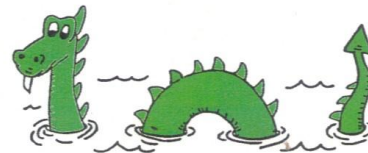


Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service

OCTOBER 20, 2021 (REVISED)



Sea Devils



Island Heights Grade School
TIMOTHY J. REHM, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Island Heights Grade School

Date: 08/11/2021

Date Revised (08/11/2021):

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 (Revised from original draft):

Effective August 9, 2021 by Executive Order #251 all public, private and parochial schools must maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances:

- a. When doing so would inhibit the individuals' health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- b. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
- c. When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of face mask;
- d. When the individual is under 2 years old;
- e. When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- f. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals: or
- g. When wearing a mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

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

Every effort will be made to maintain proper physical distancing at the designated entrances. The IHGS will provide signage, hallway guides, and physical reminders to maintain proper distance during arrival, hallway passing times, use of common areas, and common dismissal times.

Protocols may include, but are not limited to the following: appropriate signage on walls, classrooms, cafeteria, large instruction room and all related service rooms.

The IHGS will continue to use all of the entrances and exits utilized in the 2020-21 school year. K and 1- Simpson Avenue gate and classroom entrances off of blacktop; 2-3-4 3rd grade door on the far left side of the building; and 5-6 Main Entrance. Dismissal will be implemented using the same exits.

Normal lunch period will be implemented from 11:35am to 12:15pm. Students will be assigned seating in the event of the need to contact trace for any positive cases. We will try to seat students from the same cohort next to the same students seated next to in the classroom.

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. School officials will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

The IHGS promotes behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around school buildings. The district maintains hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) in each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), at entrances and exits of buildings and near lunchrooms and toilets. Children ages five and younger should be supervised when using hand sanitizer. For classrooms that have existing handwashing stations, stations are prepared with soap, water, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol).

Students are required to wash hands for at least twenty seconds or use our hand sanitizing stations at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. Individuals must wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items. Individuals always wash hands immediately after outdoor playtime.

The IHGS will continue to use our 2020-2021 school bathroom procedures which allows only one (1) student in the bathroom at a time. Stop and Go signs are used to signal the next user.

All applicable social distancing requirements and hygiene protocols apply to any club and extra curricular activities. Depending on the mixture of school cohorts, mask maybe required to be worn during these activities.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Classroom doors and office areas will encourage active air circulation through mechanical ventilation, open windows and doors and heating and cooling devices, as applicable and appropriate. Air filters throughout the district are MERV rated and replaced several times annually on an established schedule.

The district's cleaning protocols include cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used including:

- o A schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection.
- o Routinely cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g. door knobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops).
- o Examples of frequently touched areas in schools are:

- Classroom desks and chairs;
- Lunchroom tables and chairs;
- Door handles and push plates;
- Handrails;
- Kitchens and bathrooms;
- Light switches;
- Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment);
- Buttons on elevator;
- Shared telephones;
- Shared desktops;
- Shared computer keyboards and mice;
- Drinking fountains

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

Contact tracing will be conducted for close contacts of laboratory confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients. Testing will be recommended for all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients. Those contacts who test positive (symptomatic or asymptomatic) will be managed as a confirmed COVID-19 case. Contact tracing for the IHGS will be led by the school nurse and administrative team in consultation with the Ocean County Department of Health.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Staff and students will be required to **self-screen** prior to their arrival at school.

- o Staff must visually check students for symptoms upon arrival (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are free of COVID-19 symptoms.
- o Health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
- o Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.

Any screening policy/protocol must take into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students.

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

The district has worked cooperatively with the Ocean County Health Department to facilitate vaccination for all staff members in pursuit of vaccination. The district will share information regarding how to receive a vaccination for students and community members as vaccines become certified for use in younger students.

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

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals that the CDC identifies as having a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including older adults (aged 65 years and older) and individuals with disabilities or serious underlying medical conditions, which may include:

- o Chronic lung disease or asthma (moderate to severe);
- o Serious heart conditions;
- o Immunocompromised;
- o Severe obesity (body mass index, or BMI, of 40 or higher);
- o Diabetes;
- o Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;
- o Liver disease;
- o Medically fragile students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs);
- o Students with complex disabilities with IEPs; or
- o Students who require accommodations under a Plan in accordance with the Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504 Plan).

Enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities. Accommodations for students who are unable to wear a face covering should be addressed according to that student's particular need and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Any screening policy/protocol takes into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process for those students.

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.

Academic, Social, and Behavioral Supports

- o Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Culture and Climate. SEL will be critical in re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. An expansion of existing social emotional learning supports is being developed to support staff and students.
- o Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). MTSS is a systematic approach to prevention, intervention, and enrichment in grades K through six for academics and behavior that offers educators and families a mechanism to identify individual students who need extra support. A system of supports that builds upon existing I&RS practices is being utilized.
- o Wraparound Supports. Wraparound services differ from traditional school-based services in their comprehensive approach to addressing the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students with interventions both inside and outside of the school environment. A team is in place at each school building to provide additional supports and to students and families and connect them with local resources
- o School lunch will continue to be served to those students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch effective on September 7, 2021.

B. Quarantine or Isolation for Covid-19 Related Reason

Ensuring Continuity of Educational Services

Students who must quarantine or isolate for COVID-19 related reasons will receive remote instruction aligned to in-person teaching and learning to the greatest extent possible. The district has purchased wi-fi hot spots and will work with internet providers to provide additional avenues for internet connectivity for families in need of assistance.

The district has provided a Chromebook and a charging cord to all students and will continue to assess needs with instruction and the deployment of technology. Considerations and procedures include:

- Classroom assignments and activities will be posted to Google Classroom.
- Those students who must isolate or quarantine due to a COVID-19 related matter will receive a Google Meet link from their teachers(s) within one school day. Synchronous instruction will occur at designated times throughout the day and noted below.

Student Virtual Instruction Plan
****Only Available Due to Quarantines****

Quarantine Type	Island Heights School District Grades K-6	
	Synchronous Instruction	Asynchronous Instruction
<p style="text-align: center;">Student(s) Quarantine</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The student will transition from in-person instruction to virtual learning.</i></p> <p>Example: A Student is required to quarantine due to exposure outside of school.</p>	<p>Synchronous (Live) teacher check-ins will occur at designated times during the day. The schedule will be shared with families for their students to attend live check-ins.</p>	<p>Asynchronous work will be posted on Google Classroom for students to complete at home. Students will view videos and complete assignments, as assigned. They may be asked to work in web-based programs to practice academic skills and/or complete assessments.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Student(s) Quarantine with Special Needs (individual/class/school)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The student will transition from in-person instruction to virtual learning.</i></p> <p>Example: A Student is required to quarantine due to exposure outside of school and has an IEP.</p>	<p>Student's IEP will be followed. Synchronous (Live) teacher check-ins will occur at designated times during the day. The schedule will be shared with families for their students to attend live check-ins. Multiple Teachers may contact families for check-in to accommodate student's IEP. Outside services will be held virtually at a designated time communicated with the student's families.</p>	<p>Student's IEP will be followed. Synchronous work will be posted on Google Classroom for students to complete at home. Students will view videos and complete assignments, as assigned. They may be asked to work in web-based programs to practice academic skills and/or complete assessments.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Class Quarantine</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The class will transition from in-person instruction to virtual learning.</i></p> <p>Example: An entire class must quarantine due to exposure.</p>	<p>Synchronous (Live) Instruction will occur at designated times during the day. The schedule will be shared with families for their students to attend live instruction. This includes small-group instruction.</p>	<p>Asynchronous activities will be posted on Google Classroom for students and families to view and participate in at home in coordination with the synchronous instruction plan.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">School Quarantine</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The school will transition from in-person instruction to virtual learning.</i></p> <p>Example: An entire school must quarantine due to risk-level or outbreak.</p>	<p>Synchronous (Live) Instruction will occur at designated times during the day. The schedule will be shared with families for their students to attend live instruction.</p>	<p>Asynchronous work will be posted on Google Classroom for students to complete at home. Students will view videos and complete assignments, as assigned. They may be asked to work in web-based programs to practice academic skills and/or complete assessments.</p>

- In the event that a classroom, school, or district needs to move to a complete remote learning environment, instruction will be no less than 4 hours, excluding lunch and recess. All students will receive a Google Meet link prior to the remote session.

Safe Delivery of Meals to Students

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Island Heights School District will still offer Free/Reduced lunch to those families who qualify.

Meal distribution for students who must quarantine or isolate for COVID-19 related reasons are as follows:

- For students who must isolate or quarantine due to an in-school COVID-19 related matter please contact food services at 732-929-1222 to arrange a pickup time.
- In the event that Island Heights School District needs to move to fully remote instruction, pickup and delivery of meals would take place in the gym on Monday & Thursday between the hours of 11:00-11:30AM.
- If a parent/guardian cannot pick up meals at the time noted above (due to quarantine, isolation, work schedule, and/or transportation issues), they should call 732-929-1222.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comment 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 IHGS initially sought public comment during the development of the 2020 Restart and Recovery Plan. Developed collaboratively with the Pandemic Response Team and later shared at a public Board of Education meeting, the plan received public comment during the summer months of 2020 and throughout the 2020-21 school year.

The IHGS Board of Education will review this updated Restart Plan at its August and September 2021 Board of Education meetings and will hear any public comment provided at that time.