

July 2021

The mission of the Berlin Community School, in an active partnership between school and community, is to provide effective and comprehensive educational opportunities in a nurturing environment designed to challenge all students to strive for personal excellence and responsible citizenship. This will foster the pursuit of life-long learning while achieving proficiency in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and meet the challenges of an evolving global society.

Moving Forward

'21-22



The '21-22 reopening plan for the Berlin Borough School District.

Berlin Borough Board of Education

Jocelyn Lewis, President

Rebecca Holland, Vice-President

Jenine Del Palazzo

Susan Embrey

Jeffrey Greenberg

Lisa Kehoe

Kristen Simone

Brandy Titus

Joshua Zagorski

Superintendent

Joseph Campisi, Ph.D.

Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

John Scavelli

Acknowledgments

The Berlin Borough School District would like to express our appreciation to the '21-22 Berlin Borough School District Reopening Committee. Your input, feedback, and collaboration allowed us to build off of the '20-21 Restart and Recovery Plan.

'21-22 Berlin Borough School District Reopening Committee

Name	Lisa Asare	Therese Bonmati	Craig Bookwalter	Kristin Braidwood
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>MS Principal</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Parent & Supervisor</i>
Name	Michael Brand	Barbara Caruso	Kasey Cornforth	Elisa DiRiego
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Parent & HSA</i>	<i>Parent</i>
Name	Jessica DuBray	Marcy Edwards	Nicole Gibbs	Joe Hemphill
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Supervisor Technology</i>
Name	Rebecca Holland	Lisa Kehoe	Christina Ladik	Marie Majuri
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>BOE Member</i>	<i>BOE Member</i>	<i>School Nurse</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
Name	Kellilyn Mawson	Farah Morgan	Tim Morgan	Heather Pach
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>ES Principal</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Parent</i>
Name	Mitchell Pearlman	Tom Pratt	Vik Shah	Monica Shallow
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Supervisor Facilities</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>School Nurse</i>
Name	Beth Somers	Christina Weber	Jeffrey Widgeon	Millard Wilkinson
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Secretary & PALS</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Chief of Police</i>
Name	Gianna Ezeiruaku	Jake Killeen	John Scavelli	Joseph Campisi
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Business Administrator</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>

Table of Contents

4	Forward
5	Executive Summary
6	Disclaimers
7	General Safety and Guidelines
8	<i>Vaccinations</i>
9	<i>Communication</i>
10	<i>Masks</i>
11	<i>Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting</i>
12	<i>Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette</i>
13	<i>Meals</i>
14	<i>Transportation</i>
15	Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow
15	<i>Limit Use of Shared Supplies and Equipment</i>
16	<i>Cleaning and Disinfection</i>
17	<i>Improving Airflow</i>
18	Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff
18	<i>Parental Screening</i>
19	<i>Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff</i>
20	<i>Exclusion</i>
27	Contact Tracing
28	Testing
29	<i>Diagnostic Testing</i>
29	<i>Screening Testing</i>
30	180-Day Requirement
31	Contingency Plans



By Superintendent of the Berlin Borough School District, Joseph Campisi, Ph.D.

On June 26, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education released **The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education**. The guidance provided “Anticipated Minimum Standards” as well as “Additional Considerations” to help districts meet the minimum standards. The Berlin Borough School District Restart and Recovery Plan went above and beyond any minimum standards and additional considerations and provided the safest possible learning environment for all of the students and staff. Through fidelity to **Mitigation for Education** the district maintained onsite instruction for over 70% of the school year. Students were able to either learn onsite five (5) days per week or receive remote/virtual instruction five (5) days per week. The rate of transmission (Rt) of COVID-19 in the district last school year was 0%.

On June 28, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education released **The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year**. After thorough review of this guidance and the accompanying and applicable Executive Orders, **Moving Forward ‘21-22** was created for the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to be cautious and monitor COVID rates of transmission and percent positivity throughout the summer and school year. It is also important to note that the latest guidance contains recommendations rather than mandatory standards.

In May of 2021, the Governor declared that all students must return to school for full-time, in-person instruction come the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Therefore, a broad scale opt-out into remote-only learning will not be an option for the ‘21-22 school year. It is understandable that the return to normalcy can cause stress for all stakeholders, the district seeks to provide support and interventions in all facets of the students’ lives.

The district will implement all feasible layers of mitigation for a normal or typical day, month, and year of school for all stakeholders.

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year released by Governor Murphy on Monday, June 28, 2021, **Moving Forward ‘21-22**, the reopening plan for the Berlin Borough School District was developed. This guidance provided five (5) key areas of focus for reopening the district in September of 2021:

1. General Safety and Guidelines
2. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow
3. Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff
4. Contact Tracing
5. Testing

The Berlin Borough School District Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year takes into account the needs and capabilities of the district based on the guidance below.	
The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year	
Developed by	
New Jersey Department of Education	
New Jersey Department of Health	
Delivered by	
Philip D. Murphy	Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver	Lieutenant Governor
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D	Acting Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Education
Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A	Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health
Made available	
Monday, June 28, 2021	https://www.nj.gov/education/roadforward

Disclaimers

The '21-22 reopening plan is based on the guidance provided to the district on Monday, June 28, 2021. It is important to note the guidance itself states:

“Schools should anticipate potential updates to this guidance prior to the start of the new school year, as additional federal recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) become available.”

“Updated CDC guidance on masking in this setting is expected prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year and will factor into the final recommendations from the State for masking this fall. This guidance will be updated following that release.”

The reason for pointing out these statements by the New Jersey Department of Education is to ensure that all stakeholders are aware that different guidance and updates may come out during the summer or school year and mandate certain measures. Any time updates are published, we will review the updates to see what is recommended versus what is required or mandatory. The district will air on the side of caution using the increasing amount of science and data that is becoming more readily available regarding COVID-19.

School Districts must prepare months in advance for a normal or typical school year. The guidance from the NJDOE and NJDOH was provided with just about two (2) months before the beginning of the '21-22 school year. Additions may need to be added to this plan after committee work and Board of Education approval upon further guidance from the NJDOE and NJDOH.

1. General Safety and Guidelines

The district will rely on the COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools regarding increasing, decreasing, changing or adjusting mitigating measures during the '21-22 school year. These recommendations are updates directly from the New Jersey Department of Education. If there is any ambiguity or different options in the updates, the Superintendent will rely on the advisement of the Camden County Department of Health.

When guidance or updates are published by the New Jersey Department of Health, the Superintendent will meet with the school nurses to determine the impact (if any) on the district. If there is a need, the Camden County Department of Health will be contacted for clarification. The district reserves a twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48) hour timeframe to complete this process after receiving the information. After this process is completed, the district will implement the updated information, guidance, and updates. This information will be communicated as outlined in section 1.2 of this document.

All programs, including sports, clubs, and CER programs will begin again at the start of the '21-22 school year.

Furthermore, all district staff, regardless of position, are deemed essential employees by the Superintendent.

All district staff must be cognizant and comply with student and confidentiality regarding HIPAA and privacy.

1.1 Vaccination

In accordance with the guidance provided by the NJDOE and NJDOH, school districts are encouraged to have a system in place to determine the vaccination status of students and staff. If the district is unable to determine the vaccination status of individual students or staff, those individuals should be considered not fully vaccinated.

People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If this requirement is not met, regardless of your age, you are not fully vaccinated.

Upon Board approval of this reopening plan:

- The district will survey all staff members, including vendors, to determine individual vaccination status. This information will be kept confidential.
- The district will survey the parents of all students that met the age-requirement to receive a vaccine. This information will be kept confidential.

The district mandates that staff members may not ask any students or families about their vaccination status. Any such discussion or questioning of a student or family is grounds for disciplinary action.

The only staff exempt from this mandate are the school nurses and administrators, in situations including but not limited to:

- Potential cases of COVID-19
- Contact tracing
- Potential close-contacts
- Potential quarantines
- Any other health related matter

1.2 Communication

The district will create and maintain a stand alone web page dedicated to information regarding COVID-19. This information will include, but is not limited to:

- Implementation of any changes via the process stated in section one (1) of this document
- Information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations
- COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools
- The New Jersey COVID-19 Dashboard
- Pertinent Executive Orders from the Governor
- Information from the CDC
- The number of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 delineated by category (student or staff)

Unless otherwise required, the district will send out public health notifications alerting the school community of any confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. Further, the district will continue to notify any close-contacts based. Teaching and learning regarding any situations resulting from a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, including close contacts, will be addressed in section seven (7) of this document.

In the event booster shots are recommended, the district will seek to have a vendor onsite for all eligible students and their families or partner with another district.

1.3 Masks

- The wearing of masks will be optional for students and staff during the '21-22 school year.
- This option applies to extra-curricular activities as well.
- *The Superintendent reserves the right to implement mandatory mask wearing for all students and staff if the need arises due to metrics within the school and the community at-large.*
- While wearing a mask will be optional, unvaccinated students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask during the school day and extra-curricular activities.

Everyone should still be cognizant that wearing masks is an important prevention strategy to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Note regarding the designation of a close contact:

Masks and/or barriers do not preclude an individual from being identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case.

The district mandates that staff members may not ask any students or families their reasons for wearing or not wearing a mask. Any such discussion or questioning of a student or family is grounds for disciplinary action.

1.4 Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting

The district will not implement desk barriers but will try, to the greatest extent possible, to keep three (3) feet of distance between the students. However, as communicated by the NJDOE and NJDOH, “physical distancing recommendations must not prevent a school from offering full-day, full-time, in person learning to all students for the 2021-2022 school year.”

Students in grades PreK-4 will continue to cohort dictated by the self-contained setting of the classroom configurations. Students in grades 5-8 will move from class to class as they would have done previous to the ‘20-21 school year. Students will resume the use of lockers in the appropriate grade levels.

Again, three (3) of distance between students and staff will be reinforced through signage and verbal reminders.

Three (3) feet of distance, when possible, will serve as the standard for desk/seat placement, small group instruction, and during meals (for students and staff).

For specialty classes, such as music/band, the district may create outdoor spaces with the necessary equipment to ensure the program can function at the highest level.

Middle Schools will not change into uniforms for physical education class. On days when they have physical education, they should come to school in the appropriate attire for physical education.

Staff meetings and PLCs will return to in-person and held in a room, designated by the Principal and Supervisor of Facilities that, to the greatest extent possible.

1.5 Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

The district will continue to reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer, wipes and gloves will continue to be provided.

In order to reinforce hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, signage will be posted reminding everyone to:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue if not wearing a mask
- Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately

The following reminders will also be visible and through messages that hand hygiene should take place:

- Upon arrival at school
- Before and after meals and snacks
- After going to the bathroom
- Before leaving for the day
- After blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue
- When hands are visibly soiled
- Assist/observe young children to ensure proper hand washing

1.6 Meals

The district will return to dining in the cafeteria for the '21-22 school year. The following procedures will be employed for meals:

- As in all cases, three (3) feet of distance will be kept between students.
- Students should not sit directly across from each other while eating.
- The feasibility to create alternative eating locations or groups and staggered eating times will be examined as well.
- Wiping down tables between groups/classes will occur.
- Students will be discouraged from sharing meals.
- Markers indicating 3 feet between student seats will be implemented.

The district mandates that all cafeteria staff must wear a mask and gloves during any food preparation and distribution.

1.7 Transportation

School buses are considered school property for the purpose of determining the need for prevention strategies. However, the NJDOE and NJDOH have not given state-specific guidance regarding New Jersey School Transportation (specially, school buses). Absent a state level Executive Order, the district is bound to the Federal Order. Therefore, in accordance with the Federal Order:

Masks must be worn by all passengers on buses, regardless of vaccination status per CDC's Federal Order.

- If occupancy allows, maximize physical distance between students,
- Open windows to increase airflow in buses and other transportation, if possible,
- Regularly clean high touch surfaces on school buses at least daily.

2. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow

2.1 Limit Use of Shared Supplies and Equipment

Upon staff request, the district will provide:

- Adequate supplies (i.e. classroom supplies, equipment) to minimize sharing of high-touch materials or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect routinely and preferably between use.

In addition:

- Staff will continue to encourage hand hygiene practices between use of shared items.
- The district discourages the use of shared items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.

2.2 Cleaning and Disinfection

The district will continue the routine cleaning and disinfecting employed during the '20-21 school year with the products that proved to be effective, especially the high-touch areas.

In accordance with the guidance provided by the NJDOE and NJDOH:

- If a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of the spaces occupied by the person.
 - Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be reopened for use.
 - Close off areas used by the person who is sick or positive and do not use those areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) after the person has exited a space before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Open doors and windows and use fans or HVAC settings to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Use products from EPA List according to the instructions on the product label.
 - Wear a mask and gloves while cleaning and disinfecting.
- The district will not use of the following methods to clean and disinfect is discouraged at this time, due to lack of evidence of effectiveness:
 - Ultrasonic waves,
 - High intensity UV radiation
 - LED blue light
 - Sanitizing tunnels (tunnel that sprays disinfectant when a person walks through it).
 - Fogging,
 - Fumigation,
 - Wide-area or electrostatic spraying

2.3 Improving Airflow

The district will continue to maintain the effective airflow in the building while delivering clean air, and dilution of dilute potential contaminants. The district will continue to mitigate in this area through consideration of the following strategies, based on current protocol effectiveness, feasibility, and safety:

- Bring in as much outdoor air as possible.
- Open windows and doors. Even just cracking open a window or door helps increase outdoor airflow, which helps reduce the potential concentration of virus particles in the air.
- Do not open windows or doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (such as falling, exposure to extreme temperatures, or triggering asthma symptoms), or if doing so would otherwise pose a security risk.
- If permitted by the Supervisor of Facilities and Business Administrator, usage of child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows.
- If feasible and safe, secure fans in a window to blow potentially contaminated air out and pull new air in through other open windows and doors.
- Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. Position fans securely and carefully in/near windows so as not to induce potentially contaminated airflow directly from one person over another (strategic window fan placement in exhaust mode can help draw fresh air into the room via other open windows and doors without generating strong room air currents).
- Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.
- Consider having activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow.
- Open windows in buses and other transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. Even just cracking windows open a few inches improves air circulation.
- Continue the use of MERV filters.

3. Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

3.1 Parental Screening

- Parents/caregivers must monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children.
- Students who are sick should not attend school. The district will strictly enforce exclusion criteria for both students and staff, as detailed in section 3.3.
- The district will communicate to the school community the importance of monitoring symptoms and keeping children home while ill.
- Communications from the district will provide reminders to staff and families to check for symptoms before leaving for school.
- The clear and accessible directions for parents/caregivers and students for reporting symptoms and reasons for absences will be prominently posted on the school website.
- The district will not send a paper or online health screening form for parents to complete each day. The same will hold true for staff.
- There will not be a check-in process upon arrival regarding COVID-19 symptoms.

3.2 Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

The district will institute the following procedures to identify and respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms:

- There will continue to be an isolation room (that is not the nurse's office), enough space for multiple people placed at least 6 feet apart.
- The district will continue to ensure that hygiene supplies are available, including additional cloth masks, facial tissues, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- School nurses will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions based on the care and tasks required.
- Staff supervising students waiting to be picked up do not need to be healthcare personnel but should follow physical distancing guidelines.
- Continue to follow the guidelines in section 2.0, to the greatest extent possible.

3.3 Exclusion from School

3.3.1 Definition of COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

At least one (1) of the following symptoms			
cough	shortness of breath	new olfactory disorder	new taste disorder

OR

At least two (2) of the following symptoms			
fever (measure or subjective)	chills	rigors (shivers)	myalgia (muscle aches)
headache	sore throat	nausea or vomiting	diarrhea
fatigue	congestion	runny nose	

For students with chronic illness
Only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

3.3.2 When Illness Occurs in the School Setting

Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated away from others until they can be sent home. Students who are sick and not already wearing a mask should be provided one to wear unless the student has a contraindication to doing so. If a mask is not tolerated by the ill student or staff member, other staff should be masked and follow maximum physical distancing guidelines (at least 6 feet away).

Children and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated away from others until they can be sent home. Students who are sick and not already wearing a mask should be provided one to wear unless the student has a contraindication to doing so. If a mask is not tolerated by the ill student or staff member, other staff should be masked and follow maximum physical distancing guidelines (at least 6 feet away). The school nurses will employ the following procedure:

1.	Ask the student (or parent/guardian) and staff whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days meeting the definition of a close contact.	
	Close contact definition	Someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.
2.	Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider.	
3.	Persons with COVID-19- compatible symptoms should undergo COVID-19 testing.	
4.	Determine appropriate guidelines for returning to school.	

Guidelines for Returning to School is Dependent on the [Community Transmission](#)

Category/Situation	Appropriate Guidelines
Green/Low	Ill individuals without potential exposure to COVID-19 should follow the NJDOH School Exclusion List
	No public health notification is needed UNLESS there is an unusual increase in the number of persons who are ill (over normal levels), which might indicate an outbreak.
	Unusual increase and normal levels will be determined by the Local Health Department

Category/Situation	Appropriate Guidelines
Yellow/Moderate Orange/High or If ill students have potential COVID-19 exposure	Ill persons should be excluded according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria

School Nurses & Administrators are the liaisons to the Camden County Health Department

District Notifications to the Camden County Health Department When Staff & Students:

1.	Are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure
2.	When they see an increase in the number of persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms
3.	<i>Test positive for COVID-19 (if in-school testing is performed)</i>

When necessary, the School Nurses and Administrators will provide the Camden County Health Department with the following information:

1.	Contact information for the ill persons
2.	The date the ill person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building
3.	Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations
4.	Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school
5.	Vaccination status if known
6.	Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps

Isolation

Regardless of vaccination status	If a student or staff experiences COVID-compatible symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others , be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2.
----------------------------------	--

3.3.3 Exclusion

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Persons Who Have COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms or Who Test Positive for COVID-19

Situation	Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested for COVID-19	
Exclusion	stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset	AND
	at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms	

Situation	Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19	
Exclusion	stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset	AND
	at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever reducing medications and improvement in symptoms	

Situation	Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result
Exclusion	stay home for 10 days from the positive test result

Situation	An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.
Exclusion	stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset

The COVID-19 Exclusion Table described in [NJDOH guidance for Local health departments](#) can be used to determine the need for and duration of school exclusion based on the level of COVID-19 community transmission in their region.

In order to facilitate rapid diagnosis and limit unnecessary school exclusion, the district may consider implementing school-based diagnostic testing for students and staff.

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Close Contacts

The Berlin Borough School District will implement the following exclusion periods for students and staff that are deemed close-contacts based on the essential function of teaching and learning. The exclusion periods for verified close-contacts are based on [community transmission levels](#).

Green/Low or Yellow/Moderate	excluded from school for 10 days	OR 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days (after the date of close-contact exposure)
Orange/High	excluded from school for 14 days	

Medically complex or other high-risk individuals

14-day exclusion period for the exclusion of these individuals or those who work closely with them when identified as close contacts in all levels of community transmission

Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 |
| 2. | Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. |
| 3. | <p>If the individual experiences symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Isolate from others ● Be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing ● Inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care |

4. Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. Finding students and staff who are close contacts of a person who have tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore are at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus.

Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.

School nurses & Administrators will continue to contact trace using the ‘20-21 procedures.

1.	As with any other communicable disease outbreak, the district will assist in identifying the close contacts within the school and communicating this information back to the Camden County Department of Health.
2.	With guidance from the CCDOH, the district will be responsible for notifying parents and staff of the close contact exposure and exclusion requirements while maintaining confidentiality.
3.	The CCDOH contact tracing team will notify and interview the close contacts identified by the school and reinforce the exclusion requirements.

Regarding Extra-Curricular Activities and CER Programs

Coaches, advisors, and individual CER leads must keep attendance on each day the team or club meets

Seating charts and bus seating assignments must be kept each day the activity occurs

If a staff member, other than a school nurse or administrator, receives information that a student or someone in the student’s household is a close contact, they must report this information to the school nurse. This must be done with complete confidentiality.

The staff member may not inquire or ask questions about the information, with the exception of the nurses and administrators. Any such action of this type is grounds for disciplinary action.

5. Testing

Any onsite testing program would be developed with the Camden County Department of Health and possible assistance from the Berlin Office of Emergency Management.

<i>If the District Develops Testing Program</i>		
<i>Test ill students & staff</i>	<i>With written parental consent & consistent with any federal and state requirements</i>	
	<i>Ill individuals who test positive</i>	<i>should be reported to the LHD and contact tracing should begin.</i>
	<i>Ill individuals that test negative</i>	<i>should be referred to a healthcare provider, who may consider additional COVID-19 testing.</i>
<i>The district will seek an outside vendor or health department representative to test (if testing does occur onsite)</i>		

If an onsite testing were developed, there is a possibility of:

- *Detection of new cases to prevent outbreaks,*
- *Reduction of the risk of further transmission, and*
- *Increased protection of students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19.*

5.1 Diagnostic & Screening Testing

Regardless of the level of community transmission, the district will continue to work with the CC DOH department for the purpose of:

- Identifying possible rapid viral testing options in the community for the testing of symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals who were exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Potential use of screening testing to identify cases and prevent secondary transmission. Screening testing involves using SARS-CoV-2 viral tests (diagnostic tests used for screening purposes) intended to identify occurrences at the individual level even if there is no reason to suspect infection—there is no known exposure.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, screening testing of asymptomatic individuals without known exposure with the intent of making decisions based on the test results.

6. 180 Day Requirement

Statutory Requirements

N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9

- Schools must be in session for **180 days** to receive state aid
- The statute requires that **school facilities** be provided for at least 180 days during the school year
- A district is required to close the schools of the district for more than **three consecutive school days** due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive and/or recommendation by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure, days of virtual or remote instruction commensurate with in-person instruction will count towards the district's 180-day requirement
- In circumstances when the school facilities remain open and in-person instruction continues in those classrooms that are not required to quarantine, those days in session will also count towards the district's 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.

In accordance with NJDOE regulations, remote learning is not permitted on inclement weather days (with the exception of the situations listed above). Therefore, if school is closed due to inclement weather, the days will be made up in accordance with the '21-22 School Calendar.

Students with Underlying Health Conditions

Students with underlying health conditions that may make them more susceptible to or exacerbate the symptoms of COVID-19 may be eligible for home instruction per the process outlined at N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 or as required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

These types of situations will be governed by the following district policies and regulations:

- [Policy 2412 - Home Instruction Due to Health Condition](#)
- [Regulation 2412 - Home Instruction Due to Health Condition](#)

7. Proactively Planning (Contingency Plans)

The district is proactively planning for teaching and learning in the event we are confronted with the incidence of COVID-19 positive cases amongst staff and/or students. The contradicting guidance from the NJDOE and NJDOH is cause for the district to set up for different options in the event of quarantines and exclusions.

If the district is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of the scenarios listed in section 3.3, the district is mandated to prepare and offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible.

Options the district may implement to meet the mandate from the NJDOE & NJDOH listed in section seven (7)		
The options are not necessarily in the order of implementation.		
Options implemented may differ in different situations as determined by the Superintendent due to the age, number, and length of quarantine and exclusion.		
Unless a staff member is in mandatory quarantine or isolation, teaching will be conducted from campus.		
1.	In-person after school Tutoring/Instruction after the student(s) return to school	Classwork, content, activities, and assignments will be sent home to the students in mandatory quarantine or isolation. After the student returns from the quarantine or isolation, they will be provided with after school tutoring/instruction until the classwork, content, activities, and assignments has been completed. In general (but subject to extension), a student will receive two (2) days of after school tutoring/instruction for each day they were in mandatory quarantine and isolation. This instruction may be provided by a different teacher or teachers.
2.	Remote Teaching	Live-streamed teaching where there are a mix of students that are onsite and students in a remote setting (logged in via Zoom) due to mandatory quarantine or isolation.
3.	Virtual Instruction	Real time instruction provided to the class or group of students via Zoom during the normal hours of the school day or afterschool hours (in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement). This instruction may be provided by a different teacher or teachers.

**The district reserves the right to implement other options developed at a later time. Any new options will be added as an addendum to this plan and communicated to the school community via the dedicated COVID-19 communication webpage.*

Student absences due to quarantine or isolation will be counted as excused absences.