

# **BERGEN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS RESTART PLAN SY2021-22**

The Bergen County Special Services School District is committed to the health and safety of our students and staff. This is our number one priority.

The BCTS Restart Plan aims to define clear guidance for the reopening of schools in alignment with regulations developed in collaboration with county, state, and national health professionals and organizations. The areas outlined in this plan represent major considerations our district is addressing to reopen schools safely and to sustain their reopening. As with every plan right now, this document is fluid and will change as necessary based on guidance from the state, the Bergen County Health Department, and considerations to our families and our staff.

We strongly believe the protocols outlined in this plan are in the best interests of our students, staff, families, and communities.

## **Universal and correct wearing of masks**

All Staff, students, and visitors are required to wear face masks while on campus. Employees will provide their own masks which must be worn from parking lot, into building, and entire time in building. If a mask is needed, schools will provide extras. Students unable to wear masks due to underlying health issues will be provided appropriate PPE Plexiglass shields and headwear. Students must wear masks from the parking lot, into the building, and the entire time they are inside the building. Each classroom will have extra masks available for use.

## **Physical distancing**

Employees, staff, and students to observe social distancing guidelines, keeping at least three feet apart when possible. Physical guides (arrows, signage on floors and walls) directing flow of traffic in hallways will reduce overcrowding and limit the number of students in the hallways at the same time. A full-day schedule will be observed.

## **Cafeteria/Food Service**

Staggered locations/times will enable students/staff to maintain social distancing during lunch periods.

## **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Alcohol-based sanitizing stations will be added to strategic and convenient locations throughout the buildings. (i.e.: outside cafeteria, within classrooms, in hallways, outside of restrooms, at building entrances and exits, and in all common areas).

## **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

H2Orange2 Concentrate 117 is being used as a sanitizer and cleaning solution that kills 99.99% of common bacteria. Bathrooms will be scheduled to be cleaned and disinfected periodically throughout the day. The use of Electrostatic Handheld Sprayers and BruTabs that are a bleach alternative shall be used as needed to disinfect after school hours. Single gallons of hand sanitizer %75% alcohol stations are being set up in each classroom that does not have a hand wash sink. Touchless dispensers have been placed at main entrances of the sites, and manual type of sanitizers are placed in common areas. A blanket PO for Emergency Bio-Decontamination – Coronavirus has been secured in the event of an exposure. Cleaning and disinfecting will be scheduled each evening and on weekends. Windows are encouraged to be open to aid in air circulation, weather permitting. Appropriate outdoor spaces are encouraged to be utilized as an alternative to indoor classrooms, weather permitting.

## **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantining**

A BCTS administrator has been designated as the Contact Tracing Director, working in collaboration with school nurses and the Bergen County Health Department. New BOE Policies: Contact Tracing; notification of faculty or student testing positive to be reported to local health officials; and eligible students requiring meals while quarantined are provided for. Policy 5310 M regarding Health and Safety was approved at the August 25th, 2020 BCTS Board of Education Meeting.

## **Diagnostic and screening testing**

Students will complete an online health questionnaire each day before coming to school. Before entering the building, students will walk through a temperature reading scanner. Students with symptoms related to Covid-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others immediately, while they are awaiting parental pickup. Employees will take temperature readings from home no less than one hour before reporting to work. Employees will fill out an online health questionnaire each morning prior to coming to work.

Students/staff with symptoms:

- If symptomatic and not tested – 10-day quarantine and 24 hours fever free before return.
- If tested and negative with symptom improvement, may return to school/work.
- If tested positive – 10-day quarantine and 24 hours fever free before return.

Students/staff with close contact experience:

- If asymptomatic, may test 5-7 days later and return to work on Day 8 after negative test.
- If close contact and fully vaccinated – no quarantine needed.
- If close contact and symptomatic, refer to instructions above for students/staff with symptoms.

The BCTS District provided vaccinations onsite at their facilities, and encouraged employees to receive the vaccination(s).

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities  
with respect to health and safety policies**

Underlying medical conditions to be considered and reasonably accommodated Students unable to wear masks due to underlying health issues will be provided appropriate PPE Plexiglass shields and headgear. All accommodations specified on IEPs will be provided. BCTS will provide hybrid remote classes for students who are in quarantine.

**Transportation**

Students must wear masks on school buses and maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.