's IEP or 504 plan. The special education classroom staff will comply with recommendations from the CDC/NJDOH/EO in regards to social distancing unless unable to do so. Accommodations will be given to classes where social distancing may be more difficult such as the multiply disabled, and other self-contained settings where physical prompting is necessary. All staff will be trained in the use of PPE and alternate options such as face shields and plexiglass partitions may be utilized within these specialized settings.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Providing services to address students' academic needs: A district facilitated summer credit recovery program will support students who experienced challenges with hybrid and remote instruction. Teachers will participate in professional development on acceleration of learning at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Students' learning will be diagnosed through Link-it and district assessments as well as Start Strong assessments. Priority standards will be identified. Teachers will utilize assessments to identify any prerequisite skills that need to be addressed prior to the teaching of grade level standards. Directors will provide ongoing support to teachers in reviewing data and establishing instructional objectives. The district will continue to utilize the Intervention and Referral System for identifying at-risk students. After-school support programs will be funded through grants.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

B. Food Service: The district will take advantage of appropriate governmental meal service plans. Throughout the pandemic, the district was able to provide free meals for all students. Lunch will be served in all buildings and will comply with Department of Agriculture nutritional guidelines. Students will be socially distanced as per CDC/NJDOH/E.O. guidelines and will be supervised by district staff members. All sanitization and cleaning protocols will be followed.

C. Providing social-emotional and mental health supports: The first days of school will include time for students to adjust to being physically in school all day. Counselors remain accessible to students on demand and through scheduled appointments. Additionally, therapeutic small group counseling will be offered in both buildings. A mental health group for teachers and workshops for parents will also be supported by ESSER II funding.



Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

3. Public Comment

A. **Public Comment:** The plan was reviewed for feedback at the June 14, 2021 Board of Education Meeting prior to adoption. The plan was submitted to the NJDOE by the June 24, 2021 deadline. The plan will be revisited with the Board of Education in August, 2021

B. **Communicating with Families and Public:** If requested by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, the plan will be provided in the requested alternative format. If requested, a principal or delegate will meet with a parent to explain the plan and answer questions. The plan will be posted on the district's website. Any revisions will be posted and shared with families and the public for input and comment.



Questions/Comments

