

## Newport School District

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

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER LEA allocation (anticipated May 24th), an LEA shall publish an LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a “school district reopening plan.”

Note, if an LEA developed a plan before *The American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements below, then the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after receiving ARP ESSER funds

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

#### I. General Information

1. LEA Name: Newport School District, SAU 43
2. Date of Publication: June 20, 2021 - Updated on September 21, 2022

#### II. Transparency and Accessibility

1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online here:

June 2021 - We are providing the plan on our website at [www.sau43.org](http://www.sau43.org). We will also have the plan available for review at the schools and at the SAU.

**Updated September 2022** Description: <https://www.sau43.org/> or **Coronavirus**

2. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan (please check one).

**Yes: X (September 2022)**

Somewhat: X (June 2021)

No:

**Description:** June 2021 - Have been reviewing the return to in-person instruction with our COVID Decision Team and based on those reviews have been sending updates to families.

**Updated September 2022 - The following message and link to a public survey were sent to families, staff, and community partners by the Interim Superintendent.**

**“As you are aware, the Federal Government provided Newport School District with ESSER Funding. This funding will last until 2024. We are reaching out to our families, students, and community members to gather input as to the most pressing needs in our District. Please take a few minutes to answer this brief survey. This survey will close on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 5:00pm. Thank you and have a wonderful day.” The survey can be accessed at this link: [HERE](#)**

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):

**Yes: X**

Somewhat:

No:

**Description:** June 2021 - The plan is written in parent friendly language with appropriate visual when needed to enhance the presentation.

**Updated September 2022 - The Newport School District reopening plan is a word document, posted on-line for easy access, and in the same familiar format as the previously posted reopening plans shared with families in the 20-21 school year.**

4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated (please check one):

**Yes: X**

Somewhat:

No:

**Description:** June 2021 - Yes, please see above.

**Updated September 2022 - The Newport School District's reopening plan is written in English, and is translated by our EL teacher as necessary for families of English learners.**

5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please check one):

**Yes: X (September 2022)**

Somewhat: X (June 2021)

No:

**Description:** June 2021 - Upon request, we would work to make sure a parent who is an individual with a disability would be able to access the plan in an alternative format.

**Updated September 2022 - The MSD reopening plan may be provided in an alternative format for ease of accessibility upon request.**

### III. Health and Safety

1. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

**Description during SY20-21:** Mask wearing while indoors, social distancing, protocols for contact tracing, and proper hand hygiene and cleaning practices.

**Description during SY21-22:** The only modification to our reopening plan is that we are mask optional as long as there are less than 3 active COVID cases in one school. 3 or more casts, necessitates a move to required masking. The required masking becomes optional again once the number of active cases falls.

**Description during SY22-23: Quarantine -** There is no more quarantine for anyone after an exposure. This includes household members that are not vaccinated when there is a positive case at home. It is recommended, by the CDC, that household members wear a mask for 5 days after their last contact with the person (which is usually 10 days from the test date). And they should test on day 5. Isolation - Isolation happens when someone tests positive. The test date is day zero. People need to stay home and out of school for 5 days after that. Once isolation is up the person can return to school as long as their symptoms are improving and they are fever free for 24hrs. without the use of any medication. The CDC recommends that they wear a mask for 5 additional days. Testing If students/staff are experiencing symptoms and refuse to test, then we consider them positive. They will be required to stay home, in isolation, for the 5 days. The CDC recommends wearing a mask for 5 days once their isolation is up. Home Test Kits Both school nurses have home test kits if anyone needs them. Please call them if you need any home tests.

2. The LEA's adoption of the following CDC health and safety strategies are described below: (Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

**a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:**

During SY20-21 (check one):      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes:      **Somewhat: X**      No:

**During SY21-22 (check one):**      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Masking wearing has been mandated

School Year 2021-2022 - Masking wearing to be optional for students and staff

**School Year 2022-2023** - Use of face masks/coverings will be made optional upon return to school in the 22-23 school year both in and outdoors. No required use of face coverings will be expected. Face coverings will be made available for those choosing to wear them.

**b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):**

During SY20-21 (check one):      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes:      **Somewhat: X**      No:

**During SY22-23 (check one):**      Yes:      Somewhat:      **No: X**

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Social Distancing has been mandated

School Year 2021-2022 - No social distancing required

**School Year 2022-2023** - No social distancing required upon return to school in the 22-23

**c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:**

During SY20-21 (check one):      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

**During SY22-23 (check one):**      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette practices are expected

School Year 2021-2022 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette practices are expected

**School Year 2022-2023** - Regular handwashing and hand sanitizer use will be provided for

safe use by staff and students. It will be encouraged. Students receive instruction on proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette includes covering coughs and sneezes in their elbow.

**d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:**

During SY20-21 (check one):      Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY22-23 (check one):      Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Expected to continue with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of facilities

School Year 2021-2022 - Expected to continue with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of Facilities. Hoping to improve ventilation and air flow during the summer of 2021, depending on ESSER II grant approval

School Year 2022-2023 - Summer improvements have started on the ventilation and air flow. Cleaning will occur in classrooms at the end of each school day. Cleaning supplies will be provided to staff to conduct in-classroom cleaning as necessary. All restrooms will be cleaned on a regular rotation along with door knobs, handles and entrances. Hallways and other common spaces will be cleaned nightly. Office spaces will be cleaned daily.

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

During SY20-21 (check one):      Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY22-23 (check one):      Yes:      Somewhat:      No: X

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - We had a very thorough contact tracing protocol in place.

School Year 2021-2022 - Expect something similar if needed in 2021-2022

School Year 2022-2023 - Contact tracing and quarantining based on NH-DHHS recommendations. As a courtesy, we often notify all families in the classroom of a positive case. We would state to parents/guardians of students that could have been potentially exposed to positive school class members, to watch for symptoms and we have free testing kits available. We are currently following the updated isolation and quarantine guidelines provided by the NH DHHS

People who have COVID-19 should isolate at home and follow CDC's recommendations: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html)

People who are exposed to someone else with COVID-19 are no longer recommended to stay at home

and quarantine, but, they should continue to follow CDC's recommendations:  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html)

**f. Diagnostic and screening testing:**

During SY20-21 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat: X              No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat: X              No:

During SY22-23 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat: X              No:

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Students and staff partake in diagnostic testing when symptoms indicate it might be necessary

School Year 2021-2022 - Students and staff partake in diagnostic testing when symptoms indicate it might be necessary

**School Year 2022-2023** - If students/staff are experiencing symptoms and refuse to test, then we consider them positive. They will be required to stay home, in isolation, for the 5 days. The CDC recommends wearing a mask for 5 days once their isolation is up.  
Home Test Kits -Both school nurses have home test kits if anyone needs them.

**g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:**

During SY20-21 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat: X              No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat X:              No:

During SY22-23 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat: X              No:

School Year 2020-2021 - We worked with the public health network to provide vaccination clinics for staff.

School Year 2021-2022 - Students and staff who have yet to be vaccinated have various opportunities to obtain a vaccination outside of the school

**School Year 2022-2023** - Students and staff have the opportunity to receive vaccinations from sources outside of the school. It is not a requirement of the Newport School District.

**h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:**

During SY20-21 (check one):      Yes: X              Somewhat:              No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      Yes:              Somewhat: X              No:

During SY22-23 (check one):      Yes: X              Somewhat:              No:

**Description of all three SYs:**



School Year 2020-2021 - We provided both in person and remote service opportunity to students with disabilities

School Year 2021-2022 - We will provide the students with what they need given any health and safety issues.

**School Year 2022-2023** - Accommodations will be provided for children with disabilities with respect to all aspects of the district's health and safety, and educational plans, including, by example, the use of a face shield for students unable to tolerate face masks, and compensatory services per IEP requirements as necessary.

**i. Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):**

During SY20-21 (check one):      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one):      **Yes: X**      Somewhat:      No:

**During SY22-23 (check one):**      **Yes: X**      **Somewhat:**      **No:**

**Description of all three SYs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - We have worked with the officials from the regional public health network.

School Year 2021-2022 - We will do so when appropriate

**School Year 2022-2023** - The continuation of communication and coordination with NH DHHS and local health officials including school nurses, and public health officials is expected.

#### **IV. Continuity of Services**

**1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Provided both in-person and remote options for students since the beginning of the school year. A few times the district had to go remote for all due to numbers of positive cases.

School Year 2021-2022 - Intend to offer in person for all students. Would only go remote if necessitated by a large number of positive cases based on updated CDC and state guidance.

**School Year 2022-2023** - The Newport School District intends to conduct a full in-person model for the school year. Students and families desiring to continue with remote learning will be provided information to sign up for VLACS - Virtual Learning Academy Charter School services. A 1:1 Chromebook initiative is expected for continued access to technology to enhance and extend student learning. Academic needs were met through direct instruction, remediation and support were offered through tutoring and compensatory services are provided as needed.

**2. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental, and other health needs, which may include student health and food services:**

School Year 2020-2021 - Tried to provide needed support to students and families through access to technology devices, hotspots, also provided delivered meals to all students when all students were remote.

School Year 2021-2022 - Will offer free meals to all students during the upcoming school year. Increasing support for students wellness and mental health through the hiring of additional guidance and social work staff.

**School Year 2022-2023** - Students and staff will implement the Harmony SEL program in the school year which provides instruction and support on topics related to social, emotional, and mental health needs. The Newport School District will extend support through outreach services and ongoing counseling services by our social workers, school counselors, and licensed mental health workers. Food services will continue to provide meals to students, however they will need to fill out the appropriate form to see if they qualify for free, reduced, or pay full price. Promising Futures grants will be applied for to bring in the MTSS-B model for providing education and support to staff, students and families experiencing varying degrees of need. NH DOE partnerships will continue.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

School Year 2020-2021 - Provided this type of support through our employer EAP program. Also tried to recognize staff for their efforts. Tried to accommodate requests to teach/work remotely when possible.

School Year 2021-2022 - Will continue to provide support through the employer EAP program.

**School Year 2022-2023** - Staff members engaged in a variety of strategies for supporting their own social, emotional, and mental health including professional development by Kelly Driscoll. Ms. Driscoll provided staff with tips and strategies for self-care and ideas for reducing levels of anxiety. Wellness team at both the district and school levels will continue to implement self-care ideas, services for addressing social, emotional, and mental health. Before and after school yoga, walking clubs, and exercise for stress relief will be encouraged. Fun raffles and uplifting activities will help to ensure staff health. The Employee Assistance Program has several resources available for staff which will be promoted by the District's Human Resources department.

## V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirement to review and, as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023 (the award period including the Tydings period). (Note an LEA that developed a plan before ARPA was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements above must revise its plan no later than six months after the LEA receives LEA ESSER funds.)

Yes: X

No:

**Description:** School Year 2020-2021 - Nothing listed

**Description:** School Year 2020-2021 - Nothing listed

**Updated September 2022 - Description:** The Newport School District will meet federal regulatory requirements regarding Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through 9-30-23. Signed Assurances will be posted in the Grant Management System.

2. In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirement to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Yes: **X**

No:

**Description:** Will meet with COVID Decision unit and take in additional feedback for the CDC, NH DHHS, and community input.

**Updated September 2022 - Description:** Will meet with COVID Decision unit and take in additional feedback for the CDC, NH DHHS, and community input.

3. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations. (Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

Yes: **X**

No:

**Description:** School Year 2020-2021 - We will implement the CDC recommendations while taking into account our local context.

**Description:** School Year 2020-2021 - We will implement the CDC recommendations while taking into account our local context.

**Updated September 2022 - Description:** The Newport School District's will include CDC safety recommendations and is committed to revising its plan as necessary based on updated safety recommendations. The most updated plan will be dated and posted to the District's website.

## **VI. Authorization** (for Updated Return to School Learning Plan)

LEA Superintendent's Signature:

Date



September 21, 2022

## **VIII. Appendices**

### **Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt**



“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph

(d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

## **Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt**

“(3) *LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.*

(a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—

(i) how it 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.

(B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/ podding).

(C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

(D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

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

(F) Diagnostic and screening testing.

(G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

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

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

(ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students’ academic needs and students’ and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

(b) (i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.

(ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.

(iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.

(c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).

(d) An LEA’s plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—

(i) In an understandable and uniform format;

(ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; and

(iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.”