

Broadstep Academy

Preparedness Plan COVID-19

2021-2022

The following preparedness plan has been developed in the event of a pandemic or epidemic requiring the closing of school ordered by the Department of Health, State of New Jersey, or some other entity with authority to do so.

Execution of Community Operational Plan

Sussex County Department officials are responsible for the execution of community operational plans as they specifically relate to public health, especially those for case identification, isolation, quarantine, movement restriction, healthcare services, emergency care, and mutual aid.

Sussex County Health Department officials will notify the Broadstep Academy Executive Director or designee of concerns and desired actions to be initiated when necessary. The Executive Director or School Principal will activate the district's pandemic response plan as warranted.

The school nurse will inform the Principal when a substantial increase in student absenteeism due to infectious symptoms occurs. The school nurse is the point of contact with the Sussex County Health Department. The Principal and school nurse will work closely with the Sussex County Health Department to coordinate the school's pandemic plan with the community plan.

The Principal will notify the Sussex County Executive County Superintendent when the pandemic response plan is implemented.

Types of Pandemics/Epidemics

COVID-19 (Wuhan Virus)

H1N1 (Swine Flu)

H5N1 (Bird Flu)

West Nile

Influenza – Pneumonia

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Coxsackie

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

Smallpox

Encephalitis

Monkey Pox

Basic Information, COVID-19

There have been significant developments in health recommendations and school/public domain planning in anticipation of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Broadstep Academy – Broadstep Academy is closely following the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and that of the Sussex County Department of Health. The guidance we receive from the Department of Education and Department of Health can literally change throughout the day. We are vigilant in staying alert to the guidance.

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread is concerning. These factors meet two of the criteria of a pandemic. As community spread is detected in more and more countries, the world moves closer toward meeting the third criteria, worldwide spread of the COVID-19 virus.

- As per the CDC the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from Coronavirus is considered low.
- Under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for patients with Coronavirus, other close contacts of persons with the virus, and those with weakened immune systems.

More cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in the United States. Widespread transmission of the Coronavirus in the United States would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time. Schools, childcare centers, workplaces, and other places for mass gatherings may experience more absenteeism. Public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded, with elevated rates of hospitalizations and deaths. Other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and transportation industry may also be affected. Health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed. At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. Nonpharmaceutical interventions would be the most important response strategy. These interventions can include the suspension of large gatherings to contain the spread of the virus.

The CDC response recommends avoiding nonessential travel, avoiding cruise ship voyages, places of large gatherings, and persons exhibiting illness. We are taking a very practical approach here at Warren Glen Academy and we ask families do the same at home. These recommendations are the same as if you were to contract the flu.

- **Keep your child home if they are ill**
- Limit contact in large areas
- Receive a flu shot
- **Wash hands** with frequency with soap at least 20 seconds especially after bathroom use, blowing nose, sneezing and touching public items
- Cough or sneeze into crux of arm
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth
- Wash clothing
- **Disinfect** common areas, doorknobs, faucets, toilet flush, car steering wheel, tv remote, cell phones, keyboards/mouse

School Emergency Response Team (SERT)

Team Members

F. Scott Allshouse, Principal

scott@Broadstep-nj.com

Patricia Lisbe, Nurse

plisbe@Broadstep-nj.com

Brenda Velez, Social Worker

bvelez@Broadstep-nj.com

The School Emergency Response team has met and has gathered the most current information and best practices to develop such a plan in providing a continuation of instruction. While this is an unprecedented development in our modern society, we are confident that our program plan will be implemented in cooperation with the parent and child.

How the program will work if mandated school closure

Our school has provided each student with a Chromebook. It has been determined that each student in the school has access to the internet. In the event of a closure, each class will pivot to a virtual educational program, reflecting individual goals/objectives, through Google Classroom. Daily schedules will be provided to the students and parents.

The teachers will check personally with each student's family DAILY to assess their progress and deal with any issues. Our social workers will also be checking on each family on a regular basis.

Below please find the child's teacher e-mail address;

Jennifer Esposito: jesposito@Broadstep-nj.com
Christine Hutchison: corlando@Broadstep-nj.com
DeAnna Smidt: dsmidt@Broadstep-nj.com
Sandra Santora ssantora@Broadstep-nj.com
Patricia Lisbe, Nurse : plisbe@Broadstep-nj.com
F. Scott Allshouse, Principal sallshouse@Broadstep-nj.com

Staffing of school;

During the time of school closure school personnel will have access to the building. In particular the Principal, School Social Worker, School Secretary and cleaning staff. On a case by case basis teachers may be permitted to have access. All personnel however must be free of symptoms and not have been associated with anyone ill.

Cleaning/Sanitation of building;

Each day the cleaning staff will take the necessary steps to wipe down surface areas with the appropriate solution and disinfectant to prevent the spread of germs and virus. This will be repeated prior to the opening of school in the event the school is closed.

Virtual/Remote Instruction – Digital Access:

An individualized virtual instruction schedule (9:00am – 1:00pm) will be provided to each student by his/her teacher. Related Services can be provided to eligible students up to 3:00pm on school days. At this time, all of our families have been contacted and confirmed that they have access to the internet and can utilize the Chromebooks provided by the school. Any new family to the school will be questioned about access to the internet. In the instance that a student does not have access to the internet, weekly lessons will be sent by mail to each student, and daily phone contact will be made to the students by the teacher.

School Lunch:

Daily lunches will be made available to eligible free/reduced lunch students by our food services provider. Lunches will be offered to be picked-up by eligible families in a safe outdoor environment.

Reopening of school;

When there has been clearance provided by the authoritative agency to reopen school, we will do so.

In closing;

These are indeed unprecedented times and these measures are the best at the present time we can accomplish from what can be considered a “moving target” with guidelines changing. The health of the child, your family, and staff in combating any air borne illness is for the well-being of our school and larger society. We will heed the advice of the health professionals and modify plans as needed for the desired outcome in overcoming this virus.

Notes:

- If the school were suddenly mandated to close because of COVID-19, the above referenced information will immediately kick into gear.
- Field Trips planned have been cancelled. This will be reevaluated as time progresses.
- If the sending district happens to close, and we are not, the sending district will not provide transportation for the child. Lesson's will be made available to the students as described in this plan.

If there are questions pertaining to the information above, parents are asked to contact their child's teacher or the main office. As mentioned, the guidance is frequently changing. We will update parents as we move forward using USPS, e-mail, and phone.