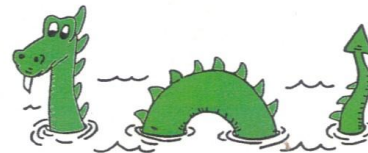


# Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service

SEPTEMBER 2022 (REVISED)



*Sea Devils*



Island Heights Grade School  
TIMOTHY J. REHM, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
LISA A. ROYER, PRINCIPAL

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

---

**LEA Name: Island Heights Grade School**

**Date: 10/20/2021**

**Date Revised (10/15/2022):**

## **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 March 7, 2022 by Executive Order #292, lifts the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in addition to the statewide school and daycare mask mandate.

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

Normal lunch period will be implemented from 11:35am to 12:15pm.

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 and communicable diseases 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.

#### **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**

In lieu of individual contact tracing, IHGS will provide broadbased notifications to provide timely information via phone, email, or letter to families, students, teachers, caregivers, and staff about potential exposure and the actions they should take to remain safe and reduce transmission.

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

The district will provide recommendations for those individuals who are exposed or have tested positive for COVID-19.

#### **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).

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 support 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

Students required to stay home for the five (5) day period due to testing positive for COVID-19, will be given work over that five day period or will be required to make up any missed work over that time period.

### Safe Delivery of Meals to Students

For the 2022-2023 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:

- o 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.
- o 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 Board of Education will review this updated Restart Plan at its August and September 2022 Board of Education meetings and will hear any public comment provided at that time.

### **4. Guidance on Professional Learning and Technical Assistance**

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

The Island Heights Board of Education will provide professional learning and technical assistance if needed and will be made available on our website.