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)

LEA Name: South Harrison Township School District

Revised Date: 06/16/2023

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–K), South Harrison Township School District describes how the district plans on maintaining 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 and by Executive Orders of the Governor.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks: Masks were made optional for students and staff inside the school buildings of the district. In addition, based on CDC review of the federal mandate for mask-wearing on school buses, students would no longer be required to wear masks on any school bus, as of the same date, March 7th, 2022.

The Superintendent reminded families that the determination to wear or not wear a mask in school has to be each family's personal decision. The Superintendent emphasizes that based on the school's HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) policy, there would be ***No Tolerance*** for any instance in which a student is harassed or intimidated as a result of wearing or not wearing a mask.

B. Vaccinations - Based on New CDC Guidelines:
Schools, ECE programs, and health departments should promote equitable access to vaccination. Staying up to date on routine vaccinations is essential to prevent illness from many different infections. South Harrison Township School District will:
  ● Provide information about COVID-19 vaccines and other recommended vaccines.
  ● Ensure communication meets the needs of people with limited English proficiency who require language services and individuals with disabilities who require accessible formats through translation services.
  ● Encourage trust and confidence in COVID-19 vaccines.

C. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):
During periods of high community transmission, South Harrison schools will identify opportunities to maximize physical distancing for the following

higher-risk scenarios,
- In common areas, in spaces where students may gather such as hallways and auditoriums.
- During indoor activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise
- Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick

D. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Students will be reminded of proper handwashing procedures. Classrooms will continue to have hand sanitizer available when hand washing is not possible or in classrooms that do not have a sink.

E. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: All indoor facilities have adequate ventilation. Filter(s) for A/C units have been maintained (and will continue to be) and changed according to manufacturer recommendations. A schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection has been developed and followed and will continue. There will be routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops). Custodians will use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. (For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available on the EPA's website.) Bathrooms will be sanitized daily, or between use, as much as possible, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

F. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: South Harrison schools will continue to follow the CDC and NJDOH guidelines/timeframes for quarantine and/or isolation which currently includes:

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19 except in certain high-risk congregate settings such as correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and nursing homes. In school settings, which are generally not considered high-risk congregate settings, people who were exposed to COVID-19 should follow recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask and get tested. K-12 schools can decide how to manage exposures based on the local context and the benefits of preserving access to in-person learning. Accommodations may be necessary for exposed people who cannot wear a mask or have difficulty wearing a well-fitting mask. Schools and ECE programs can also consider recommending masking and/or testing for a classroom in which a student was recently exposed who is unable to consistently and correctly wear a mask.

G. Diagnostic and screening testing - South Harrison schools will no longer require screening tools, as per the CDC guidelines for schools.

H. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible - Provide information about COVID-19 vaccines and other recommended vaccines. Ensure communication meets the needs of people with limited English proficiency who require language services and individuals with disabilities who require accessible formats. Encourage trust and confidence in COVID-19 vaccines.

I. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies: Any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students.

J. Meals We will discourage students from sharing meals and complete routine cleaning between groups. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

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)** We will continue our Intervention Program and provide Virtual Summer School and Extended School Year. Our SEL programs will continue to support students with mental health needs in addition to a counselor who will provide students with SEL support. We will maintain a nurse in the district. The district has provided Chromebooks for all students in grades K through 6 to ensure that each student has his/her own device to use at home and school. We will continue working with families with technical support and to identify those who do not have access to the internet in their household.

3. Public Comment

A. **Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment 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)** This plan has been posted on the district front webpage, as of June. This document was updated after the issuance of both Executive Orders # 251 and 253 and presented once again at the Board Meeting held on . Public will be able to provide comment.

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)** As we do with all communication to our families, we will send messages through Ruvna and/ or School Messenger to include multiple languages, text messages, and emails as needed