

BelovED Community Charter School

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

Date June 9, 2021

Date Revised December 7, 2021

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

We continually monitor and audit our systems based on NJDOH, NJDOE, and CDC guidelines.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks

All students and staff are required to wear masks. Mask wearing is monitored by transportation staff in the morning as students enter and ride the bus. Security and teachers assigned to arrival duty monitor mask-wearing as students arrive on campus. Teachers and security personnel monitor mask wearing throughout the day. Teachers reinforce proper mask wearing protocols in each of their classrooms.

Free masks are available to students and staff on each of the buses and from the security offices on campus. Unless we hear otherwise from the state, we expect to continue to implement the same policy.

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

If social distancing requirements remain in place and we need to keep students more than two feet apart, the school will need to restructure its typical schedule to accommodate social distancing requirements. Among other things, students will remain in certain cohorts and we will restrict movement throughout the buildings. If the physical distancing requirements are lifted, BelovED will, of course, ensure that health and safety remain a top priority.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students are encouraged to wash hands after using the bathroom. Teachers instruct students in proper methods for hand washing and for using their elbows to cover their mouths for sneezes. Hand sanitizing stations are available in each room and in lobby areas. Staff and students are encouraged to use these.

Water fountains have been closed and water bottle filling stations have been installed in each location.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

Buses keep 2-3 windows on each side of the bus open to maintain air circulation while on routes. Buses are sanitized between routes.

The School HVAC system utilizes a four point system to maintain good indoor air quality:

1. We have installed UVC/UVV sterilization lights in the ductwork of the HVAC system to deactivate or kill any microorganisms that may find their way into the airstream.
2. The HVAC system removes excess humidity from the air to maintain a comfortable learning environment.
3. We have installed MERV 13 filters in our central HVAC system.
4. Our system also has economizers that are constantly bringing fresh air into our system.

Our restrooms and high touch areas are cleaned three times during the day by in-house staff. We have a professional cleaning company that comes in at night to clean and sterilize the facilities. After the space is cleaned, high touch areas are sprayed with an electrostatic sprayer containing disinfectant.

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

Attendance records are kept of which students are on each bus route. Attendance records are kept for students by class so that we know which students have been exposed to one another. In addition, staff who change rooms are asked to sign in to each room that they enter throughout the day.

The team meets with staff for input on scholars who may need to quarantine.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing

Students have their temperature taken before getting on a school bus and/or entering the school building. Parents are continually reminded of the main symptoms of COVID and asked to not send their scholar to school should they exhibit any of these symptoms. Students exhibiting symptoms are placed in a quarantine room and evaluated by the School nurse.

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

We will continue to work with Jersey City and provide opportunities for staff and eligible students. In the past, we took advantage of Jersey City's excellent program to vaccinate school staff from both the district and charter community. Additionally, we partnered with a local hospital to have a BelovED student vaccination drive. We hope to have similar initiatives in the future. We will continue to provide families and staff with vaccination locations throughout Jersey City.

The school provides weekly testing on campus for all Staff.

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

As per NJDOE guidance in The Road Back, we will not require students to wear face masks when the student has a documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), that precludes the use of face covering, or when a student has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

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):

Our reopening plan begins with a robust Summer Program. We will have a 5 week Summer Initiative that will provide academic support to scholars who either (i) failed certain courses and (ii) are in need of additional support even if they passed the class, such as ELA or math. We will complement this program with a variety of activities that will support social and emotional learning.

Additionally, each summer we have what is called our “Summer Institute” -- two weeks of PD for our staff. Given the pandemic, we have significantly revised our approach to include more sessions that cover diverse components of support for scholars: academic, and social and emotional. We are also scheduling increased time for staff support -- allocating significant community bonding time and very targeted support to help our staff prepare for full in-person learning. Sessions include, but are not limited to: (i) how to interpret data from our Star and other Assessments; (ii) how to address gaps in foundational skills while keeping pace with the grade level curriculum; (iii) how to infuse social and emotional learning into our curriculum; (iv) learning about scholars and setting them up for success in each class; (v) ways to increase our support for scholars who have IEPs and/or 504’s and (v)best practices to engage the active involvement of parents and families. In addition to our targeted summer PD preparation, we have hired additional counselors and teacher assistants to provide increased small group academic and social and emotional support for our scholars. We feel that this is a critical step to being proactive to address the many nuanced challenges we anticipate next year.

During the school year, we will be providing more opportunities afterschool and on Saturdays for scholars to receive extra assistance in closing any learning gaps. We will be offering various clubs, events, and sports that will improve scholars' social, mental, and emotional well-being.

Scholars in quarantine have access to all assignments through Schoology. There are staff members assigned to work with scholars in quarantine to keep them on pace. During this time, staff will reteach and provide instruction on concepts that the scholar has questions about.

If proper staffing is an issue due to Covid cases, the team will make a decision to go remote for as short a time as possible. The team will keep track of staff absences, and the return dates for staff to be in work. Once we feel confident that we can properly staff the building, we will bring the students back to in-person learning.



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)**

We invited the public to review and ask questions about our reopening plan. We then revised our plan incorporating this valuable feedback. Throughout the year when we have made a decision to go virtual or remain in person, we receive feedback from parents and staff, which we take into account making future decisions.

- 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)**

We are making the plan available in print in English, Spanish and Arabic, and will communicate the plan orally in English and other languages, or in alternative formats, upon the request of parents/guardians.