

## **Bergen County Technical Schools** **Restart Plan SY 2021-22**

### **Our Purpose Today and for Upcoming Meetings**

- Distributed to committee the latest guidance from the CDC & NJ DOH
- Committee will review guidance together and, as a committee, recommend District plan

### **Setting Our Health & Safety Protocols for September 2021**

- As of present, we are not required to submit/publish any additional plan
- Committee will revisit many areas of the plan and see what revisions are needed for September.
- Based on how the summer goes -- we may need to revise further

### **Vaccinated & Unvaccinated**

- Discussion of issues in various programs/settings
  - District wide confidential database of staff vaccination records has been compiled and verified. Those who have not been vaccinated must submit to weekly Covid-testing.
  - Vaccination status is monitored by Human Resources and a team of verifiers.

### **Masks - Discussion**

- CDC & NJDOH masking for all unvaccinated
- Who would be required to wear mask - vaccinated or all (staff/students)
- Staff/Students could choose to wear mask even if vaccinated
- Transportation requires all to wear masks regardless of vaccination status
- Moving throughout the school (outside of the classroom)
- Parental objection to masks
- Per BCSSEA - younger students not eligible for vaccination need to wear mask
- Mask protection may be needed as even those who are fully vaccinated, can still get COVID

### **Committee Recommendation on Masking:**

- Maintain a policy, as of the start of school in September 2021, requiring all to wear masks indoors. This would apply to all staff and students in BCTS and Host School programs.
- Revisit September mask policy on November 1, 2021 benchmark) and discuss whether the district should amend/re-evaluate the mask policy. If so, district nurses to track vaccination status of students and staff in their schools. Disclosure strictly voluntary. If so, district nurses to track vaccination status of students and staff in their schools. Disclosure is strictly voluntary.

- Once information regarding vaccinations has been obtained, look at Nov. 1 as the date on which mask wearing could be optional for fully vaccinated individuals. All students under the age of 12 would continue to be required to wear masks since unable to be vaccinated at this time.
- Masking outdoors would be optional while maximizing social distancing

### **Distancing- CDC & NJDOH**

- Issue - Required to operate at full indoor capacity in September 2021 cannot maintain 6 ft distance and accommodate all students/staff CDC & NJ DOH - 3 ft. distancing if possible.

**Committee Recommendation on Distancing:** Masking and ventilation to start; after reassessment of masking at the November 1 benchmark, then possibly only the unvaccinated would need to wear masks, for vaccinated individuals, it would be optional.

### **Facilities - CDC & NJDOH**

- Ventilation - continue to maintain and check all systems and vents, etc. as per COVID requirements.
- Cleaning Protocols - Recommendation: Cleaning & disinfecting - 1 X daily is sufficient, except for areas where a person has been sick or tested positive for COVID (then COVID cleaning protocols apply).

### **Committee Recommendations on Facilities**

- Ventilation - Continue to maintain and check as per COVID protocols
- Cleaning protocols:
  - Return to pre-COVID cleaning protocols, except for areas where a person has been sick or tested positive for COVID positive case, then COVID cleaning protocols apply
  - Common areas should be cleaned more frequently especially in between lunches.
  - Checklists can be utilized as needed for common areas
  - If a program requires additional protocols, due their specific student population, those can be included
  - Custodians must be given schedules for common areas so that in-between cleaning can be done
  - Utilize signs to indicate whether or not an areas or room is ready to be occupied.
  - Staff training on the transmittal of COVID to be done as part of orientation Each school will develop their protocols regarding common areas in conjunction with their Pandemic Response Teams
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- Bathrooms: try to limit to cohorts with flexibility
- Hallways: Maintain dividing lines, social distancing, signage, etc. ... no need to change this
- Common areas: Cafeteria, Gym, Cardio.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

#### **Committee Recommendation on Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:**

- All protocols to remain the same

#### **Cafeteria/Food Service /Meals – CDC & NJDOH**

- Distancing in common areas
- Consider alternatives to group areas
- Avoid Self-service options

#### **Committee Recommendations of Cafeteria/Food Service/Meals**

- Continue with current protocols:
- No Buffet/self-service options to start
- Several staggered lunch periods both inside and outside of buildings

#### **Transportation – CDC & NJDOH:**

- Masking for all
- If occupancy allows, maximize distancing as much as possible

#### **Health Screening – CDC & NJDOH:**

Everyone (Staff/students/parents) continues to monitor health/symptoms on a daily basis.

#### **Committee Recommendation on Health Screenings**

- Schools will continue student temperature checks to begin the school year.
- Health screens for all staff and students before entering buildings
- Parents will be reminded through correspondences of all COVID protocols regarding symptomatic students including the need for them to check for symptoms daily and to keep their child home if exhibiting even one symptom.
- Staff will continue the utilization of the staff daily health checklist to start the year.
- The need for temperature taking and the staff daily health checklist to start the year.
- The need for temperature taking and the staff health checklist will be reviewed at our first benchmark date, November 1, 2021. After review of these procedures, their effectiveness and the COVID status in our schools and the community on November 1, perhaps there could be a recommendation to discontinue both around November 1.

### **Exclusion - CDC & NJDOH & BCDOH**

- District did receive NJDOH guidance, nothing has changed for Bergen County

### **Committee Recommendation on Exclusion**

- Parents should not send students to school when sick (have a single symptom(s) as outlined by NJDOH document)
- If student displays single symptom while in school, same protocol followed
  - Isolation
  - Exclusion
  - COVID testing
    - Any situation that warrants a test - DOH will be notified
- Exclusion policies (per CDC & DOH guidelines) remain the same for one COVID symptom
  - **Symptom:**
    - If symptom and not tested – 10-day quarantine
    - If tested and negative with symptom improvement, may return
    - If test positive – remain out to isolate for 10-day quarantine and 24 hours fever free and symptom improvement
  - **Close Contact:**
    - If close contact and fully vaccinated with no symptoms – no quarantine needed
    - If close contact and fully vaccinated with 1 or more symptoms, need to get tested. If negative, can return once symptom resolves. If positive, isolate for 10-day quarantine as stated above.
    - If close contact and not fully vaccinated – 14-day quarantine period
- District will have ongoing discussions with the NJDOH to see where county is heading with regard to COVID case (e.g., low/moderate/high)
- District will provide a letter to program administrators to send out to parents/guardians prior to the start of the school year (once approved by Superintendent)
- District will send out a letter to staff regarding policies prior to orientation

### **Committee Recommendation on Contract Tracing**

- All protocols remain in place
- Quarantine requirements outlined above
- BCTS & nurses can inquire if student/staff are vaccinated & enter in district tracking mechanism as
  - a starting point for collecting this information
  - Technology to provide spreadsheet in Google Drive that gives edit privilege to nurses & viewing privilege to administrators