

Newcomerstown Exempted Village School District
Mr. Jason C. Peoples, Superintendent
Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
Effective 2021-2022 School Year

**Please note: The language and intentions outlined in this document are fluid and subject to change based on federal and state guidelines, as well as community input.*

Purpose:

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides federal resources to support states and local school districts. Recent federal guidance clarifies that districts submit to the state of Ohio a plan that fulfills the requirement that districts publish local “Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans” by June 24, 2021. Each district school should then post the plan on its local website and then submit the plan to the Ohio Department of Education by June 24. This overall plan is being built upon existing district plans that address many of the elements of the federal requirements.

Newcomerstown Schools has organized this plan to include the current and prior health and safety plans developed in collaboration with local departments of health. Since the district already has existing remote learning plans, continuous improvement plans, Covid Safety Plans, and other similar plans that encompass aspects of these requirements they are listed below and comprise the requirements to address Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. Those previously developed plans together with the below aspects meet the relevant requirements of the federal assurances.

NEVSD COVID Handbook (October 2020):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fpHoK65NNJ1aTUQKg8r8ghbavstRKbXUZ2th7OxwhSU/edit?usp=sharing>

NEVSD 2021 RESTART PLAN: (Board Approved 8/18/2021)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1INJTxTUOUKWXRm5XezHqpA0V9wi5fORZwk9ipSrij0JI/edit?usp=sharing>

NEVSD Learning Loss & Recovery Plan (February 2021):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VGYP2qlsdIUlQtd3QKWPV5MC_JGrSed0H6CLdB88Un8/edit?usp=sharing

For the 2021-2022 school year, Newcomerstown Exempted Village Schools will be 100% in-person, five days a week (unless otherwise directed by a state health mandate). Newcomerstown Schools will continue to work with the Tuscarawas County Health Department, as well as adhere to guidance provided by the Ohio Department of Health and CDC.



Policies For Incorporating Mitigation Strategies:

- Face masks will not be required at this time for students, grades Preschool - 12th, (or staff) during regular instruction and activities on school grounds. We will continue to consider the guidance provided by the county and state and follow any executive orders. The administration will notify parents of any changes to this policy. Individual students and staff may still choose to wear face masks and will not be discouraged from doing so.
- Students will be required to physically distance based on CDC requirements/guidance.
- Signage will be posted throughout regarding frequent proper handwashing, as well as respiratory etiquette. Classrooms without sinks will establish hand sanitizing areas. Sanitizer will be provided at entrances and required use by all visitors.
- Classrooms and all surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in the evening prior to each new school day. Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized at routine schedules multiple times throughout each day. Sanitizer provided throughout the building. We will post and continue to communicate expectations for cleanliness to all staff.
- We will continue to work with the Tuscarawas County Health Department to adhere to proper contact tracing and isolation and quarantine protocols.
- The district intends to utilize ESSER/ARP funds to upgrade/improve the HVAC and air purity/filtration systems in each building in order to help mitigate the spread of germs and potentially-infectious diseases.

Ensuring Continuity of Services:

- **Academic Needs:** We will use benchmark assessments and other measures (teacher/vendor/state approved) to determine which students are in need of additional support/interventions.
 - The following will be utilized :
 - NWEA MAP scores,
 - DIBELS,
 - Fall State Assessments,
 - Previous of End of Course (EOC) State Assessment scores,
 - ACT scores,
 - Teacher recommendations based on locally-created assessments,
 - Student attendance during the 20-21 school year,
 - Student grades during the 20-21 school year,
 - Individual student IEP Progress Reports,
 - Individual student WEP or WAP goals
- **Student and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** School Counselors work in each of our buildings and are an integral part of a student's educational environment. School counselors can support transitions and are available to students in need of immediate



assistance with behavioral or social-emotional concerns. Regardless of the learning model (remote, hybrid, fully face-to-face), counselors can help students with the following:

- Short term counseling
- Referrals for long-term counseling
- Academic achievement strategies and academic planning
- Managing emotions and using interpersonal skills
- Planning for college and other post-secondary options.
- **Parents are directed that if a child is experiencing anxiety related to the return to school or you have any other concerns about the child's social-emotional development to contact the school counselor.

Plan Review and Public Participation/Feedback:

The district will periodically review all key aspects of this plan every six months, at minimum, for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (through September 30, 2023), and revise its plan as deemed necessary. Plan review will include but is not limited to collaborative work by the district administrative team, parent/community feedback (through surveys and in-person participation), and building and teacher leadership teams.

ARP ESSER Planning/ Funding For NEVSD

- Repair and replacement of inefficient HVAC systems in East, West, Middle and High Schools.
 - This includes new air handler units, chillers, boilers, filters, fans, boosters fans, etc.
- Repair and replacement of inadequate, poor or damaged windows, so they are in proper working order.
- Improve sanitation supplies and equipment for students and staff.
- Improve attendance procedures, accountability and resources, including but not limited to:
 - Extended school services
 - Attendance personnel
- Extended learning opportunities for students
 - Such as after school programs, summer learning programs.
 - Diagnostic assessment programs and other data tracking programs.
- Use of funds to support proper pandemic preparedness:
 - Encourage the use of masks in schools and indoor school areas.
 - Handwashing and hand sanitation supplies
 - Physical distancing equipment.
 - Improved sanitation in all schools and athletic facilities.
 - Support in contact tracing and quarantine procedures
 - Appropriate accommodations for those with special health, medical, or learning needs.
 - Revise expenditures and plans on an as-needed basis.

