

# Safe Return Plan

▶ 2021-2022

Montville Township Public Schools

On May 24, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Education released a template of the Safe Return Plan.

All school districts are required to have their plans approved by their Board of Education and posted on their website by June 24, 2021.

There are three required sections for the plan.

There are 8 required components to address the category of “Maintaining Health and Safety”

This PowerPoint will review the highlights of the plan.

Both the New Jersey Department of Education and the Montville Township Public Schools acknowledge that it is likely that there may be changes to the current COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health prior to the scheduled start of the 2021-2022 school year on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

# Safe Return Plan 2021-2022

## Montville Township Public Schools

## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section A – Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks**

The district will follow the current guidance in place, either through Executive Order or directives from the New Jersey Department of Health or the New Jersey Department of Education, with regard to the wearing of masks in school by staff and students.

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section B – Physical Distancing**

The district will follow the current guidelines for physical distancing as provided by the New Jersey Department of Health.

Physical distancing of 3 feet will be observed in all classrooms to the extent that it is practicable.

Physical distancing of 6 feet is recommended when masks are removed for eating and will be observed to the extent practicable. Desks and table partitions will also be employed to supplement social distancing as needed.

In those situations where physical distancing needs to be supplemented, the use of desk shields can provide an additional mitigation strategy.

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section C – Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance to each classroom. Students recommended to frequently wash/sanitize their hands.

Students and staff are reminded to use proper etiquette when they sneeze or cough

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section D – Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation**

MTPS installed ionizing filters in all classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year.

Cleaning protocols in place during the 2020-2021 school year will continue.

School buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily.

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section E – Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine, in Collaboration with State and Local Health Departments**

The MTPS will facilitate the work of the Montville Township Health Department with regard to contact tracing.

Current guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Health with regard to isolation and quarantine will be followed.

If a parent receives notification over the weekend of close contact of their child with a positive case, the child should not be sent to school until the parent confers with the school nurse.

Fully vaccinated students and staff will follow the guidance issued by the NJDOH with regard to the need to quarantine following close contact with a positive case.

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section F – Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

All parents will be required to perform a screening of their child for symptoms daily. Staff members will do a self-screening.

The district will not require that the screening results be reported through an app.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms should not attend school and should seek an appointment for COVID-19 testing at their earliest convenience.

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section G – Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities**

The district will continue to work with the Atlantic Healthcare System or other local providers to facilitate access to vaccinations for staff and students as necessary.

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## **Maintaining Health and Safety**

### **Section H – Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies**

The district will work to ensure that the specific needs of students with disabilities are addressed with regard to any necessary health accommodations in the classroom with regard to in-person instruction.

For the 2021-2022 school year, only those students who have a documented medical condition which prevents them from attending school in person will be exempt from attending school in person. For those students, home instruction will be provided in accordance with District Policy Number 2412.

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## Ensuring Continuity of Services

**Section A – How will the LEA (Local Education Agency) ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to, students’ academic needs, and students’ and staffs’ social, emotional, mental health and other needs**

The district has been open for in-person instruction since September 2020.

The district is offering the Skill Building Summer Camp Program for selected students during the Summer of 2021.

Supplemental afterschool programs in English Language Arts and Mathematics will again be offered at the elementary and middle school levels in 2021-2022.

The district remains focused on mental health concerns and will coordinate programs through the School Counseling Department. Professional development in the Lifelines curriculum (a whole –school program focused on suicide awareness and prevention) will also be provided.

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## **Public Comment**

### **Section A – How did the district seek public comment on its plan?**

As part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) the MTPS annually holds a school/community engagement meeting with representatives from the district's various stakeholder groups. This meeting took place on June 1, 2021.

Public comment is also welcomed at the June 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

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## Public Comment

### **Section B – How will the district ensure the plan is understandable for parents?**

The district has adopted the basic plan template provided by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Following Board approval, the plan will be posted on the district website.

The plan will be posted in English but copies in other languages will be made available upon request to the Superintendent.

Accommodations will also be made to provide the information in alternate forms to address the needs of parents with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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The Montville Township Public Schools will be open for full-day instruction, including lunch, beginning Thursday, September 9, 2021.

Specific school information and schedules will be communicated by the building principals in August.

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