



## LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)

### Introduction and Background

As announced in the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s [April 28, 2021 broadcast](#), in March 2021 President Biden signed the Federal [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#), Public Law 117-2, into law. The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. As with the previous ESSER funds available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), the purpose of the additional funding is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. Additional information on ARP ESSER may be found in the NJDOE's [funding comparison fact sheet](#).

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools (Safe Return Plan) A Safe Return Plan is required of all fund recipients, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction. Section 2001(i)(2) of the ARP Act further requires that the LEA seek public comment on the Safe Return Plan and take those comments into account in finalization of the Safe Return Plan. Under the interim final requirements published in [Volume 86, No. 76 of the Federal Register](#) by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), an LEA must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return Plan.

Pursuant to those requirements, **LEAs must submit to the NJDOE and post on their website their Safe Return Plans by June 24, 2021.** The NJDOE intends to make LEA ARP ESSER Fund applications available in EWEG on May 24, 2021 and LEAs will submit their Safe Return Plans to the NJDOE via EWEG. To assist LEAs with the development of their Safe Return Plans, the NJDOE is providing the following template.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the Safe Return Plan. The questions in the template below will be included in the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG. LEAs will submit responses to the questions within the LEA ARP ESSER Fund application in EWEG by June 24, 2021. The NJDOE hopes that this template will allow LEAs to effectively plan for that submission and to easily post the information to their websites as required by the ARP Act.

Note that on May 17, 2021, Governor Murphy [announced](#) that upon the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, portions of Executive Order 175 allowing remote learning will be rescinded, meaning that schools will be required to provide full-day, in-person instruction, as they were prior to the

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The NJDOE and New Jersey Department of Health will share additional information regarding State requirements or guidance for health and safety protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as it becomes available.

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

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**LEA Name:** HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Date (mm/dd/yyyy):** 07/29/2020

06/22/2021; 8/24/2021

**Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy):** 08/03/2020; 08/07/2020;  
08/13/20; 11/18/2020; 11/30/2020; 03/01/2021; 03/31/2021;

**\*\*\*This plan is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC adopted by the NJ Department of Health, NJ Department of Education or based on any Executive Orders issued from the Governor.**

### 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**

Hainesport Township School District will continue to adhere to New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) health and safety protocols and guidance related to mask wearing requirements. In accordance with [Executive Order No. 251](#), all staff, students, and visitors are required to use face masks in the indoor portion of the school district premises, except in the following circumstances:

1. When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
2. When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face mask without assistance;
3. 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 the use of a face mask;
4. When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
5. 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;
6. When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
7. When a student is participating 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
8. When wearing a face mask creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Additionally, per Order of the CDC, passengers and drivers must wear masks on school buses, regardless of vaccination status, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in [the Order](#).

CDC's [Use Masks to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#) provides additional information for students, staff, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of face masks.

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

Hainesport Township School District will allow for social distancing to the maximum extent possible. Additionally, the district will minimize the use of shared objects, continue to ensure indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, maintain hand sanitizing stations, and ensure students wash hands frequently.

In order to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, Hainesport Township School District will implement social distancing practices in all instructional and non-instructional spaces within the school and district facilities. The district's Safe Return Plan allows for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable, which is achieved by seating students at least 3 feet apart where

able with consideration for the flow of student traffic around the classroom. Maintaining 3 feet of distance between students in classroom settings to the extent possible allows the district to offer full-time, in-person learning to all students. Structural interventions within the classroom such as facing desks in the same direction and avoiding grouped seating arrangements will aid with social distancing.

During periods of high community transmission or if vaccine coverage is low, if the maximal social distancing recommendations cannot be maintained, Hainesport Township School District will, where possible, prioritize other prevention measures including masking and cohorting. Partitioning systems are recommended to help reduce transmission when social distancing is difficult to maintain. The use of physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions will be utilized in rooms, such as therapy rooms and early childhood classrooms where it may be difficult for individuals to remain at least 3 feet apart due to furniture that is intended to accommodate more than one individual (e.g. kidney activity table).

### **C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Hainesport Township School District staff will continue to increase handwashing monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff. Students and staff should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the restroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. In limited cases, if soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and students who can safely use hand sanitizer). The alcohol-based hand sanitizer product should be rubbed all over the surfaces of the hands and fingers until dry, and hands should be washed with soap and water as soon as possible.

According to CDC's [When and How to Wash Your Hands](#), key times to wash hands include:

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone at home who is sick with vomiting or diarrhea
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the toilet
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
  - Staff should follow CDC's safe and healthy [Diapering](#) protocols.
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- After handling pet food or pet treats
- After touching garbage

Hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) have been installed throughout school and district facilities, including classrooms, entrances and exits of buildings, and near the cafeteria and restrooms. Staff should supervise students ages 5 and younger 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). Hainesport Township School District will continue to maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans. Staff will continue to assist and observe students to ensure proper hand washing.

Additionally, students and staff should cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and students who can safely use hand sanitizer).

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

Hainesport Township School District will continue to adhere to existing required facilities cleaning practices and procedures, and any new specific requirements of the local health department as they arise. The district's [Facilities Cleaning Practices Procedure Manual](#) includes the [United States Environmental Protection Agency's \(EPA\) Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting](#) to establish cleaning and disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used. Included in the procedure manual is a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfecting, which is also included in the district's Policy No. 7421. The manual also includes the district's protocol for routinely cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched.

Hainesport Township School District has developed standard procedures for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection. The procedures include cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used, and address:

- A. Routinely cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops). Examples of frequently touched areas in schools:
  1. Classroom desks and chairs;
  2. Lunchroom tables and chairs;
  3. Door handles and push plates;

4. Handrails;
  5. Kitchens and bathrooms;
  6. Light switches;
  7. Handles on equipment (e.g. athletic equipment);
  8. Buttons on vending machines and elevators;
  9. Shared telephones;
  10. Shared desktops;
  11. Shared computer keyboards and mice;
  12. Drinking fountains;
  13. School bus seats and windows; and
  14. Playground equipment.
- B. Using all cleaning products in accordance with directions on the label. For disinfection most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. Whenever possible the list of products that are [EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19](#) (available on the EPA's website) shall be used. The manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g. concentration, application method and contact time, etc.) shall be used.
- C. Sanitizing bathrooms daily, or between use as much as possible, using [protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#). Additional considerations regarding bathrooms include:
1. Limiting the number of students who can enter at one in order to avoid crowds;
  2. Designating staff members to enforce limited capacity and avoid overcrowding;
  3. Installing no-touch foot pedal trash cans, if possible;
  4. Propping doors open to avoid touching handles; and
  5. Including appropriate signage about the benefits of handwashing.
- D. Cleaning and sanitizing drinking fountains and encouraging staff and students to bring their own water to minimize the use and touching of water fountains;
- E. Making hand sanitizer available at the school bus entrance for each student to use when boarding. Similarly, students must be required to wear face coverings while riding on the bus if social distancing or physical barriers cannot be maintained;

- F. Maintaining hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol):
  - 1. In each classroom (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer);
  - 2. At entrances and exits of buildings;
  - 3. Near lunchrooms and toilets.
- G. Supervising children ages 5 and younger when using hand sanitizer;
- H. For classrooms with existing handwashing facilities, preparing stations with soap, water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol);
- I. Reminding bus drivers to take certain personal hygiene actions (e.g. frequent handwashing) and affording them the opportunity to do so (such as having sufficient time between routes);
- J. Cleaning and sanitizing district vehicles including seats, rails and any highly touched surfaces before each run.
- K. Requiring contracted transportation providers to clean and sanitize seats, rails and highly touched surfaces touched before each run. The district shall collaborate with the contracted service provider to develop these procedures and ensure that they are consistently followed; a checklist may be developed to ensure compliance. The contracted service provider shall collaborate with the district in establishing cleaning/sanitation protocols that are consistent with social distancing practices. The contracted service provider shall ensure that employees are fully trained in the implementation of the established protocols:
  - 1. All personnel responsible for cleaning school buses shall document the cleaning/sanitizing measures taken. Personnel are required to:
    - a. Demonstrate an understanding of the established protocols that must be taken to properly clean and sanitize the bus; and
    - b. Provide a certification that, before the route commenced, the required process was completed as required.
  - 2. The procedures will identify sanitizing agents that may be used and will be limited to products included on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of products that have shown to be effective against COVID-19.
  - 3. These procedures will likely include two stages: cleaning, which removes dirt and germs from surfaces, and disinfecting, which kills germs on surfaces that remain after cleaning.

- L. Routinely cleaning and disinfecting furniture, recognizing the varying materials used in furniture in each school building;
- M. Providing EPA-registered disposable wipes to teachers and staff so that commonly used surfaces (e.g. keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down before use;
- N. On a regular basis, ordering and stocking adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.
- O. Ensuring that cleaning and disinfection supplies are used and stored correctly and safely. This includes storing products securely away from children, while ensuring appropriate ventilation so students and staff are not exposed to toxins or fumes.
- P. Placing physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, in classrooms, school buses, restrooms and other areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Q. Cleaning and disinfecting a school building after a person has been identified as COVID-19 positive:

The district may need to implement short-term closure procedures in a school regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. If this happens, the CDC-recommended procedures shall be followed:

1. Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection;
2. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible;
3. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area; and
4. Cleaning staff will clean and disinfect all areas (e.g. offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

Additional training shall be provided to the personnel responsible for cleaning and sanitizing school buses and facilities as necessary. Topics may include proper use of cleaning and disinfecting agents, the cleaning schedule for various surfaces, and safety precautions that need to be taken (e.g. ensuring adequate ventilation while cleaning and sanitizing).

The district will continue to utilize [List N: Disinfectants](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), which meet [EPA criteria](#) for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Cleaning products and disinfectants will continue to be used according to the manufacturer's instructions, such as concentration, application method, and contact time. The district will continue to practice safe storage of cleaning and



disinfection supplies, including storing products securely away from children, and ensuring appropriate ventilation so students and staff are not exposed to toxins or fumes.

Additionally, restrooms will be sanitized daily, or between use as much as possible using EPA protocols for [Safe and Effective Disinfectant Use](#). Regarding restrooms, the district will limit the number of students who can enter the restroom at a time, and when possible, staff will monitor capacity and limit crowding. The district has installed no-touch toilet flushers and hand dryers. Restroom trash cans are also contactless, and certain restroom sinks have been made inoperable to ensure social distancing during handwashing. The doors of restrooms with entryway privacy screens will be propped open to avoid touching handles.

Drinking fountains and water filling stations will continue to be cleaned and sanitized. To minimize the use and touching of water fountains and water filling stations, staff and students may bring their own water.

In the event a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building, the district will utilize cleaning and disinfecting procedures to ensure a thorough cleaning and sanitization of the school and district facilities, particularly spaces occupied by the person. As recommended by CDC, areas used by a sick person will be closed off for 24 hours prior to cleaning and disinfecting. Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be reopened for use.

Hainesport Township School District has consulted [Reopening Guidance](#) received from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Epidemic Task Force, as well as CDC [Guidance For Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation](#) to ensure that indoor facilities have adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems, where appropriate. ASHRAE guidance provides a framework for mitigating potential health risks during the reopening of buildings closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has informed the district's Safe Return Plan to ensure ventilation systems operate properly. Additionally, recirculated air has a fresh air component and filters for A/C units are maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

Hainesport Township School District has revised [Policy No. 7421 - Indoor Air Quality Standards](#) regarding operations and maintenance. Modifications of the district's Indoor Air Quality Standards include "Ventilation Systems" and "Facilities Cleaning Procedures to Reduce the Spread of Contagion."

Hainesport Township School District acknowledges the NJDOE's Early Childhood considerations, where possible, to address the district's early childhood programs. Keeping in mind age-appropriate child development, Hainesport Township School District will strive to keep early childhood students 3 feet apart during classroom activities. Close group learning activities will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable. Early childhood teachers will facilitate proper handwashing by following designated times for students to wash their hands with soap and water, including at a minimum, at the start of the day when children enter the classroom, before snacks and lunch (if applicable), after snacks and lunch (if applicable), after using the toilet, after sneezing, wiping, and blowing noses, and when students return from outdoor play

or recess. In limited cases, hand hygiene with an alcohol-based sanitizer or alcohol-based wipes when there is no visible soiling of hands, are alternatives to handwashing with soap and water by children over 24 months of age, under the supervision of a teacher.

Additionally, Early Childhood teachers will:

- Reduce the number of centers to allow for sanitation preferably between use.
- Discourage use of shared items that cannot be easily sanitized (e.g. stuffed animals).
- Provide students with personal art materials (e.g. scissors, glue sticks, crayons, pencils, markers, water colors, play-doh, etc.)
- Provide students with a personal set of blocks and table games.
- Organize student materials in designated areas.
- Provide each student with a personal foam floor mat for carpet activities.
- Utilize a small mat to place on the floor for blocks and library; sanitize preferably between use.
- Send students' art/craftwork home.
- Label chairs with symbols and/or names for individual use.

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

Hainesport Township School District has revised [Policy No. 8451 - Control of Communicable Disease](#) regarding illness. Modifications to the district's Control of Communicable Disease policy include "Contact Tracing," which include the following:

Contact tracing is the process used to identify those who have come into contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases, including COVID-19. Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and their contacts (people who may have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking cases to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed. These situations should occur rarely if schools are adhering to physical distancing recommendations.

Parents should not send students to school when sick. For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; **OR**
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

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

Contact tracing for COVID-19 typically involves:

- A. Interviewing people with COVID-19 to identify everyone with whom they had close contact during the time they may have been infectious;
- B. Notifying contacts of their potential exposure;
- C. Referring contacts for testing;
- D. Monitoring contacts for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and
- E. Connecting contacts with services they might need during the self-quarantine period.

To prevent the further spread of disease, COVID-19 contacts are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others until 14 days after their last exposure to a person with COVID-19. Contacts should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice daily and watching for symptoms of COVID-19.

The school nurse will continue to consult with the local health department in the development, review and revision of the district contact tracing policy and procedures. The school nurse and the building principal are the designated staff liaisons responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components of the board's contact tracing policy.

The school nurse in consultation with the building principal will continue to establish measures for a system of open communication that allows staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.

A staff member shall immediately notify the principal and the school nurse when he/she observes symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19. The school nurse, in conjunction with the building principal, shall immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality when the COVID-19 test is positive.

When the individual exhibits symptoms the school nurse will ensure that the student is taken to the designated isolation area. The nurse will examine the individual and may refer them for testing and treatment. A student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 may be required to submit to a COVID-19 test. The school nurse shall require the certification of a physician that the student is contagion free before readmitting a

student to school. The nurse shall report all students testing positive for COVID-19 to the health department. The health department shall conduct the contact tracing.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- A. A fever of 100° F or greater;
- B. Cough;
- C. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
- D. Chills;
- E. Repeated shaking with chills;
- F. Muscle pain;
- G. Headache;
- H. Sore throat;
- I. New loss of taste or smell;
- J. Fatigue;
- K. Congestion or runny nose;
- L. Nausea or vomiting;
- M. Diarrhea

All school and district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school and district, shall be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the spread of contagious disease.

The school nurse or his or her designee shall make information available and/or conduct virtual information sessions to educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.

Upon notification that a resident has tested positive for COVID-19, the Burlington County Health Department will call to determine close contacts to whom they may have spread the virus, where close contact is defined as being within six feet for a period of at least 10 minutes. Trained professionals from the community will then contact those close contacts to recommend next steps, such as self-quarantining and self-monitoring, and to provide critical education and support in risk mitigation strategies.

Hainesport Township School's school nurse, Ms. Cyndi Hess, has attended a COVID-19 Contact Tracing course, which was offered by Johns Hopkins University, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Ms. Hess will educate the broader

school community on the importance of contact tracing, and all school district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school district will be provided with information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the spread of contagious disease. Additionally, the district's contact tracing policies and procedures were developed in consultation with the Burlington County Health Department and school nurse.

Students and staff who are infected with the virus, should follow CDC's [Isolate If You Are Sick](#) steps to separate from people who are not infected, which include:

- Stay home except to get medical care
  - Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.
  - Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
  - Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
  - Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
  - Do not share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
  - Wear a cloth face covering when around other people, if able.

Students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus, should follow CDC's [Quarantine If You Might Be Sick](#) steps to separate from others, which include:

- Stay home and monitor your health
  - Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
  - Watch for fever (100.4 °F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
  - If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Sick students and staff should not return to school until they have met CDC's recommendations for [When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#), which includes:

- Individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 with symptoms can be with others after
  - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
  - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and

- Symptoms have improved

According to CDC guidance, depending on a healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, individuals might get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. Individuals who have been tested can be around others when they have no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, and they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

- Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms can be with others after
  - 10 days have passed since test

According to CDC guidance, depending on a healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, individuals might get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. Individuals who have been tested can be around others after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Individuals who develop symptoms after testing positive should follow CDC guidance for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 with symptoms.

- Individuals with a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication should
  - Talk to their healthcare provider for more information. People with conditions that weaken their immune system might need to stay home longer than 10 days.
  - If testing is available, it may be recommended by an individual's healthcare provider. Individuals can be with others after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.
  - If testing is not available, an individual's doctor should work with an infectious disease expert at the local health department to determine if the individual is likely to spread COVID-19 to others and need to stay home longer.
- Individuals who have been around a person with COVID-19 should
  - Stay home for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness.

In the event someone tests positive for COVID-19, Hainesport Township School District's policy outlines the district's COVID-19 related response for symptomatic students and staff. Protocols are consistent with the district's contact tracing policy, which is detailed under Critical Area of Operation #6: "Contact Tracing." Methods to assist in contact tracing will be implemented including records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance. Continuous monitoring of symptoms will occur to further assist contact tracing efforts.

Hainesport Township School District's readmittance policies are consistent with [NJDOH COVID-19: Information for Schools](#) and [NJDOH Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19](#). Additionally, the [CDC](#)

[School Decision Tree](#) will assist the district as it determines which set of mitigation strategies are most appropriate for a given situation, in consultation with the Burlington County Health Department.

When a confirmed case has entered a school, CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread:

- Immediately notify the Burlington County Health Department to determine a course of action.
- Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days to allow time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and to determine whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
  - Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.
  - During school dismissals, cancel all extracurricular and school-based after school programs.
  - Discourage staff, students, and families from gathering or socializing anywhere.
- Coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure to staff, parents, and students.
- Clean and disinfect thoroughly.
  - Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19, and if possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
  - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- Make decisions about extending the school dismissal.
  - During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), schools may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open: a) allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts. Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school will be made in collaboration with the Burlington County Health Department.
  - District administrators will seek guidance from the Burlington County Health Department to determine when students and staff should return to school and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.

- Implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students.
  - Ensure continuity of education.
  - Ensure continuity of meal programs.
  - Consider alternatives for providing essential medical and social services for students.

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

Hainesport Township School District has established a policy for safely and respectfully screening students and employees for symptoms of and history of exposure to COVID-19. The screening policy takes into account students with disabilities and accommodations that may be needed in the screening process. Hainesport Township School District has revised [Policy No. 5310 - Health Services](#) regarding health, safety, and medical emergency services.

Prior to sending students to school, parents/guardians should check their child(ren) for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), including a temperature check. Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. Students who are sick should not attend school. Staff and families are reminded to check for symptoms before leaving for school.

In accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19, students and staff who become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case within the last 14 days, should not come to school, and they should self-report to the district's designated COVID-19 point of contact, Ms. Cyndi Hess, School Nurse:

Ms. Cyndi Hess, School Nurse  
hess@hainesport.k12.nj.us  
609-267-1316, ext. 208

Regardless of vaccination status, symptomatic staff and students as well as individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, who are present at the school, will immediately be relocated to the district's identified isolation room where they will be separated from others. Students will remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. Students and staff who are sick will be sent home or to a healthcare facility depending on the severity of their symptoms.



Symptomatic staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings. Symptomatic students are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings and are required to do so when social distancing cannot be maintained. Exceptions to face covering requirements include, doing so would inhibit the individual's health, the individual is in extreme heat outdoors, the individual is in water, a student's documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an IEP precludes the use of a face covering, or the individual is under the age of two.

If the district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a Hainesport Township School District facility tests positive for COVID-19, the district's designated COVID-19 point of contact or a district administrator will immediately notify the Burlington County Health Department health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. According to current [Communicable Disease Service](#) guidance for illness reporting, cases should be reported to the local health department where the student or staff member resides. For Hainesport residents, cases will be reported to the Burlington County Health Department:

[Burlington County Health Department](#)  
15 Pioneer Blvd  
Westampton, NJ 08060-3825  
609-265-5548

If Burlington County Health Department personnel are unavailable, cases will be reported to the NJDOH, Communicable Disease Service (CDS) at 609-826-5964. If the individual does not live in New Jersey, cases will be reported to the NJDOH at 609-826-5964. In cases of immediately reportable diseases and other emergencies and if the local health department cannot be reached, the NJDOH maintains an emergency after hours phone number at 609-392-2020.

Students and staff who are infected with the virus, should follow CDC's [Isolate If You Are Sick](#) steps to separate from people who are not infected, which include:

- Stay home except to get medical care
  - Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.
  - Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
  - Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
  - Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
  - Do not share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
  - Wear a cloth face covering when around other people, if able.

Students and staff who may have been exposed to the virus, should follow CDC's [Quarantine If You Might Be Sick](#) steps to separate from others, which include:

- Stay home and monitor your health
  - Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
  - Watch for fever (100.4 °F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
  - If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Sick students and staff should not return to school until they have met CDC's recommendations for [When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19](#), which includes:

- Individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 with symptoms can be with others after
  - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
  - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
  - Symptoms have improved

According to CDC guidance, depending on a healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, individuals might get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. Individuals who have been tested can be around others when they have no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, and they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

- Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms can be with others after
  - 10 days have passed since test

According to CDC guidance, depending on a healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, individuals might get tested to see if they still have COVID-19. Individuals who have been tested can be around others after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart. Individuals who develop symptoms after testing positive should follow CDC guidance for individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 with symptoms.

- Individuals with a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication should
  - Talk to their healthcare provider for more information. People with conditions that weaken their immune system might need to stay home longer than 10 days.

- If testing is available, it may be recommended by an individual's healthcare provider. Individuals can be with others after they receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.
- If testing is not available, an individual's doctor should work with an infectious disease expert at the local health department to determine if the individual is likely to spread COVID-19 to others and need to stay home longer.
- Individuals who have been around a person with COVID-19 should
  - Stay home for 14 days after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness.

In the event someone tests positive for COVID-19, Hainesport Township School District's policy outlines the district's COVID-19 related response for symptomatic students and staff. Protocols are consistent with the district's contact tracing policy, which is detailed under Critical Area of Operation #6: "Contact Tracing." Methods to assist in contact tracing will be implemented including records of groups/cohorts, assigned staff, and daily attendance. Continuous monitoring of symptoms will occur to further assist contact tracing efforts.

Hainesport Township School District's readmittance policies are consistent with [NJDOH COVID-19: Information for Schools](#) and [NJDOH Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19](#). Additionally, the [CDC School Decision Tree](#) will assist the district as it determines which set of mitigation strategies are most appropriate for a given situation, in consultation with the Burlington County Health Department.

When a confirmed case has entered a school, CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread:

- Immediately notify the Burlington County Health Department to determine a course of action.
- Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days to allow time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and to determine whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.
  - Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.
  - During school dismissals, cancel all extracurricular and school-based after school programs.
  - Discourage staff, students, and families from gathering or socializing anywhere.
- Coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure to staff, parents, and students.
- Clean and disinfect thoroughly.

- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19, and if possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- Make decisions about extending the school dismissal.
  - During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), schools may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open: a) allows teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts. Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school will be made in collaboration with the Burlington County Health Department.
  - District administrators will seek guidance from the Burlington County Health Department to determine when students and staff should return to school and what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.
- Implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students.
  - Ensure continuity of education.
  - Ensure continuity of meal programs.
  - Consider alternatives for providing essential medical and social services for students.

At all levels of community transmission, NJDOH recommends that schools work with their local health departments to identify rapid viral testing options in their community for the testing of symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals who were exposed to someone with COVID-19. At this time, Hainesport Township School District has not elected to use screening testing.

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

Staff are continuously reminded of vaccination sites, dates, & times within the local area. In addition, the districts within the Rancocas Valley Region continue to share dates and times of regional vaccination sites. As a PK - 8 District, Hainesport Township Schools will stay abreast

of any vaccinations applicable to students of such grades/ages. If and when available, parents and guardians will be notified and reminded of site locations, dates & times.

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

Hainesport Township School District will continue to provide educational opportunities to students with disabilities such that these students have equal access to the same opportunities as general education students. To the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability will be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), developed under IDEA, or a plan developed under Section 504. Students with disabilities are entitled to special education and related services, such as accommodations and modifications to instruction, speech-language services, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and counseling. The district will continue to fulfill its obligations to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE). The district has developed protocols for IEP Teams to determine if additional educational and related services are needed.

The district will continue to hold meetings virtually to limit the number of school visitors and prevent the spread of potential COVID-19. Staff will continue to communicate with families of medically fragile students and students with physical or health impairments who may require accommodations and modifications as part of a 504 Plan to determine if additional precautions or unique measures are necessary for a student's return to school.

Teachers of students with disabilities are encouraged to consider students' sensory needs, visual supports, and boundaries when implementing social distancing. Staff may consider the use of social narratives and video modeling to teach new hygiene routines such as more frequent handwashing.

## **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)**

Hainesport Township School District recognizes the importance of ensuring continuity of learning. The district's Safe Return Plan focuses on the following:

- All students deserve equitable access to a high-quality education. The type of learning experiences that are appropriate will vary based on grade band and content area.

- Approach digital technologies with the flexibility necessary to maximize student learning and enhance communication pathways, and foster an effective partnership approach with family members.
- Strong instruction, student engagement, and effective assessment are interdependent.
- Thoughtful planning is necessary to provide support for instructional shifts and ensure consistency across grades and content areas.

Hainesport Township School district will continue to provide students with social emotional learning support through individual and group school counseling. School counselors at Hainesport Township School aid in the personal, social, and academic development of students, and serve as student advocates, striving to create a learning environment where students feel socially and emotionally supported.

Hainesport Township School school counselors are members of the American School Counselor Association, New Jersey School Counselor Association, and Burlington County School Counselor Association, and collaborate with teachers, administrators, and families as members of the district's Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS) Team and School Safety Committee.

Additionally, the school counselors lead a wide range of activities that include: character education classroom lessons, Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS), No Place for Hate activities, organizing and presenting social-emotional-academic assemblies, small group school counseling, individual school counseling, academic monitoring/counseling, high school readiness, peer conflict resolution, and peer mediation. As Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) specialists, the school counselors also identify and remediate harassment and bullying.

Hainesport Township School District recognizes that as students return to school, they will be faced with new routines and circumstances that may impact their well-being. Any student who is having difficulty coping with a problem, either in or outside of school, may request to meet in-person or virtually with a school counselor at any time. Parents/guardians who detect a problem or feel they need help in solving a problem are urged to contact a school counselor. Students may request to meet with a counselor or parents/guardians and staff may refer a student to meet with a counselor by completing one of the following forms:

- I am a STUDENT at Hainesport Township School and would like to meet with a School Counselor: [School Counselor Referral from Student](#)
- I am a PARENT/GUARDIAN and would like to refer my child: [School Counselor Referral from Parent/Guardian](#)
- I am a TEACHER/STAFF MEMBER who would like to refer a student to meet with a School Counselor: [School Counselor Referral from Staff](#)

School counseling requests are sent directly to the district's three school counselors:

Ms. Rose Wenz, K-8 School Counselor  
wenz@hainesport.k12.nj.us  
609-267-1316, ext. 140

Ms. Nicole Zerbo, K-8 School Counselor  
zerbo@hainesport.k12.nj.us  
609-267-1316, ext. 239

Ms. Morgan Barnett, K-8 School Counselor  
barnett@hainesport.k12.nj.us  
609-267-1316, ext. 284

Hainesport Township School District is committed to its efforts to communicate the importance of social emotional learning to students and families, specifically how it relates to student success. In addition to individual and group school counseling opportunities, the district will continue to embed social emotional learning into the classrooms by way of in-person and/or virtual classroom lessons. Parents/guardians can continue to expect newsletters from the district's school counseling department regarding current updates and resources to support students' social emotional well-being.

As prescribed by the NJDOE, Hainesport Township School District will infuse social emotional learning into student learning through the implementation of quality social emotional learning programs, including the Second Step curriculum. Through this curriculum, staff will be able to highlight social emotional learning strategies and facilitate opportunities for connection and reflection among students, families, and staff, which is critical for re-engaging students, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning.

Staff have access to [CASEL CARES: COVID-19](#) resources including webinars and guidance related to COVID-19 and school closures, designed to support educators as they integrate social emotional learning into their teaching to foster positive in-person and/or remote learning environments. Staff also have access to [COVID-19 Response](#) resources, which include topics related to back to school supports, coping and resilience, online professional learning for educators, and webinars that offer trauma-informed practices to support individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

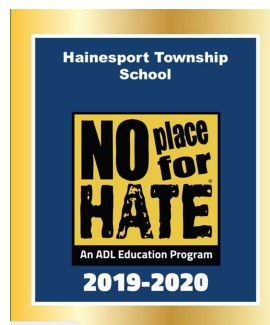
The district's school counselors will continue to support students who may be experiencing emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges by providing families with [Crisis Intervention Services](#) and [Crisis Helplines](#). The [Hainesport Township School District COVID-19 website](#) offers additional information and services related to New Jersey's mental health and crisis services.

The district also recognizes the importance of the well-being of its educators so they can support the social and emotional well-being and learning needs of their students. The district will support educators' access to mental and behavioral resources and encourages them to utilize mental health and crisis services as needed, including, but not limited to:

- [New Jersey Mental Health Resources](#)
- [New Jersey Hope and Healing Crisis Counseling Program](#)
- [NJEA's Member Hotline](#)
- [CONTACT of Burlington County](#)
- [National Distress Hotline](#)
- [5 Strategies for Teacher Self-Care](#)

Hainesport Township School District will strive to maintain a positive school climate and culture to improve the conditions for learning for all students. As students and staff return to school, the district will assess the school climate to identify vulnerabilities and develop plans to address identified needs as they arise.

The district will continue to participate in the Anti-Defamation League's [No Place for Hate](#) self-directed, school-wide program. Despite various challenges experienced during the public health-related school closure, the district remained committed to speaking out against bias and discrimination and promoting respect for all. Hainesport Township School District is exceptionally proud of students and staff for achieving the 2019-2020 No Place for Hate banner (*pictured below*), as well as the 2020-2021 No Place for Hate banner, a distinction the district has received for three consecutive years.



To further support a positive school climate and culture, the district will continue to participate in [The Great Kindness Challenge](#), a school-wide proactive bullying prevention initiative, which was hosted throughout the week of January 25-29, 2021. Hainesport Township



School proudly participated in the 2021 Great Kindness Challenge as one of the thousands of schools creating a culture of kindness to improve school climate and increase student engagement. Students' acts of kindness certified Hainesport Township School as a Kindness Certified School (*pictured below*).



### **Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is a systematic approach to prevention, intervention, and enrichment in grades PK-12 for academics and behavior that offers educators and families a mechanism to identify individual students who need extra support. As the district moves toward MTSS, it will utilize the framework's research-based structure to implement required Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS). As students return to school, they will be assessed and monitored to determine how they are responding to instruction and various interventions.

When a student has been identified as making minimal academic progress and/or displays behavior that interferes with his or her emotional or social well-being, staff may request support from the I&RS Team. Although classroom teachers routinely differentiate instruction to address students' needs in the classroom, a teacher may request services from the I&RS Team when a particular student continues to have difficulties despite these efforts.

The I&RS Team supports the teacher and student by developing an action plan that may provide alternative strategies, interventions, programs, and/or assessments. The interventions outlined in the action plan are designed to support the student in achieving success within the regular education program. Interventions in the general education setting will be provided to students exhibiting academic difficulties and shall be utilized, as appropriate, prior to referring a student for an evaluation of eligibility for special education and related services.

The Hainesport Township School District I&RS Team focuses on the concept of collaboration as the foundation for planning, organizing, and implementing programs of intervention and referral services. The I&RS Team is comprised of a group of multidisciplinary professionals from

the school and community who meet to develop action plans that determine measurable goals, outline strategies for implementation, and identify data to be collected to measure effectiveness. The I&RS Team continues to meet to review and assess the effectiveness of the provisions of each I&RS action plan in achieving the outcomes identified in each action plan and modify each action plan to achieve the outcomes, as appropriate. Parent/guardian input is important and is encouraged throughout the process.

### **Wraparound Supports**

According to the NJDOE, 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. Hainesport Township School District will continue to address the needs of students including English Language Learners, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, economically disadvantaged students, and students most directly affected by COVID-19. Wraparound services often include:

- Mental health supports;
- Primary health care and dental care;
- Family engagement

The district's school counselors will continue to communicate with staff and families to identify at-risk students. Access to self-care, self-help, parent/guardian supports, and social emotional learning will be provided to staff and families. For students who are identified as at-risk for mental health and/or substance abuse, the district will utilize staff, such as the School Psychologist, School Social Worker, and/or School Counselors to provide support for students who are identified as needing assistance. Families will be connected with local community providers, county resources, and other organizations to enhance the school's efforts. Additional resources may include:

- [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Changes Resulting from COVID-19](#)
- [Trauma-Informed School Strategies during COVID-19](#)
- [Strategies for Trauma-Informed Remote Learning](#)

The district will continue to provide individualized and intensive support for students who are identified as needing mental health and/or substance abuse interventions by collaborating with local community providers, county resources, and other organizations to further enhance support. Students and parents/guardians will be connected with therapeutic services, out-patient programs, or addiction services, as needed.

According to the NJDOE, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has released guidelines for well-child visits. The following resources may assist families seeking access to healthcare programs, such as:

- [NJ Family Care](#)
- [NJSNAP](#)
- [NJHelps](#)
- [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#)
- [New Jersey Dental Clinic Directory](#)

### 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 district has been fully open for students since November of 2020. The district utilized a hybrid student cohort model initially (in-person instruction 4 days a week) before returning to a traditional 5 day in-person instruction for all students without cohorts in April of 2021. The district has sought public comment on its reopening plan throughout its inception of July 29, 2020 and each and every month asks for public comment at the publicly notified monthly board of education meetings. **(July 29, 2020, August 25, 2020, September 29, 2020, October 27, 2020, November 24, 2020, December 22, 2020, January 26, 2021, February 23, 2021, March 18, 2021, May 6, 2021, May 18, 2021, June 22, 2021, August 24, 2021)**. In addition, the district maintains updated information regarding its Safe Return Plan on the district website, daily email correspondence, daily phone calls, and via both the Restart Committee and Pandemic Response Team, of which both include representation from the community.

**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 district has listed its plan in a variety of public platforms and continuously fields questions via email and phone call. The plan will always be made available in all formats requested.