

West Morris Regional High School District

Safe Return Plan

July 25, 2022



Introduction

This plan will be revised based upon feedback and in consultation with the District's Safe Return Planning Committee composed of teachers, administrators, school nurses, and counselors with the goal being that the resulting plan will be consistent with direction from the CDC, the New Jersey Department of Health, and with Governor Murphy's Executive Order 251. Initially the plan was approved by the Board of Education on August 16, 2021 and January 10, 2022. Under requirements published by the U.S. Department of Education, a school district must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 20, 2023, review and as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Research Consulted

School administrators and the Reopening Committee referred to the following resources when developing the district's Reopening Plan:

- [NJDOE Covid-19 Information Hub](#)
- [CDC Guidelines](#)
- [CDC Guidelines for Schools](#)
- [NJDOE The Road Forward](#)
- [Executive Order 251](#)
- [Executive Order 253](#)
- [NJDOH Public Health Recommendations](#)

Hygiene and Personal Protective Equipment,

The district will follow CDC and New Jersey Department of Health directions regarding mask-wearing requirements for faculty, district personnel, and high school students.

1. Executive Order #251 expired on March 7, 2022. Students and staff are not required to wear masks while indoors or on school buses, but may voluntarily choose to do so.
2. Ample soap, water, paper towels, wipes, and hand sanitizer will be provided for employees and students to use multiple times throughout the day.
3. Custodians will disinfect the entire building everyday, with an emphasis on areas where students congregate.
4. Teachers will remind students to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, to apply hand sanitizer, and to avoid touching their faces.

Social Distancing

Students and faculty may resume normal activities. Adjustments to practices in physical education classes and lunch may be altered based upon local Covid activity data.

Demographics

The West Morris Regional High School District is composed of two high schools. Mendham High School serves the communities of Mendham Township, Mendham Borough, Chester Township, and Chester Borough. Central High School serves residents of Washington Township. Approximately 2,150 students are scheduled to attend the two high schools in the fall of 2022. The district utilizes a full year four-day rotational calendar in which students' schedules include eight class periods but only six classes meet each day. All students eat during a unit lunch.

School Reopening

The West Morris Regional High School District intends to open fully to all students, faculty, and staff for in-person instruction, athletics, and activities in August, 2022.

Should local and state health conditions change, the WMRHSD will follow directives from the local health department, New Jersey Department of Health, the CDC, and any applicable government orders. Contingency plans may be implemented which could include restrictions on athletics and co-curricular activities, following a cohort hybrid model, or fully-remote instruction.

Vaccination and Testing

In compliance with Executive Order 253 and Board of Education Policy 5141.11, the district requires that all eligible teachers, educational staff, contracted employees, vendors, volunteers, providers and any other individuals working in the schools where regular visits to the schools are part of the individual's job duties, be fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated eligible teachers, educational staff, contracted employees, vendors, volunteers, providers and any other individuals working in the schools shall be subject to weekly COVID-19 testing as indicated in Policy 5141.11 Vaccination and Testing.

Lunch

Alternate locations will be available for students to eat lunch, including lunch tables and chairs outside. Adequate time will be allowed for tables to be cleaned after lunch before reuse. Students may purchase or bring their lunch.

Kitchen and Food Safety

Pomptonian staff must complete a review course consistent with [ServSafe](#) standards on proper food handling techniques and avoiding the spread of illness. Each school district has at least one certified ServSafe Food Manager. Kitchens will be cleaned and sanitized daily. Buffet style serving will not be permitted. Employees will be required to regularly wash their hands, including before and after food preparation and before and after serving. Gloves will be used in accordance with ServSafe standard but are not a substitute for regular hand washing. Soap, water, and cleaning products will be regularly available.

Field Trips and Assemblies

The district anticipates a return to in-person field trips during the school year. Board Policy requires prior approval of all field trips by the Board of Education. Assemblies may be conducted at the discretion of the administration with Reaching or approaching maximum occupancy in gyms or auditoriums is prohibited.

Identification & Isolation of Sick Employees/Students

1. If a student or staff is ill, the person should stay home.
2. When referring to the directions that follow, the action to be taken on a specified day (e.g. "day 5" or "day 10"), day 1 is the first day following the onset of symptoms or, if no symptoms develop, the day following the first positive test.
 - a. If a person tests positive for Covid, the date of the test is considered day zero (0). The person may return on day five (5), after the positive test if the person is symptom free.
 - b. If a person becomes ill with Covid-like symptoms and is presumed positive based upon exposure but does not test, the person may return on day five (5) after the onset of symptoms if the person is symptom free.

- c. In both cases, asymptomatic also includes being fever free for 24 hours.
3. If a staff member becomes ill while at work, he or she must notify their supervisor or building principal immediately and will be sent home to seek appropriate medical treatment. Board Policy 5141.3 Health Examinations and Immunizations contains more information on procedures related to screening and positive cases.

Office Procedures

1. In order to maintain social distancing practices, students are advised to schedule an appointment with office staff whenever possible.
2. All forms will be accessible to parents, students, and teachers digitally to minimize human-to-human contact.
3. Locations for drop-off/pick-up of necessary items will be established to avoid human-to-human contact.
4. Every effort should be made to minimize unnecessary visits to the school.

Visitors to the School

1. Visitors will be required to sign in with personal identification, address, and phone number to facilitate contact tracing.
2. In-person guest speakers may visit at the discretion of the building principal.

Facilities

Regular cleaning schedules will be developed with records maintained documenting completion. A resource manual for cleaning and sanitizing procedures is maintained.

Ventilation/Air Circulation:

1. Teachers and staff are encouraged to open windows in their classrooms whenever possible.

2. Classroom doors should be propped open whenever possible to create a clean air exchange. Child-safe fans may be used to maximize effectiveness of air flow from open windows and doors.
3. Proper ventilation in classrooms means air is moving in and out via open windows and doors. Air should not be recirculated with air conditioners in a closed classroom environment. Doors and windows should be open while the air conditioning is running.
4. Filters on air conditioners will be changed frequently to ensure that clean air is being recirculated, however, doors and windows should still be open while the air conditioning is running.
5. Unit ventilators in classrooms should not be blocked and should be running at all times to provide moving air as required.

Athletics

For all West Morris Regional athletic events and practices, student athletes will strictly adhere to the NJSIAA protocols.

Policies

- 1250 Visitors
- 3510 Operation and Maintenance of Plant
- 3541.33 Transportation Safety
- 5141.2 Illness
- 5141.3 Health Examinations and Immunizations
- 5141.10 Face Coverings
- 5141.11 Vaccination and Testing