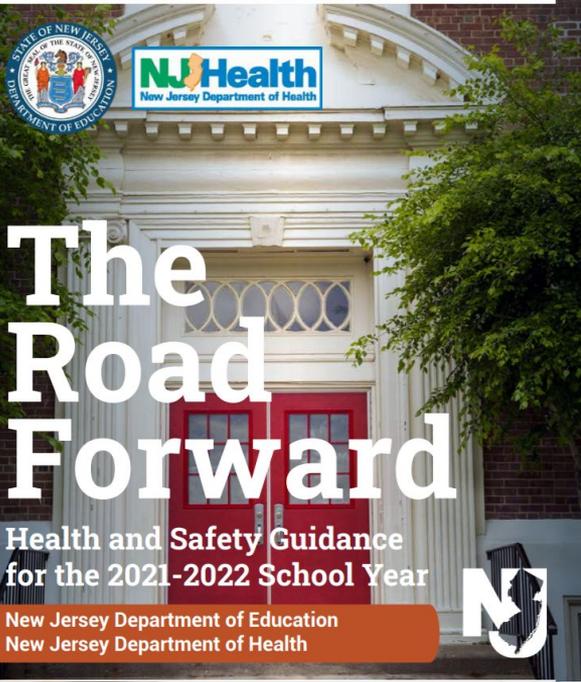


Northern Burlington County Regional School District Safe Return Plan (SRP): September 2021





Engage, Recover, and Reimagine Education in New Jersey

The Road Forward features a series of initiatives that paves the way forward for our education community by investing heavily in identifying and addressing the academic and mental health impacts of COVID-19 on our students and educators. The Road Forward also represents the NJDOE's commitment to providing the guidance and resources necessary to return to safe, enriching, fully in-person learning environments in the 2021-2022 school year.

- [School Year 2021-2022 Health and Safety Guidance](#): Health and safety strategies to reduce risks to students and staff from COVID-19, while still prioritizing full-time in-person learning
- [School Year 2021-2022 Self-Assessment](#): District readiness to accelerate learning and provide supportive school climates
- [Learning Acceleration Guide](#): A compilation of learning acceleration principles and practices in New Jersey
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Safe Return Plan (SRP) Task Force

Northern Burlington County Regional School District Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services 2021-2022

Date: June 1, 2021

Date Revised: August 16, 2021

Members of the "Safe Return Plan" Task Force

Name	Position	Name	Position
Dr. James Sarruda	Superintendent	Dr. Andrew Kearns	Middle School Principal
Ms. Mary Csontos	Human Resources Manager/Assistant to the Supt	Ms. Susan Grater	Middle School Assistant Principal
Mr. Richard Kaz	School Business Administrator	Ms. Maria Tomasetti	NBCRTA President
Ms. Jamie Williams	Assistant Business Administrator	Ms. Theresa Pugliese	Middle School Nurse
Dr. Amy Stella	Director of Curriculum, Instruction & PD	Mr. Dave Johnson	NBCRTA
Ms. Lisa Peters	Director of Special Education	Mr. Matthew Dodd	NBCRTA
Dr. Daniel Uszaki	Athletic Director	Ms. Vicki Cuneo	NBCRTA
Ms. Samantha Crean	Director of School Counseling Services	Ms. Mary Crane	High School Nurse
Mr. Matthew Konowicz	School Safety Specialist	Ms. Jennifer Cavalier	NBCRTA
Dr. Sally Lopez	High School Principal	Mr. Paul Narwidd	Board of Education President
Mr. Brandon Bennett	High School Assistant Principal	Ms. Andrea Reading	Board of Education Vice President

Northern Burlington's SRP Task Force

It's Mission:

To research current guidelines and best practices and prepare recommendations to guide NB's return to full day instruction in September of 2021.



Northern Burlington's Safe Return Plan

The NB SRP Task Force will continue to evaluate New Jersey's "Safe Return" Guidelines and prepare recommendations to the Board of Education that will 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 face covering protocols, vaccination guidance, facility cleaning, screening protocols, lunch protocols, and student bus transportation guidelines.

Note: Prior to the issuance of Executive Order 251, the District was prepared to implement a policy that allowed parents to make the choice regarding whether or not their child should wear a mask in school. However, Executive Order 251, requires all students, educators, staff, and visitors to wear face masks inside of school buildings, regardless of vaccination status, for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year.

Northern Burlington's SRP

Scheduling:

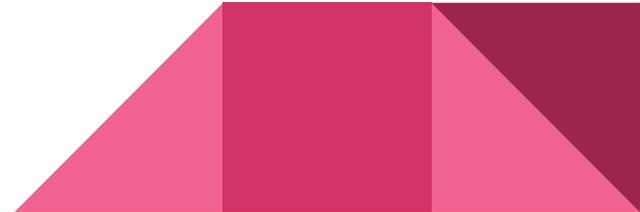
Districts' SRP plan accounts for resuming 100 % in-person instruction and returning to the daily nine (9) period schedule. Scheduling decisions will continue to be informed by careful evaluation of the health and safety standards and the most up to date guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), as well the stakeholder input on the needs of all students.



Northern Burlington's SRP

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 SRP

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 review 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. On August 6, 2021, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 251, which states that all students, educators, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face masks inside of school buildings, regardless of vaccination status, for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. The mandate went into effect on August 9, 2021. Exceptions to the mask requirement remain unchanged from the 2020-2021 school year, and include:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

The Executive Order also authorizes penalties for violations of the Order, including being charged with a disorderly persons offense. Those charged with a disorderly persons offense are "subject to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 6 months or ... a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 or to both a fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court." N.J.S.A. App. A: 9-49.

Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

B. Physical distancing:

The district will implement physical distancing measures as an effective COVID-19 prevention strategy to the extent possible while still providing regular school operations to all students and staff in-person. Physical distancing will be supplemented with masking of all individuals in the school while a statewide mandate is in place. The district will make every effort to seat students facing the same direction in classrooms.



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.

Date	Case Rate	% CLI	% Positivity	Activity Level
6/19	1.39	1.57	0.96	Low
6/26	1.45	1.84	1	Moderate
7/3	1.4	2.01	1.19	Moderate
7/10	1.92	1.84	1.44	Moderate
7/17	3.27	2.20	2.54	Moderate
7/24	5.53	2.63	3.08	Moderate
7/31	9.13	3.31	4.57	Moderate
8/7	12.07	4.25	5.48	Moderate

	Case Rate	% CLI	% Positivity
Low	<1	<1.68	<3%
Moderate	1-10	1.68-5.51	3-10
High	10.01-25	5.52-13.08	10.01-20
>	25	13.08	20

Safe Return Plan (SRP) Requirements

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

Close Contact

Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

- **Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition **excludes students** who were within **3 to 6 feet of an infected student** (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where
 - both students were engaged in **consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks**; and
 - other **K–12 school prevention strategies** (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the **K–12 school setting**.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. This

came from the document at this URL:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html>

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 have staff and student/parents sign a statement of assurance quarterly and this information will be maintained by the nursing staff. This form will be completed through PowerSchool. Any individual who exhibits symptoms will be encouraged to stay home and contact their primary care physician or other health facility. Parents who do call his/her child out of school for personal illness must provide symptoms of the child's illness. Any student or staff displaying symptoms during the school day associated with COVID will be sent directly to the nurse's office for screening and placed in an isolation area. The school nurse will track symptoms for any possible outbreak. Notification must be made to the building principal (or designee) and the Superintendent of School. [COVID-19 Statement of Assurance- Screening Questions.docx](#)

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible: The district continues to strongly encourage all faculty and students to be fully vaccinated. In addition, the district will continue to identify local areas where vaccines are readily available to staff and students. The district plans to maintain vaccine status when shared with the school nurse in the student and staff 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 has supported 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. Please take a moments to review the following information: [Cafeteria Protocols](#) and [Food Service Letter](#)

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 at the August 16, 2021 Board meeting.

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

[NB SRP Web Page](#)

