

Bridgeton Public Schools
Board of Education



Revised Safe Return Plan 2023

LEA Name: Bridgeton Public Schools

Date: (06/24/2021)

Date Revised: (12/13/2023)

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain 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.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Bridgeton Board of Education has transitioned to mask-wearing as optional, except for students and staff returning from quarantine/isolation. Upon a positive COVID result staff and students should quarantine for 5 days. They are allowed to return on day 6. These individuals must wear a mask for days 6-10 upon their return. Disposable face coverings will remain available if a student, staff, or visitor needs a face covering. Schools will make sure that students are correctly wearing their masks and will assist with mask accommodations.

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

Bridgeton Board of Education will continue to monitor health updates in accordance with current CDC guidance and make adjustments as needed.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

As additional preventative measures, hand washing and respiratory etiquette are essential in keeping students and staff safe. The Bridgeton Board of Education will continue to promote handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and encourage time slots for students to wash their hands. Students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. Hand sanitizer will also be available for instances where handwashing is not easily accessible. Hand sanitizing stations are available as follows: in each classroom, at entrances and exits of buildings, near toilets/restrooms. Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be checked daily by custodial staff to ensure stations have sanitizer remaining.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

There will continue to be an increased schedule for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. Cleaning products purchased will meet the CDC guidelines. In addition, the district will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures. Bathrooms will be sanitized daily using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency. All filters on HVAC units will continue to be cleaned and replaced in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines. We will continue to assess HVAC systems at each school and make improvements to equipment and controls, where possible, to improve air quality and ventilation in the school buildings.

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

Principals will engage the expertise of the school nurses on the importance of contact tracing. Upon a positive COVID-19 case, Principals, Nurses, and/or School Safety Specialists will notify appropriate county authorities to report cases. Isolation and/or quarantine guidance is provided to the district from the Cumberland County Department of Health (DOH). The DOH informs the district of the time frame in which the positive individual must isolate or quarantine. Nurses will also attend training on COVID updates and safety.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Families are encouraged to check for symptoms at home prior to sending students to school. Health checks will be conducted safely and respectfully and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.

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

Bridgeton Board of Education in conjunction with community health partners provides resources for additional vaccination clinics in the Cumberland County area. In an ongoing effort to continue to promote vaccination, we will continue to partner with local organizations and our local health department to offer similar vaccination opportunities and resources to staff, students, and the community.

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

The Bridgeton Board of Education is closely monitoring and implementing changes to accommodate students with disabilities to ensure their safety. Classroom sizes, handwashing, social distancing and services. Students with disabilities will be provided individual accommodations as prescribed by the IEP (Individualized Education Program) Team and 504 Team. All specific accommodations in each student's plan must be reviewed and adhered to by all staff members assigned to the students. In addition to the above, all employees working directly with the

students with disabilities must have access to student plans. If the staff working with the students have questions regarding the plan, they should reach out to the case managers or school counselors within their buildings.

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)

Bridgeton Public Schools will ensure the continuity of students' academic needs through a systematic approach to identify individual students who need extra support. The district will offer additional after-school programs and Saturday programs to address learning loss and provide additional support to students. The district has provided training and a variety of wellness programs to address the social and emotional well-being of students and staff. The district will continue to provide these supports and additional coaching and training for staff. The district is providing school and after-school counseling services for students who are at risk and intends on continuing to provide these services. The district will also provide additional support to students through in-person and online tutoring services to address student academic needs. The district will continue to offer breakfast and lunch both in the classroom and in the cafeteria.

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)

The district offers an opportunity for ESSER community questions at our monthly board meetings; sign-in sheets are provided for public comment and feedback.

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)

Bridgeton's Safe Return Plan is written in an understandable user-friendly format; it has been translated into Spanish and is posted on the district's website in both English and Spanish. The revised plan will also be translated into Spanish by the district translator and will be posted on the district website in both English and Spanish.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

The district is currently providing additional coaching and professional development to staff. We have contracted services for mental health, behavioral services, and counseling support. The district is providing additional instructional support to students as well in schools through tutoring services.