Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan

Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act

West Long Branch School District

December 15, 2022

West Long Branch Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Original Plan Date: 06/24/2021 **Revised Effective 12/15/22**

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

The NJDOE abolished the mandate of the wearing of face masks on March 7, 2022, so the district updated Policy 5141.10, which includes the provision that students have the option to wear face coverings.

The district will update masking policies in alignment with NJDOE requirements and allowances that are in effect at the time of the plan's implementation.

The school nurse will be consulted in the event of any questions in this regard, and individual accommodations will be addressed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

B. Physical distancing

As per the most recent NJ Department of Health guidelines, dated October 7, 2022, there are no longer requirements for physical/social distancing within the learning environment. The West Long Branch School District has returned to pre-pandemic seating arrangements and room capacities.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The West Long Branch School District continues to promote good hygiene by recommending that students wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water, at pivotal times of the day:

- at the start of the day when children enter the classroom
- before snacks and meals
- after using the toilet
- after sneezing, wiping, and blowing noses
- after snacks and meals, particularly if hands are sticky, greasy or soiled
- when students come in from outdoor play or recess

Students and staff use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if washing with soap and water is not possible.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

WLB continues to adhere to existing required facility cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise.

WLB ensures that indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, including operational heating, and ventilation systems where appropriate. All recirculated air has the maximum percentage of fresh air recommended by the manufacturer. All areas are air conditioned. If air conditioning is not

provided/available, windows will be opened and/or a class may be relocated while repairs are made. Filter(s) for A/C units are and will be maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

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

All procedures adhere to applicable federal and state law and regulations regarding privacy and the confidentiality of records.

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be safely and respectfully isolated from others until they can leave the school environment. This is aligned to the protocols followed for all in-school contagious illnesses.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Diagnostic Testing

The school nurse will assist parents/caregivers seeking testing from an outside source by providing them the information to contact a testing site to schedule an appointment. Take-home antigen tests are available for students upon parental request.

Screening

As per the October 7, 2022 NJ Department of Health recommendations, the CDC is no longer recommending routine screening tests in schools/ECE.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible (1000 character limit)

The West Long Branch School District will continue to be a resource for educators, staff, students and families who seek information about local facilities and agencies that provide COVID vaccinations and boosters.

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

In our effort to ensure the general well-being, health and safety of all students, the following protocols continue to be implemented.

A. Maintain clear lines of communication between families and school staff, especially Nurses, Counselors and Leadership Team members.

B. Seek information from families regarding their child's specific medical needs and corresponding accommodations.
C. Encourage all families to keep their children home when appropriate; promote the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; provide supports as needed in modifying to
D. Reasonable accommodations will be provided based on a child's IEP, 504 Plan or individual medical needs in order to maximize student learning in a safe manner.
E. Encourage frequent communication between building based medical professionals and high risk students.
F. Continue to monitor progress in each student's goals and objectives in the 2022-23 academic year and we continue to make any accommodations needed to ensure their health and safety.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

The West Long Branch School District is committed to the academic success of all students and to the social-emotional well being of all our students and staff. The district supports these critical areas by:

- Implementing a tiered system of support for academic needs, including academic differentiation in the classroom and additional small-group and/or individual support as needed provided by appropriate certificated staff.
- Implementing a social-emotional learning approach, supplemented by interventions as needed by appropriate certificated staff (school counselors, school psychologist, school social worker, etc.)
- Allocating grant funding to support the social-emotional climate of the school through professional development for staff members.
- School health services provided by the school nurse inclusive of medical screenings and access to the nurse for day-to-day health concerns.
- All students will continue to have access to free lunch daily through June 2022.

3. Public Comment

The West Long Branch School District sought public comment on the plan by providing a copy of the draft plan to the public via posting on the district website and district social media platforms. Hard copies are also available for public review at the main office of each school building. A Google Form survey was shared with staff and the community to elicit feedback on the initial plan, and this feedback was considered when finalizing the initial submission of the plan document to the NJDOE in June 2021.

The updated Safe Return Plan was posted on the district website and social media platforms. Hard copies are also available for public review at the main office of each school building. Staff and the community were encouraged to send an email to the Superintendent with their feedback. Stakeholders may also provide feedback at the Board of Education meetings.

In June 2021, the Safe Return Plan was translated into the three dominant spoken and read languages in the school district (English, Portuguese, Spanish). A digital version of the plan document is available on the district website, accompanied by a link to web-based translation services, and such document is screen reader-friendly. Upon request by any individual needing an accommodation or alternative format of the plan, the district will provide the plan in a form accessible to that individual. The form of such access shall vary depending on the need of the individual. The same will hold true for this updated plan.