



Restart with H.E.A.R.T.

FAQs for Linwood Public Schools

HEALTH

Will the use of masks be required?

Yes. Masks will be required at all times for students and staff unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.

What measures are being put into place to protect student and staff health and safety?

Staff:

- Face coverings mandatory and will have the option to wear a face shield as an additional precaution. Face shields will be provided by the district. Disposable and cloth masks will also be available and provided by the district.
- Daily temperature checks.
- COVID-19 Screening conducted daily.
- Teachers will wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including when entering the building, before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. When hand washing is not available, hand sanitizer should be used.

Students:

- All (PK-8) required to wear face coverings unless an exception due to health conditions. Disposable and cloth masks, provided by the district, will also be available.
- Students that cannot wear a face covering for medical reasons will be provided a desk shield and/or face shield.
- Temperature checks for all students.
- Students will wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. When hand washing is not available, hand sanitizer should be used.
- Number of students in bathrooms will be limited and every other stall will be in use.
- Cohorting of students when possible (teachers travel, not students).

Facility:

- Visitors will not be allowed during the school day.
- Masks are required for emergency school visits.
- Students should bring a reusable water bottle. Bottle filling stations will be available. Water fountains will not be in use.
- Isolation rooms will be set up in every building.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be in each classroom and throughout the buildings.

- Odorox hydroxyl generators for each nurse's office and isolation rooms.
- Physical guides will be installed to help ensure that staff and students remain at least six feet apart.
- Increased frequency for disinfecting bathrooms and high-touch points, including rest rooms and common areas. Disinfection will occur as often as possible while students are in buildings. All classrooms and office areas will be disinfected once nightly. Staff will be encouraged to disinfect classroom surfaces throughout the day.
- HVAC systems will run in evenings and on weekends to maintain fresh air flow throughout buildings. Current preventative maintenance on HVAC systems exceeds manufacturers recommendations.

Will there be temperature checks for students and staff each day?

Yes, temperature checks for students will occur at multiple entrances before school. Parents are strongly encouraged to check temperatures before students come to school in the morning. Staff will have temperature checks in the main office when they sign in for the day. Students and staff that register a temperature at or above 100 degrees will be sent to the nurse and given secondary temperature checks.

Where can my student get a COVID-19 test if he/she displays symptoms? Can the nurse administer a COVID-19 test?

School Nurses will not administer COVID-19 tests. Please contact your pediatrician for guidance.

Whom do I notify if my child or someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19?

Please notify the school nurse and the principal as soon as possible. Refer to : [How to Report a Disease](#)

If a student or teacher requires a COVID-19 test, how will things change, if at all, until they receive their test results?

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. We will follow current [Communicable Disease Service Guidance](#) for illness reporting.

If the school district becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19, district officials must immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality. All the families within that class will be notified via a letter.

- Isolation spaces will be established. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. Students must remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
- We will follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting.
- We will establish methods to assist in contact tracing including records of groups/cohorts, assigned.

- We will continuously monitor symptoms and follow local health department guidance regarding any short-term closure procedures if required.
- Readmittance policies consistent with **Department of Health guidance and information for schools** and **Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service's Quick Reference Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19**

If there is a diagnosis of COVID-19 in my child's classroom or school, what will happen?

Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others. We will follow current **Communicable Disease Service Guidance** for illness reporting.

- Establishment of an isolation space. Students and staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 must be safely and respectfully isolated from others.
- Students should remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult.
- Follow current Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting.
- Methods to assist in contact tracing including records of groups/cohorts, assigned.
- Continuous monitoring of symptoms.
- Readmittance policies consistent with **Department of Health guidance and information for schools** and **Department of Health/Communicable Disease Service's Quick Reference Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Home Isolation for Persons Diagnosed with COVID-19**
- Possible short term closure **as per guidance from the CDC**: "Any school in any community might need to implement short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building."

If a student or staff member travels outside the state, will they be required to quarantine before their return to school?

Yes. As per travel advisories, you should quarantine for 14 days if you have been a state identified in the link below.

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-information/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

What is contact tracing? How will this be done?

Contact tracing is the process of identifying individuals who may have come in contact with an infected individual within 6 feet for a period of at least 10 minutes. Contact tracing is done in coordination with the Atlantic County Department of Health and Human Services - Communicable Diseases. Once a positive case is confirmed, the county will contact the school nurse and superintendent. Contact tracing will then begin. Quarantines/temporary school shut down will occur on a case-to-case basis.

ENVIRONMENT

How have cleaning procedures changed since pre-covid? Will additional staff be hired?

Custodial staff will be appropriately assigned based on the occupancy of each distinct building. Here is an overview of cleaning procedures:

- Daily cleaning practices and procedures will continue to be adhered to upon the school's reopening. All custodial employees will always be in uniform, as well as wearing a provided face mask when working inside the buildings. Social distancing of 6 feet will be adhered to where able.
- Anti-microbial wax was utilized in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year on all flooring in the common areas of the school buildings.
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Our district has purchased and implemented the use of BruTab 6S disinfectant which has demonstrated effectiveness against viruses similar to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) on hard, non-porous surfaces. Therefore, BruTab 6S can be used against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) when used in accordance with the directions for use against Norovirus on hard, non-porous surfaces.
- Increased routine cleaning for more frequent disinfection will be ongoing. High-traffic areas with high-touch points such as common areas, hallways, and high-touch surfaces outside offices, classrooms, entrances, elevators, hand railings, restrooms, break rooms, will be the focus of this plan.
- High-Touch Points during in-school period, such as door handles/push bars, push plates, door jams, desks, lecterns, chairs, tabletops, pencil sharpeners, fixtures, dispensers, mirrors, trash receptacles, will have an increase target cleaning frequency where staffing and building conditions permit.
- Staff schedules may be reworked and modified on an ongoing basis. Supply checks and restocking will occur during cleaning and disinfecting of high touch points throughout the day as well as during the nightly cleaning. Custodial operations will reference CDC Environmental Cleaning and-Disinfection recommendations and stay up to date with any changes to CDC guidance.
- The district has purchased Odorox hydroxyl generators for all health offices.

How will rooms be configured for social distancing?

Rooms will be configured to enforce social distancing. Rooms will be cleared of extraneous equipment and furnishings in order to maximize social distancing. We have measured out classrooms to maintain 6ft of distance.

How will social distancing be enforced and how will situations be handled when students are not adhering to the expectations?

Welcome videos, morning meetings, signage, and reminders will all be used to proactively reinforce social distancing. Repeated infractions may be handled per the code of conduct.

How long will these safety measures take, such as checking temperatures? Will this impact instructional time?

Before school begins, non contact thermal scan thermometers will be used at multiple entrances, with social distancing markers placed 6 feet apart indicating where students

must stand while they are waiting. This will be done prior to students entering school in order to avoid impacting instructional time.

How will lockers be addressed?

Lockers will not be used. Students will store all items in their classroom.

What will Physical Education classes look like this year?

At the middle school, students will not be changing for PE classes this year. Locker rooms will be closed. On days that students have PE they should wear sneakers and comfortable clothing. PE teachers are designing activities that maintain social distance and limit the shared use of materials.

How will visitors to the buildings be limited?

Items brought to school will be dropped off in vestibules and school staff will collect the items and wipe down the location. Students being picked up will be called down and escorted to the pick up location. Visitors will only be permitted if deemed absolutely necessary, and by appointment.

How will drop-off and pick-up procedures change? Will parents need to socially distance and wear masks on school grounds?

Specific building drop-off/pickup procedures will be shared with parents from each building. Any individual on campus will be expected to wear a mask unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.

Will students be allowed to eat snacks in the classroom?

Yes. Staff and students will wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including before eating.

Will the district offer in-school lunch?

Yes. Students will eat in their classrooms or outside weather permitting.

ACADEMICS

If the health conditions worsen, how will things change?

We currently have a contingency model for 100% virtual instruction in place if the state or the county health department directs us to close.

If the health conditions improve, how will things change?

Our hybrid design allows for additional in-person time to be added if conditions improve. We will seek guidance from the local health department as we increase in-person learning and the number of students within the buildings.

Do you have a plan if you are directed to go to 25% capacity?

Yes, each cohort will be split into two groups so that there are a total of four cohorts each attending school in person one day per week.

Why can't all families who want 5 days/week send their kids to school and have all other students go to a virtual-only model?

Allowing some children to go 5 days per week would preclude all other children from having in-person lessons. In order to respect distancing and proper safety measures, the HYBRID model was the best design to give all students in-person lessons, if desired, and put the district on the path toward increased in-person instruction for all.

Why are preschool and kindergarten students going back four days per week?

Due to the age and developmental needs of our youngest learners in combination with the size of our early childhood classroom spaces, in person learning is the most appropriate option.

Why was split session not offered for the students in Linwood?

We sought to maximize the in-person contact time to provide a more cohesive routine for students as we considered their social and emotional learning needs. During Return to School Committee meetings, stakeholder feedback indicated that shortened days would be a hardship to many families. Contractual obligations coupled with transitions and screening requirements would result in less instructional time than our plan provides. Additionally, the time in between sessions does not allow for thorough cleaning.

Why did the district choose the AA Virtual BB model over the AB Virtual AB model?

The AA virtual BB model provides academic consistency in back to back in person instruction, allows for a break between cohorts to respond proactively to anyone displaying symptoms, and allows for options to increase our in person learning capacity. Linwood family survey results also demonstrated that this option had the greatest percent of first and second choice selections.

If I begin the year in the hybrid model and then decide to go all virtual, will my child have the same teacher?

More than likely, students that go virtual will not have the same teacher for all virtual learning. Specific teachers will be assigned as virtual teachers as schedules allow.

How many students will be in a classroom in the fall in the in-person model?

Approximately half of a normal class. However, this number, for any given class, depends on the number of students enrolled and space capacity of the room.

How will schools split their student population for in-person learning days?

First, the district will utilize an alphabetical split to ensure that families attend on the same days of the week. Then, each grade level is examined and students are moved to create equal numbers of cohorts that allow for 6 feet of social distance. We also consider the balance of each group and special programming.

Will children from the same family attend school in-person on the same days?

Yes. If your children have different last names, please contact your building principal.

How will the curriculum change to take into account the school closure in the Spring and going back in the Hybrid model?

Teachers began working in the spring of 2020 to identify the most critical prerequisite skills and content knowledge students will need to master grade level standards. Teachers will continue to meet and scope and sequence/pacing guides will be adapted to reflect where teachers may need to provide acceleration/support.

Will the virtual curriculum be the same as the in-person curriculum?

Yes. Our virtual curriculum will be consistent with the curriculum of the hybrid model, differentiation will occur to meet the individual needs of students.

How will assessments be utilized to determine the gaps in learning that are a result of the virtual learning that took place in the Spring?

At the onset of the 2020-2021 school year, staffulty will assess the social and emotional well-being of students as they return to school. Students in grades 1-3 will be assessed with Fountas & Pinnell Benchmarks to determine reading level and literacy skill gaps. Grades 3-8 will also be administered the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) for lexile reading level. Math prerequisite benchmarks will be utilized to identify skills from the prior year that need to be addressed. Throughout the school year, short and more frequent assessments will be utilized to determine gaps in learning and inform instruction.

What additional support will special education students receive?

Students in our self contained program will attend four days of in person instruction on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Students will continue to receive related services and specialized supports from their special education teachers.

What are the options for parents if they do not want their child to return to in-person school this fall?

There will be a virtual learning option for families and they will need to indicate this preference on a survey. Once selected, you must remain virtual until December 31st, 2020.

Can you describe the virtual learning option that will be offered to families that choose that model?

Once we know the number of Linwood families that select the virtual model, we will be able to design and develop the structure of this option. This model will have a similar synchronous and asynchronous learning times as the hybrid model.

How will virtual learning be different in 2020-2021 compared to what was offered in the spring of 2020?

There will be an increase in the number of required live sessions per grade level. There will be more effective and personalized asynchronous learning opportunities for students.

There will be more opportunities for small groups or 1:1 instruction. There will also be consistency in Google Classrooms across grade levels and subject areas.

During the last marking period of the last school year students were graded with a Pass/Fail designation, will this continue in the 2020-2021 school year?

No, this school year the normal grading system will resume for both Seaview and Belhaven.

Are attending “live” sessions virtually mandatory for students?

“Live” (synchronous) sessions virtually will be strongly encouraged. However, to provide equity, they will not be mandatory.

What do I do if I need a device?

All students in grade 3-8 will be issued a district chromebook for use during virtual and in-person instruction. If your child in grades K-2 needs access to a device, please contact our IT department.

What do I do if I have problems with my internet connection at home?

A survey will be disseminated to determine if virtual learners need support with connectivity and support will be provided from the IT department. At any time during the school year, families can contact the IT department with any internet issues.

What do I do if my child is having difficulty with a device while at home?

The Linwood IT department can be contacted at itdept@linwoodschoools.org.

What is the plan for fall sports?

At this time, we are awaiting further guidance to determine if we will be able to run fall sports.

Will clubs continue in the 2020-2021 school year?

Clubs that can run virtually will continue in this school year. In order to keep cohort mixing to a minimum students will be able to participate online.

Is standardized testing taking place this year? Are the dates set?

The NJDOE has not provided information about standardized testing for the 20-21 school year yet. We are unsure about the standardized testing procedures for this year. As the state releases information, we will provide it to teachers and families.

RELATIONSHIPS

How can I talk to my children about Covid-19?

[Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019: Messages for parents, school staff, and others working with children](#)

Will teachers be allowed to take their students outside for recess? Are there restrictions with outdoor play?

Weather permitting, recess and ‘face-covering breaks’ outdoors will be utilized. Schedules

will be created to limit the number of students having recess at any given time, and keep cohorts intact. Zones will be identified around the campuses and cohorts will be assigned and rotated through outdoor spaces. If installed playground equipment is used (slides, monkey bars, swings, etc), it must be sanitized before another group of students uses it..

Will students and staff be able to take down their masks to drink water throughout the day?

Yes, students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and remain hydrated throughout the day.

TEAMWORK

How can I help prepare my child for his/her return to school in the fall?

Begin talking to your child about the start of the school year. Reinforce the importance of hand washing, social distancing and mask wearing. Now would be a good time to practice hand washing and increasing the length of time children are wearing their masks during the day. We will be sharing “Welcome Back” videos to help students prepare for the ways in which school will look different in September. Please watch these videos with your child and maintain a positive attitude.

How can I assist the Linwood Public Schools in making The Restart with H.E.A.R.T. plan a success?

We understand that this school year is sure to be a new challenge for our families, staff, and students. Let's work together to maintain a positive outlook for ourselves and our students as we get back to school.

Information in this FAQ may be updated. References include the NJ Department of Health, CDC, and NJ DOE The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan.