

# **GLOUCESTER COUNTY**

## **Vocational - Technical School District**



### **The Road Forward:**

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

The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District does not discriminate in admissions or access to, or treatment, or employment based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

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

**LEA Name:** Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District

**Date Issued:** August 23, 2021

**Date Revised:** December 15, 2021

**Date Revised:** June 22, 2022

**Date Revised:** December 21, 2022

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**Date Revised:** December 20, 2023

### **1. Maintaining Health and Safety**

The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff to 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 and outlined in “The Road Forward”, Health and Safety Guidelines for the 2023-2024 School Year. Please access the following link for the most recent NJDOH guidance:

[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/PH\\_Recommendations\\_K-12\\_Childcare\\_Camp.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/PH_Recommendations_K-12_Childcare_Camp.pdf)

#### **A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:**

Effective March 7, 2022, Governor Murphy’s Executive Order No. 292 lifted the statewide mask mandate in schools and childcare settings. Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District implemented the following protocols effective March 7, 2022:

##### *Face Masks:*

- Face masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors – both indoors and outdoors. This includes during the school day as well as before and after school events and weekend/holiday events.
- Students and staff who travel to outside schools or facilities for field trips, activities, or athletic events must abide by the masks policies of the host site.

In the event the governor reinstates the statewide mask mandate, Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District would be required to follow suit.

#### **B. Physical distancing**

The Gloucester County Vocational – Technical School District will follow the regulations set by the New Jersey Department of Health and the New Jersey Department of Education.

Where possible, the district will establish policies and implement structural interventions to promote physical distancing and small group cohorting. During periods of low or moderate community transmission, the district will implement physical distancing recommendations to the maximum degree that allows them to offer full in-person learning. During periods of high community transmission, if maximal social distancing recommendations cannot be maintained, the district will prioritize other prevention measures.

- Within classrooms, maintain 3 feet of physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable, while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students.
- Outside of classrooms including in hallways, locker rooms, indoor and outdoor physical education settings, and school-sponsored transportation, maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable.

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

**Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will follow the regulations set by the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and our local health officials when planning for promoting healthy behaviors.**

#### Promoting Healthy Behaviors

The district will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as encouraging staff and students to stay home when appropriate; encouraging the practice of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; requiring the use of face coverings; and signs and messages in and around all district facilities. Procedures for Hand Sanitizing/Washing will be displayed in classrooms and bathrooms.

Gloucester County Vocational–Technical School District will prepare and maintain hand sanitizing stations with alcohol-based hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol). Such stations will be:

- Located throughout the school building.
- It is recommended that students wash their hands for at least twenty seconds at regular intervals during the school day and always before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, and/or sneezing.
- If washing with soap and water is not possible, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) should be utilized.

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

**The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will follow the regulations set by the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and our local health officials when planning for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities and Food Services.**

The district will have adequate ventilation, including operational heating and ventilation systems. Filter(s) for A/C units must be maintained and changed according to manufacturer recommendations.

All cleaning and sanitation protocols will follow the requirements set by the New Jersey Department of Education and under the advisement of the local health officials.

- The 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 will maintain cleaning/disinfecting schedules, targeted areas to be cleaned, and methods and materials to be used, including:



- A schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Routinely cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This will include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, lab stations, vocational/career areas, and equipment).
- Use of all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. For disinfection, the most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 will be reviewed for effective cleaning strategies.
- The district will sanitize bathrooms daily, and when possible, using protocols outlined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

#### Conditions for Learning: Food Services

- The district will adhere to the rules and regulations provided by the Dept. of Agriculture for Free and Reduced eligible students.
- Breakfast and lunch will be available to all students.
- If/when the cafeteria is used for sit-down feeding, students will be required to maintain established social distance requirements in accordance with state guidelines, where possible.
- Food service staff must follow the NJDOH and CDC guidance on handwashing protocols after removing gloves.
- Food service staff will adhere to all NJDOH and CDC guidance.
- All surfaces will be wiped down before and after each service period with the appropriate sanitation tools. Students will assist in wiping down their area at the completion of each breakfast/lunch period.
- Students may have the ability to eat outside in designated areas to comply with social distancing requirements. Assigned seats may be required to assist with meeting social distancing guidelines and to assist staff with contact tracing when necessary.

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

**The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will follow the regulations set by the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and our local health officials when planning for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine.**

If screening, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining is required, the district will follow current NJDOE and NJDOH guidelines, as well as any relevant legislation or executive orders signed by the Governor of New Jersey regarding contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with state and local health officials. This includes the continuation of existing protocols for engaging the local health official each time there is a positive COVID-19 case affecting a student or staff member to coordinate a response.

Currently contract tracing has been eliminated.

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

**Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will follow the regulations set by the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and our local health officials when planning for diagnostic and screening for staff and students.**

**If screening is required, we will continue the following protocols:**

### Response to Students Presenting Symptoms

The district encourages parents to be on alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep their children home when they are sick.

- Staff who observes a child exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will have the child escorted to the nurse in the appropriate designated health office.
- Nurse(s) will:
  - Conduct a screening.
  - If symptoms are observed, the student will go to an isolated area under proper supervision until picked up by a parent or emergency contact.
  - Contact parents/guardians for pickup.
  - Notify administration
  - Nurse contacts local health officials
- In response to staff presenting symptoms, staff members will contact the school Health Office immediately.
  - Nurse will conduct a screening and will determine the best process.

### If a Student or Staff Member Has Tested Positive

- Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will notify the staff and families of the students of the location of a positive COVID-19 case while practicing staff/student confidentiality.
- If a staff or student tested positive and was in the presence of others, the school will follow the protocols established by state and local health officials relating to quarantine.
- Personnel will follow a chain of command notification:
  - The school nurse will update the school administration (including building and central office-level personnel).
  - The district is following the NJDOH guidance for COVID-19 exclusion (isolation) criteria for individuals who have compatible symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

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

Written communication has been disseminated to staff/students when opportunities are available (and their location) for vaccination. All information regarding testing sites, walk-up sites and vaccination centers will be communicated through the district's health office and administration.

**Local Guidance: Gloucester County Offices:** [COVID-19 Information | Gloucester County, NJ \(gloucestercountynj.gov\)](https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/covid-19)

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

The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will follow the regulations set by the New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, and our local health officials when planning for appropriate accommodations for students, as well as make individualized decisions based on specific student needs.

For special education and 504 eligible students, the Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will provide educators with professional development to best utilize the accessibility features and accommodation tools made available through technology-based formats. The district will continue to ensure students receive individualized supports that meet the requirements of their IEP and 504 Plans.

## **I. Educating Students During Quarantine:**

The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will ensure the continuity of instruction in situations when an individual student, group of students, or entire class(es) are excluded from school due to meeting the NJDOH's COVID-19 exclusion criteria. The district will immediately provide virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction. For students who choose to quarantine or isolate, virtual instruction has been eliminated. As with any illness, students can make-up work by coordinating with their teachers or guidance counselors. Mask wearing will continue to be optional unless individuals are returning to school after isolation or exposure as per the NJDOH guidelines.

Student absences are excused when proof of a positive test and/or physician's certificate is submitted to the attendance and/or nurse's office. Home COVID-19 tests will be accepted.

## **2. Ensuring Continuity of Services**

The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District has developed a plan to allocate a portion of the APR ESSER III grant to support the expansion of academic and social/emotional needs of students including but not limited to: summer academic enrichment programs, increased social/emotional and behavioral supports, identify staffing necessary to support the goals of the plan, identify additional opportunities within the school day to increase student contact time and support the differentiation of instruction. In addition, the district will identify opportunities for before and after-school support.

## **3. Public Comment**

The Gloucester County Vocational-Technical School District will share the plan with the school community.

Board Approved: 6/23/2021  
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