

# Linwood Public Schools Safe Return Plan

## December 2023



**LINWOOD**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 13, 2023

# Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Service

## 1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

### A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

Effective March 7, 2022, the District implemented a masks optional policy as the Executive Order was removed and continues to implement such. The District permits the use of masks based on an individual's choice. The District will support all school community members regarding their choice to wear or not wear a mask and will not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any individual and their choice of masking. The Linwood Public School District will continue to follow directives contained in Executive Orders. The District made masks optional for the 2021-2022 school year once that flexibility is provided through the State/EO. The District will continue to monitor recommendations and relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the Governor along with any current and relevant CDC and NJDOH guidance regarding universal and correct mask wearing. The Linwood Schools may have clearly marked signage on our doors and entrances, as well as communication efforts that provide reminders to students, parents/guardians, and staff, via our school outreach platform, email, and social media about universal and correct wearing of masks.

### B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)

The Linwood Public Schools will continue to review current and relevant CDC guidance regarding physical distancing as well as current Executive Orders issued by the Governor and the State of New Jersey. Students will remain at a minimum of three (3) feet socially distanced in the classrooms and common areas as needed. The Linwood Schools may have clearly marked signage on our doors and entrances, as well as communication efforts that provide reminders to students, parents/guardians, and staff, via our school outreach platform, email, and social media about physical distancing expectations.

### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The Linwood Public Schools will continue to review current and relevant CDC guidance regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend the Linwood Public Schools will be expected and reminded throughout the year to use proper hand hygiene - hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes that are in all classrooms and common areas and hand washing. These are best practices and our District will continue to promote these efforts throughout our campuses. The Linwood Schools may have clearly marked signage on our doors and entrances, as well as communication efforts that provide reminders to students, parents/guardians, and staff, via our school outreach platform, email, and social media about handwashing and respiratory etiquette expectations.

### D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

The Linwood Public Schools will continue its best practices to sanitize/disinfect/clean our campuses and facilities daily. This includes coordination with our bus service vendor to ensure school buses used by Linwood are cleaned. District custodial and maintenance staff have been trained in cleaning best practices and disinfecting wipes are available in each classroom for students and staff. HVAC upgrades have been completed and will continue, preventative maintenance schedules on HVAC systems are followed as well as other best practice recommendations within our buildings to adhere to ventilation standards specified in Federal and State health guidance. Our cleaning and disinfecting protocols include steps and schedules to clean frequently touched surfaces, classrooms, offices, and restrooms.

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

Effective March 7, 2022, the District no longer conducted in-school contact tracing. The NJDOH may continue to conduct contact tracing as determined necessary. The Linwood Public Schools will review current and relevant CDC guidance regarding contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine as well as current Executive Orders issued by the Governor and the State of New Jersey.

#### **The information below is listed as reference to the previous policy language:**

The Linwood Public Schools will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine as well as current Executive Orders issued by the Governor and the State of New Jersey. Contact tracing may be conducted by the appropriate Department of Health. To the fullest extent practicable, the Linwood Public Schools will assist Department of Health officials/staff with contact tracing. Our District plans to continue the use of an isolation room as needed for individuals who may need to be isolated. The school nurse will monitor student/staff health and any individual showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be seen by the school nurse and isolated until they are picked up (student) or asked to go home (staff).

#### **F. Diagnostic and screening testing**

The Linwood Public Schools may use and may implement the self-screening tool provided by the NJDOH that reflects COVID-19 screening requirements for students, faculty, and staff. The Linwood Public Schools policy #1648 includes the expectations for screening requirements. Individuals that present symptoms of COVID-19, based on the screening tool, will be directed to follow current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health. The Linwood Public Schools COVID-19 self-screening tool will be distributed to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of the school year. District staff will continue to monitor students for signs of illness and report any concerns to the school nurse and/or administration and visitors will be asked the Health Screening Assessment questions as well. The District is also participating in the State option for screening/testing program offered through Rover Labs and will continue to follow the expectations set forth in that program.

#### **G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible.**

The Linwood Public Schools coordinated with local provider AtlantiCare to offer a vaccination clinic for students, staff, and families following the approval for 5-11 year olds receiving the vaccine. The District held two evening sessions in November 2021 and second doses in December 2021. The clinic also offered booster doses to staff. Other local districts were invited to participate in the clinic as well to increase outreach. The Linwood Public Schools will continue to provide communications and information about the availability of vaccinations as it is provided to the District. The Linwood Schools communication efforts may include reminders via our school outreach platform, email, and social media about general information regarding vaccinations and their availability.

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

The Linwood Public Schools will continue its efforts to provide the appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety. The District will review current and relevant CDC guidance regarding accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies as well as current Executive Orders issued by the Governor and the State of New Jersey. Our District staff will work collaboratively with families and staff of students with disabilities to address all programming needs to the fullest extent possible as defined by a student's IEP and developed through the IEP process. The Linwood Public Schools will also work to provide appropriate accommodations for students with 504 plans, as developed in consultation with the student's healthcare provider, the school nurse, and the District physician, to the fullest extent possible.

## 2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

**A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)**

The Linwood Public Schools will provide Enhancement, Enrichment, and Remediation programs throughout the summer, before and beyond the bell programs, and other initiatives to support students who did not achieve the grade level standards. The District will also use these programs to re-engage students with creative school programming in the summer. Students have had, and will continue to have, access to 1:1 technology if needed and hotspots for families who have that technology need. Our District staff has and will continue working on curriculums and programming for the upcoming year to address learning acceleration efforts, SEL for students and staff, and outreach efforts throughout the summer to provide resources to families for any needs that may arise during that time. Teachers have received professional development on resiliency, data analysis and differentiation, and best practices for instruction. The addition of a middle school BSI teacher has and will continue to provide the opportunity for small group instruction for all levels.

## 3. Public Comment

**A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)**

The Linwood Public Schools developed its Safe Return Plan by gathering stakeholder feedback through a survey released to the school community and staff in early June and a follow-up in December. The District also acquired feedback, and will continue to gather feedback, at all monthly public BOE meetings and correspondence sent to the District administration and health office staff. Data from the surveys was used to inform decision-making on the plan, reviewed with District BOE, administration and staff. Information on the plan will be shared. All comments were taken into consideration prior to submission to the New Jersey Department of Education. Revisions to this plan will be made following the timelines provided and public comments gathered for revisions.

**B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)**

The Linwood Public Schools provided the Safe Return Plan survey to all of the school community through the District's outreach platform. The District's Safe Return Plan was presented orally to the community at our June 2021 Board of Education meeting which was also accessible through a livestream. The updated plan will also be shared with the school community on the District's website allowing for access to the school community. The District website provides a tab that allows viewers to translate the Plan into several different languages through Google Translate. The District website has other accessibility features to assist individuals in accessing the plan. The Linwood Public Schools staff will provide assistance to families, upon request, with translation and with any other accessibility questions that may be presented.