



**NEW MEXICO PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**
Reentry Guidance



**SAFE RETURN
TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION**
Re-entry Plan 2022-2023

Board Approved: August 22, 2022

OVERVIEW

Keeping students and staff healthy and safe while returning to in-person learning remains our main priority. In an effort to remain up-to-date with the latest guidance from NMPED, Española Public Schools will follow the most current [NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023](#).

SUPERINTENDENT

Holly M. Martinez

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EPS MASKING POLICY

On **August 22, 2022** the EPS Board of Education acted to continue previously adopted Masking Policy as follows.

On **March 29, 2022** the EPS Board of Education acted to:

- LIFT required mask use for all students, staff and visitors during regular instructional time, to include transportation services. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted.
- LIFT required indoor mask use for all visitors and spectators while attending school events beyond instructional time. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted
- CONTINUE required mask use for Test to Stay close contacts and students and staff who are returning to school from a COVID infection after five days of self-isolation will be required to wear masks at school and at all school activities, from day six through day 10 to reduce the risk of COVID transmission.

Face Mask Requirements: Lifted

- LIFTED mask requirements for all outdoor settings. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted. (3/3/22)
- LIFTED mask requirements for all student athletes and coaches participating in close-contact indoor sports. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted. (3/3/22)
- LIFTED required mask use for all students, staff and visitors during regular instructional time, to include transportation services. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted. (3/29/22)
- LIFTED required indoor mask use for all visitors and spectators while attending school events beyond instructional time. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted. (3/29/2022)

Espanola Public Schools recognizes that some students and staff may opt to continue mask use for their personal safety and reduced exposure. EPS staff and administration will support individual decisions to continue masking in these settings as a personal choice.

Face Masks: Limited Requirements

- CONTINUE required mask use for **Test to Stay close contacts** and students and staff who are **returning to school from a COVID infection** after five days of self-isolation will be required to wear masks at school and at all school activities, from day six through day 10 to reduce the risk of COVID transmission.
- EPS will ENFORCE full mask use by everyone, in all areas for any school site as an Enhanced COVID Safe Practice (ECSP) for a 2 week period following a 5% or higher positivity rate as reported per our published [EPS COVID Positive Summary Report](#).

Face Mask Criteria (when Required)

Face masks must cover the mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of the face in order to contain respiratory droplets. **The types of allowable face masks include:**

1. [Face masks made of two or more layers of cloth.](#)
2. [Face masks with a clear plastic window.](#)
3. Surgical, procedural, [N95 or KN95 face masks](#) that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use by staff performing medical duties or similar close contact assignments.

The following face coverings are NOT substitutes for face masks:

- [Masks that have exhalation valves or vents](#)
- Mesh Face Masks
- [Bandanas](#)
- Scarves
- [Neck gaiters](#) (also known as a neck fleece)
- Face shields (see further discussion below)

Mask Compliance

Schools should provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as unvaccinated students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them.

Espanola Public Schools has updated the enforcement matrix for students as attached. The updated Mask Requirements, Mask Criteria, Enforcement and Enforcement Matrix will be posted on the district website, and provided to all students and parents through email and posted as a Synergy notification.

If a visitor refuses to wear a mask when required, then they will be asked to leave school grounds.

If staff member refuses to wear a mask when required, then HR policy will dictate disciplinary actions and whether the individual may choose to take leave when required to vacate the school building.

If a student refuses or removes their face mask when required to wear one, then the student will have to be picked up from school and taken home. While waiting for pick up, the student should be supervised and quarantined from other students.

Compliance Response

LEVEL 1 BEHAVIOR: Initial refusal to comply with mask requirements.

LEVEL 1 INTERVENTION: In most cases the classroom teacher is responsible for Level One Interventions.

1.0. Pre-Intervention

- Student is offered a mask.
- Student is offered a mask break.
- Classroom management system.

1.1. Student Warning

1.2. Student Conference

1.3. Parental Contact

1.4. Student Isolation/Quarantine

1.5. Referral to Level 2 Intervention

(3 or more level 1 violations)

LEVEL 2 BEHAVIOR: Ongoing Refusal to cooperate with school personnel regarding mask requirements.

LEVEL 2 INTERVENTION: Referral for administrative support and intervention.

2.1. Referral to an in-school support service

- Video to model how to wear a mask for explicit instruction (how to wear a mask, how to clean a mask, why it is important to wear a mask)
- Presentation on why face masks are important and where we wear them on school grounds
- PBIS incentives
- District letter to parents explaining (words and visuals) the necessity of masks
- Visuals created and displayed in all classrooms and around the school
- Advisory support
- Behavior Contract or Respect Agreement created with the whole class
- Parent Communication

2.2. Detention

2.3. Exclusion from extracurricular activities

2.4. Referral to Level 3 Intervention

(3 or more level 2 violations)

LEVEL 3 BEHAVIOR: Habitual/chronic refusal to cooperate with school personnel regarding mask requirements.

LEVEL 3 INTERVENTION: Referral for administrative support and intervention or alternative program placement.

3.1. Revision of Behavior Contract or Respect Agreement created with the whole class

3.2. Referral to alternative program placement or remote status. If an alternative or remote program is not available than applicable fees, payable by parents/guardians for remote services may apply

PROCEDURAL QUICK GUIDE

<h3>Diagnostic and Screening Testing</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding which had been provided to cover tests and testing processes by third parties is no longer available. EPS staff who have opted not to become fully vaccinated must continue to test weekly and self-report each Monday per the provided google form. Staff are responsible for providing their own testing and self reporting. On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to <u>discontinue</u> weekly surveillance testing for non-vaccinated staff, making it <u>optional</u> for unvaccinated staff to surveillance test. 	<h3>Social Distancing</h3> <p>Social distancing is encouraged but not required.</p> <p>*Greater flexibilities regarding COVID-19 mitigation procedures and processes are now available and to be determined by local decision-making. Many previously required safety measures have been lifted, and schools are expected to analyze their local needs for implementation of COVID-safe practices. Districts and charter schools should be monitoring school and community levels of infection and be willing to consider enhanced procedures as needed to best meet the health and safety needs of their staff, students, and families.</p>
<h3>Practicing Prevention</h3> <p><i>Española Public Schools will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and appropriate use of face coverings. Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas. Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. Schools will clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. EPS will continue to follow CDC guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility. Support and implement appropriate air filtration in schools following NMPED guidance. Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home. Take steps to ensure all water systems and features, such as water fountains, are safe. 	<h3>Close Contact Quarantine Requirements</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to <u>discontinue</u> quarantine requirements (5 day quarantine) for staff and students who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations who are exposed to COVID-19. <h3>Test-to-Stay Options</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to <u>discontinue</u> quarantine requirements (5 day quarantine) for staff and students who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations who are exposed to COVID-19. Therefore, with NO quarantine requirement, there was no need to take action or implement Test-to-Stay requirements.
<h3>Masking</h3> <p>On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to continue previously adopted Masking Policy</p> <p>On March 29, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LIFT required mask use for all students, staff and visitors during regular instructional time, to include transportation services. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted. LIFT required indoor mask use for all visitors and spectators while attending school events beyond instructional time. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted CONTINUE required mask use for Test to Stay close contacts and students and staff who are returning to school from a COVID infection after five days of self-isolation will be required to wear masks at school and at all school activities, from day six through day 10 to reduce the risk of COVID transmission (EPS Masking Guidance, BOE approved March 29, 2022). See EPS MASKING POLICY section for guidance. 	<h3>Guidance on COVID-Safe Practices</h3> <p>See the COVID-19 Response Toolkit for further guidance on COVID-Safe Practices, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccination Events Seating Charts School Transportation Guidance Social Distancing Before/After School Procedures Breakfast/Lunch Procedures Classroom Transitions Cleaning Drinking Fountains Singing & Playing Wind Instruments School Related Events Travel Visitors Student Lockers

Air Filtration in Schools

High-quality air filtration is one aspect of a multi-pronged strategy for ensuring healthy school environments. To address issues and concerns surrounding air quality, NMPED will work with each district and school to ensure installation of high-quality air filters. In addition, each district shall have an established and written protocol on inspecting, repairing and providing maintenance on ventilation systems within all school facilities.

Ventilation system upgrades and improvements will increase the delivery of clean air and dilute potential contaminants within each classroom and school facility. The NMPED will be deploying the [American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers \(ASHRAE\) recommendation](#), which states the target level for filtration in schools is minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) 13 or higher. On average, this will remove 75 percent of particle size of 0.3 to 1.0 µm.

This higher standard of filtration is more effective at removing viral particles from the air. The ASHRAE document linked above provides additional guidance on determining compatibility of various types of HVAC systems with a MERV 13 filter. NMPED will work with those districts and schools to identify the highest quality compatible filters. Schools may also consider portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to help enhance air cleaning (especially in higher risk areas such as a nurse's office or areas frequently inhabited by persons with increased risk of getting COVID-19).

Additionally, districts and schools unable to immediately install MERV 13 or its equivalent must work with their operations staff to take the following actions in accordance with the [guidelines from the CDC](#):

1. Run the central air fan continuously;
2. Open dampers to increase air flow;
3. Open windows and doors (be mindful of possible safety considerations); and

4. Deploy box fans or other portable fans and air purifiers with high air circulation capacity in addition to prioritizing the use of these items in classrooms with higher ventilation needs.

Face Coverings & Other Personal Protective Equipment for Schools

The state-wide requirement for mask wearing in schools has been lifted. The decision for when and whether masking will be required is the determination of a local school district or charter school.



With the goal of keeping our students safe, each school should balance the pros and the cons of requiring mask wearing in the schools. Factors to take into

account would include the school vaccination rates, access to vaccination and testing, access to high quality masks, rate of community transmission in the surrounding area, and data from the [MMWR](#) that has demonstrated the effectiveness of mask wearing to prevent COVID transmission. It is highly recommended that masks be worn in the school nurse's office and related areas.

Visitors to a school, including visiting sports teams, will abide by the masking requirements of the school.

It is also highly recommended that those who are participating in test to stay be required to wear a mask during the five days of test to stay, and it is required that those who are returning to school from a COVID infection after five days of self isolation wear masks at school and at all school activities, from day six through day 10 to reduce the risk of COVID transmission. The day of symptom onset is day zero. If an individual is asymptomatic, the day of specimen collection for the positive COVID test is day zero.

CURRICULAR QUICK GUIDE

<p style="text-align: center; color: #4F81BD;">Academics & Curriculum</p> <p>District adopted curriculum has been used as the primary means of instruction, utilizing the PLC process to monitor and plan for instruction to ensure students receive rigorous, robust learning aligned to New Mexico learning standards.</p> <p>Through curriculum adoption Espanola Public Schools will continue to prioritize digital and print resources for students to support students’ academic learning needs through in person and digital/remote learning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4F81BD;">Grading & Progress Monitoring</p> <p>Traditional letter grading following district approved policy will be utilized for grades 1-12. Developmental grading following district approved policy will be used for Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Teachers will check for understanding using questioning and discussion, exit tickets and completed assignments. Feedback will be provided verbally, through comments on graded artifacts, comments in Google Classroom and teacher check-ins with students. Teachers will utilize linked google classroom and Synergy gradebook accounts to communicate student progress to Parents & Students in a timely manner (weekly posting of 2x grades per week, minimum).</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: #4F81BD;">Technology & Connectivity</p> <p><i>Española Public Schools will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issue all students and staff a Laptop, Chromebook or iPad for use during instruction. Española Public Schools has utilized Cares Act, Title I and LANL Foundation funding to ensure a 1:1 student to computer ratio. • provide hot-spots for use within the district and community. • purchase and provide hotspots for families with connectivity issues. Hotspots will be provided for individual families in need. • partner with local vendors, Verizon and Windstream, to provide reduced rate internet service for families. • will utilize Google Suite inclusive of Google Meet and Google Classroom to support student learning. Ongoing professional development for teachers in Google Meet and Google Classroom is scheduled. • Utilize Chrome cameras, Smartboards and document cameras to present synchronous and asynchronous lessons as available. 	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4F81BD;">Attendance & Engagement</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated student engagement issues, and during reentry may lead to poor attendance for some students. Prior to dropping a student for 10 consecutive absences, schools must provide interventions as required by the Attendance for Success Act including intensive specialized supports and referral to the probation services office.</p> <p>Intensive specialized supports may include referral to Engage NM for students who meet Tier 3 and Tier 4 criteria for Attendance for Success Act. When LEAs refer students to ENGAGE New Mexico, a dedicated outreach team will reach out to the student/family through multiple modalities (phone, email, text message, social media, and US mail) to engage the family and offer them the on-going support of an academic coach throughout the school year.</p> <p>If after receiving intensive specialized supports, such as referral to Engage NM, a student continues to have unexcused absences a referral to the probation services office of the judicial district in which the student resides shall be made. Once a referral is received, the probation services office will contact the family and set up a meeting with the student and parents, school officials, and other individuals whom the family requests participate. These meetings may occur at the school, or during the pandemic, may be conducted over Googlemeet.</p>
<p style="color: #4F81BD;">Sports & Extracurricular Activities</p> <p>Española Public Schools will follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ COVID Safe Practices for Youth Sports & Programs (COVID-19 Response Toolkit, p. 23). ▪ Guidance for NMAA activities covering eligibility to participate ▪ NMAA Handbook Addendum – COVID-19 Amendments and Clarifications 	

High School & Senior Supports

Meeting Credit Requirements

Española Public Schools, specifically Española Valley High School will:

- conduct credit reviews for all students prior to the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year and ensure all students are scheduled for required courses and/or credit recovery courses utilizing the Edgenuity curriculum.
- will monitor student progress through weekly team meetings and grade checks conducted in collaboration with students' counselors and advisory period teacher.
- utilize student progress and assistance teams to continually monitor all students progress and maintain communication with students and parents to ensure credit completion through remote/reentry learning.

Assignment of Students to Classes and Grade Levels

All current and transfer students will be classified each year as follows:

- All students will be classified based on credits during enrollment at the start of each school year.
- A student must have a minimum of five and a half (5.5) credits to be classified as a sophomore.
- A student must have a minimum of eleven and a half (11.5) credits to be classified as a junior.
- A student must have a minimum of seventeen (17) credits to be classified as a senior.

Tracking Graduation Requirements

Española Public Schools, specifically, Española Valley High School will:

- conduct credit reviews for all students prior to the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year
- ensure all students are scheduled for required courses and/or credit recovery courses
- utilize the Edgenuity curriculum for credit recovery
- monitor student progress through weekly team meetings and grade checks conducted in collaboration with students' advisory teacher and school counselors.
- monitor student progress and maintain communication with students and parents to ensure credit completion through remote/reentry learning.

Next Steps Plans

Española Public Schools, specifically Española Valley High School and Carlos F. Vigil Middle School will:

- review and update all Next Step Plans with students, prioritizing senior reviews prior to the first day of school and sophomore, juniors and freshman reviews in August.
- maintain a master spreadsheet to track Next Step Plans and Graduation requirement completion.
- conduct reviews of progress for Juniors and Seniors quarterly.
- conduct credit reviews for Freshman and Sophomores each semester.
- assign support staff to track and mentor all seniors to ensure completion of Next Step Plans and completion of graduation requirements.
- ensure completion of Next Step Plans either virtually and/or through a traditional meeting depending on individual family needs (CFVMS & EVHS).
- utilize the counseling department to reach out to personally each student/family to review and complete all needed components of the Next Step Plan.

Dual Credit Support

Española Public School will:

- continue to partner with dual credit institutions to ensure that students at Española Valley High School are afforded the opportunity and access to enroll in dual credit courses. Current partnerships include: Northern New Mexico College, Santa Fe Community College, Luna Community College
- identify all dual credit students and determine individual supports they may need, including Wi-Fi access, computer device and text books.
- utilize the EVHS counseling department and advisory team to conduct regular check-ins with each student enrolled in dual credit to determine if additional supports are needed.

Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs

Española Public Schools supports students' academic, attendance, behavior (social – emotional) learning needs the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Multi-Layered System of Support (MLSS) process.

The following Social Emotional curriculum and programs are in place to support students' needs:

- HLC Behavior Health Curriculum (K-6): comprehensive, sequential program provides youth with the knowledge and skills practice to make healthier choices including life skills, nutrition, fitness, safety, conflict resolution/violence prevention, substance abuse prevention.
- PAX Behavior Games (K-6): The PAX Good Behavior Game is a proven, research-based classroom management model designed for use in grades K–6. Based on a strategy developed by a classroom teacher 40 years ago, the PAX Game involves student teams “competing against” each other to earn rewards for refraining from disruptive, inattentive, or aggressive behavior.
- Edgenuity SEL Curriculum (6-12): Edgenuity®, in partnership with Purpose Prep, offers rich and relevant K–12 social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum and highly practical teacher resources that help educators meet SEL prevention and intervention goals for students of all ages
- Thriving Students: The Thriving Students program offers a framework to help educators work with their challenging students by moving away from punitive and authoritative actions to developing safe, empathetic relationships.
- Project RACE: goals are to decrease the rates of drug and alcohol use, increase student graduation rates, reduce delinquency, reduce the city crime rate and provide life skills, career readiness assistance, local employment opportunities, and college readiness assistance. SEL services include: training in life skills such as emotional intelligence at the workplace, handling conflict, and learning to self-advocate.

COVID-19 RESPONSE TOOLKIT FOR NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS for 2022-2023

Keeping students and staff healthy and safe while returning to in-person learning remains our main priority. In an effort to remain up-to-date with the latest guidance from NMPED, Española Public Schools will follow the most current [NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023](#).

TO BE UPDATED PER NEW NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit Release, pending release.



UPDATED AUGUST 24, 2022

COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools

F O R S C H O O L Y E A R 2 0 2 2 / 2 0 2 3

The release of this updated toolkit replaces and supersedes the previously released Toolkit

REPORTING

Report all staff member cases of COVID-19 to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMENV) within 4 hours of notification by [completing the webform](#).

PREVENTION

- Get vaccinated
- Maintain physical distance
- Wear a face mask
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Clean regularly

TRANSMISSION

The virus spreads from person-to-person primarily:

- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- When droplets land in the mouths or noses, or are inhaled into the lungs, of people who are nearby.
- By symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals.

Please note that while Bureau of Indian Education schools may use NMPED's Rapid Response protocols, this Toolkit does not apply to them.





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Updates to this Toolkit from the July 22, 2022, version include:

- Significant reduction in list of questions reported weekly through the NMDOH Provider Portal
- Quarantine definition updated
- Surveillance testing is no longer required but optional
- Close contacts should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days and be tested at day five following exposure.

ARP ESSER LEA Plan

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

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each local educational agency (LEA) that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. In New Mexico, districts and state-chartered charter schools are LEAs.

This is a federal requirement and is not the same as the past state requirement for LEAs to submit Reentry Plans.

Pursuant to ARP requirements, LEAs must post on their website a fully compliant Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services by September 30, 2022.

This is the template we are providing for you to complete the ARP ESSER Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The template incorporates the federally required components of this plan.

This template incorporates the federally required components of the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. Highlighted items reflect recent CDC changes.

PED hopes this template will allow LEAs to efficiently and effectively plan and to easily post their LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services on their websites as required by the ARP Act.

The 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 Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services through September 30, 2023.

Date of Revision	August 23, 2022
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District ID	County	LEA NAME
055	Rio Arriba	Espanola Public Schools

Below, please show how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, regarding the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Masking (optional). At a high COVID-19 community Level, universal indoor masking in schools and ECE programs is recommended.	YES	<p>On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to continue previously adopted Masking Policy</p> <p>On March 29, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LIFT required mask use for all students, staff and visitors during regular instructional time, to include transportation services. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted. LIFT required indoor mask use for all visitors and spectators while attending school events beyond instructional time. OPTIONAL mask use is permitted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONTINUE required mask use for Test to Stay close contacts and students and staff who are returning to school from a COVID infection after five days of self-isolation will be required to wear masks at school and at all school activities, from day six through day 10 to reduce the risk of COVID transmission (EPS Masking Guidance, BOE approved March 29, 2022). • See EPS MASKING POLICY section for guidance.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.	YES	<p>Per the Board of Education approved (8/22/2022) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2022-2023, Española Public Schools will follow guidance from the NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Social distancing is encouraged but not required. *Greater flexibilities regarding COVID-19 mitigation procedures and processes are now available and to be determined by local decision-making. Many previously required safety measures have been lifted, and schools are expected to analyze their local needs for implementation of COVID-safe practices.</p> <p>Districts and charter schools should be monitoring school and community levels of infection and be willing to consider enhanced procedures as needed to best meet the health and safety needs of their staff, students, and families</p> <p>See Procedural Quick Guide: Social Distancing section for guidance.</p> <p>See also, COVID-19 Response Toolkit, Enhanced COVID Safety Practices, p. 14.</p>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	YES	<p>Per the Board of Education approved (8/22/2022) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2022-2023, Española Public Schools will follow guidance from the NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Española Public Schools will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and appropriate use of face coverings. • Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas. • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. <p>See Procedural Quick Guide: Practicing Prevention section for guidance.</p>
Cleaning and disinfection; improving facilities, including improving ventilation systems.	YES	<p>Per the Board of Education approved (8/22/2022) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2022-2023, Española Public Schools will follow guidance from the NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Española Public Schools will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. EPS will continue to follow CDC guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility. • Support and implement appropriate air filtration in schools following NMPED guidance. • Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take steps to ensure all water systems and features, such as water fountains, are safe. • Air filtration and ventilations systems will be maintained per the Toolkit requirements. <p><i>See Procedural Quick Guide section for guidance.</i></p> <p><i>See also, COVID-19 Response Toolkit, Air Filtration, p. 13.</i></p>
<p>Quarantine is determined by local school districts and state charters using local COVID-19 Community Levels.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Per the Board of Education approved (8/22/2022) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2022-2023, Española Public Schools will follow guidance from the NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to <u>discontinue</u> quarantine requirements (5 day quarantine) for staff and students who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations who are exposed to COVID-19. <p><i>See Procedural Quick Guide section for guidance.</i></p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening tests can be considered by the LEA for students and staff engaged in high-risk activities.</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Per the Board of Education approved (8/22/2022) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2022-2023, Española Public Schools will follow guidance from the NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit for New Mexico's Public Schools for 2022-2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 22, 2022 the EPS Board of Education acted to <u>discontinue</u> quarantine requirements (5 day quarantine) for staff and students who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations who are exposed to COVID-19. Therefore, with NO quarantine requirement, there was no need to take action or implement Test-to-Stay requirements. <p><i>See Procedural Quick Guide: Practicing Prevention section for guidance.</i></p>
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>Española Public Schools has and will continue to coordinate efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities with the NM Department of Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated vaccination clinics for staff occurred Spring 2021 with ongoing VAX 2 and booster support to NMDOH. School nurses have coordinated the HIPPA compliant collection of staff vaccination records and reporting to Human Resources for accurate staff vaccination tracking. • Coordinated vaccination clinics for students have occurred through NMDOH in collaboration with local agencies, including El Centro Family Health, Rio Arriba Health Counsel, Espanola Presbyterian Hospital, and the City of Espanola Fire Department. Student vaccination events have occurred locally at school sites with ongoing events planned to support expanded vaccination.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	YES	Española Public Schools has coordinated appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. EPS students have returned to in-person learning. Health and safety policies and protocols are in effect for all students, including SWD. Individual health and safety concerns and accommodations, as needed are discussed and documented through the students' Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
Prevention Strategies (monitoring COVID-19 community levels)	YES	EPS Health and Wellness director is continuing to monitor positivity rates and notifies school/district administration regarding sites positivity rates which exceed the threshold limits and require enhanced COVID SAFE PRACTICES.

How the LEA 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	
How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?	
Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure student support while in isolation or quarantine as needed as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22. See relevant sections as follows:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Learning Accommodations, p. 4. • Academics, pp. Error! Bookmark not defined.-38 	
How will the LEA address Students':	
How will the LEA address students' academic needs?	<p>Española Public Schools has established protocols for ensuring the continuity of students' academic needs through relevant review of services as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic & Curriculum • Grading and Progress Monitoring • Technology & Connectivity • Attendance & Engagement • High School & Senior Supports <p>Additionally, Española Public Schools supports students' academic, attendance, behavior (social – emotional) learning needs the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Multi-Layered System of Support (MLSS) process.</p>
How will the LEA address students' Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	<p>Española Public Schools has established protocols for ensuring the continuity of students' social, emotional and mental health needs through relevant review of services as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs <p>Additionally, Española Public Schools supports students' academic, attendance, behavior (social – emotional) learning needs the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Multi-Layered System of Support (MLSS) process.</p>
How will the LEA address students' other needs (may include student health and food services)?	<p>Española Public Schools has strengthened Department supports to ensure guidance and continuity of services related to all EPS departments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability (Student Information Systems & STARS Reporting) • Assessment • Bilingual Education & EL Services • Business Services • Curriculum & Instruction • Federal Programs • Indian Education

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Wellness • Student Services (including Special Education) • Technology
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How will the LEA address Staff:	
How will the LEA address staff's social, emotional and mental health needs?	<p>Española Public Schools has implemented a full re-entry plan for all students with safeguards and systems in place to ensure students' social, emotional and mental health needs are met as part of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan 2021-22.</p> <p>The Human Resources Department in collaboration with Insurance and Benefits effectively communicates through email with bulletins, wellness information and videos sent by NMSPIA.</p> <p>Further, the HR Department supports staff through coordinated efforts to comply with the Family Medical Leave Act as needed and necessary and Emergency Paid Sick Leave.</p> <p>EPS has also promoted staff mental wellness through structured wellness activities as part of our scheduled Professional Learning early release learning time</p>
How will the LEA address staff's other needs?	Individual needs will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, if needed.

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	<p>Throughout the Pandemic and through the development and revision of the Española Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan the district has sought out public input through regular surveys and school messenger announcements.</p> <p>Further, public input meetings have occurred and regular D-PAC meetings, occur as facilitated through the Federal Programs Department. Additionally, an open Google Survey for Re-Entry Planning is available for ongoing feedback and comments.</p> <p>Input from students, staff, families and community stakeholders is evaluated, reviewed and shared with EPS decision makers in updated the EPS Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan.</p>
Understandable and Uniform Format	
Describe the process by which the LEA will, to the extent practicable, present the plan 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, describe the process for orally translating the plan for such parents.	<p>Española Public Schools serves a diverse population. The predominant languages spoken with EPS are English and Spanish. Through written and oral communication EPS translates all correspondence to parents, families and students into Spanish as well. Relevant documents are also posted in English and Spanish, including the EPS Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Re-entry Plan.</p>
Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a	<p>Upon request through the Office of the Superintendent, Española Public Schools will provide a digitally editable file for individual enlargement or conversion to audio as needed to support individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA.</p>

version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.	
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[U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#)

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

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 –

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
 - a. 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.
 - b. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
 - c. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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—
 - a. In an understandable and uniform format;
 - b. 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
 - c. 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.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>

ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

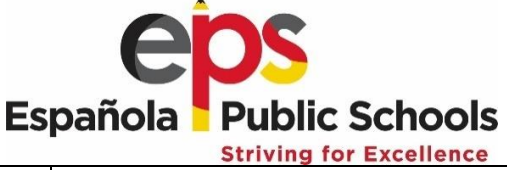
ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceusesinvestment.pdf>

ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER):

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf

COVID SAFE PRACTICES

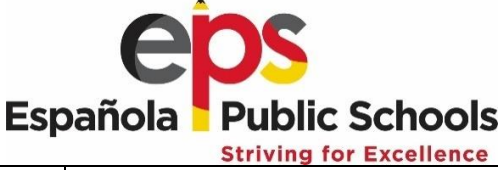
COVID-Safe practices were implemented and submitted on 10/1/2021. COVID Safe Practices have been updated as the NMPED Toolkit and Public Health Orders have changed.

		<h1>COVID Safe Practices</h1> <h2>(To be implemented at all EPS Sites)</h2>
1	Universal masking indoors	Universal masking requirements were lifted through the update of the New Mexico Public Health Order on March 3, 2022. EPS Board of Education updated and approved EPS Masking Policies to lift Universal masking on March 29, 2022.
2	Masks available for individuals who may need them on buses and at school	Universal masking requirements were lifted through the update of the New Mexico Public Health Order on March 3, 2022. EPS Board of Education updated and approved EPS Masking Policies to lift Universal masking on March 29, 2022
3	Isolation room used to separate COVID positive and potentially positive individuals from others	NMPED COVID-19 Response Toolkit no longer requires dedicated isolation rooms in schools.
4	Appropriate PPE is available for staff in the isolation room and for those with close contact assignments	PPE is available for all sites. Staff have been provided with isolation gowns and N95 masks specifically for the isolation rooms and close contact assignments. Additional gowns, masks and hand sanitizer, gloves and disinfecting wipes are available for all staff and can be ordered through the district warehouse.
5	Social distance maintained to the extent possible	Social distancing is recommended in schools. Adults are recommended to maintain 6 feet of social distance to the extent possible from other adults and from students. Students are recommended to maintain 3 feet of social distance to the extent possible, except when eating, exercising, playing wind instruments, and singing or shouting, in which case 6 feet of social distance to the extent possible is recommended. Schools may require that everyone on campus maintains social distance
6	Staff surveillance testing program (describe)	All staff (who have not provided evidence of vaccination or of testing positive in the last 90 days) must participate in weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing.
7	Student surveillance testing program (describe)	Universal funding for student testing is no longer provided. Test-to-Stay testing will be made available for unvaccinated students.
8	MERV-13 filter or better installed in HVAC OR Central air fan runs continuously, dampers opened to increase air flow, windows opened (as appropriate) and deployment of portable fans with air purifiers (describe)	EPS has complied with the installation of compatible ventilation system upgrades to include MERV 13 or its equivalent where possible and additionally ensure the following actions for air flow circulation: 1) Run the central air fan continuously; 2) Open dampers to increase air flow; 3) Open windows and doors (be mindful of possible safety considerations); and 4) Deploy box fans or other portable fans and air purifiers with high air circulation capacity in addition to prioritizing the use of these items in classrooms with higher ventilation needs.
9	Policy is in place that provides all staff access to paid sick leave as per HB2	School districts and state-authorized charter schools are no longer required to provide emergency paid sick leave to employees as of June 30, 2022.
10	Supervision provided during transitions to ensure CSPs are followed	EPS requires staff support transition supervision as a best practice. Staff supervision includes CSP monitoring.
11	Staff and students trained on safe transitions	Students and staff practice CSP transitions.
12	Seating charts for all classes	Teachers will develop and maintain seating charts in their Synergy attendance feature to support CSPs. Administrators will monitor and verify seating charts are updated and maintained.
13	Seating charts for all school buses	Driver's will create a seating chart and maintain a copy on the bus. Seating charts will be provided to the district Transportation Office.

14	Loading and unloading procedures for buses	Per the NMPED Toolkit, drivers and school bus assistants must implement loading and unloading procedures on a school bus, which may include assigned seating. If possible, those students who board first should sit all the way to the back, and those who board last should sit in the front. When unloading, the front of the bus should unload first to prevent students from crossing the paths of one another/
15	Bus drivers and assistants trained on CSPs	Driver's and assistants have all been trained on using cleaning supplies and defogger. Driver's were trained on using the Rejuvanal cleaning product to spray on touch surfaces and wipe off. They were also trained to refill the defogger with disinfectant and its use in the bus. Training will be provided at the beginning of the school year in August and again at mid-year in January.
16	Students and staff have access to hand-washing stations and/or hand sanitizer	EPS will continue to provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
17	Signage to encourage CSP implementation	EPS will continue to promote and provide signage guidance to schools.
18	Staff screening on entering building	Staff screening is no longer required in schools.
26	Only essential visitors allowed	Schools have re-opened to allow visitors on campus. However, Adults that come on campus during school hours and who have not provided evidence of vaccination are required to complete a COVID-screening, including temperature check, upon entry. All visitors must follow relevant COVID-safe practices.
28	Spectators at outdoor events required to wear masks	Universal masking requirements were lifted through the update of the New Mexico Public Health Order on March 3, 2022. EPS Board of Education updated and approved EPS Masking Policies to lift Universal masking on March 29, 2022.
19	Student screening on entering building	Student screening is no longer required in schools.
35	Visual cues to encourage social distancing	EPS will continue to promote and provide signage guidance to schools.

ENHANCED COVID SAFE PRACTICES

Enhanced COVID-Safe practices were implemented and submitted on 10/1/2021. Enhanced COVID Safe Practices have been updated as the NMPED Toolkit and Public Health Orders have changed.

		Enhanced COVID Safe Practices Recommended at 3% Positive Threshold* Required at 5% Positive Threshold* (*Student/staff positive threshold within a 2 week window)
26*	Only essential visitors allowed	EPS will prohibit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas where there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.
28*	Spectators at outdoor events required to wear masks	Universal masking requirements were lifted through the update of the New Mexico Public Health Order on March 3, 2022. EPS Board of Education updated and approved EPS Masking Policies to lift Universal masking on March 29, 2022
19*	Student screening on entering building	Student screening is no longer required in schools.
35*	Visual cues to encourage social distancing	EPS will continue to promote and provide signage guidance to schools.
20	Universal masking outdoors	Universal masking requirements were lifted through the update of the New Mexico Public Health Order on March 3, 2022. EPS Board of Education updated and approved EPS Masking Policies to lift Universal masking on March 29, 2022
23	Outdoor learning (describe) <i>required as either current or additional CSP</i>	Outdoor classrooms upgrades for all school sites are in place. Outdoor learning will be utilized to the greatest extent possible as an ECSP.
25	Student cohorting (describe)	As needed Student Cohorting will be enacted as an ECSP.
29	No spectators allowed at school events Masking at school events.	Masking will be required as an ECSP at all school events.
32	No large group gatherings (assemblies)	All non-sport/activity related large group gatherings will be postponed as an ECSP.
34	Hallway traffic one-way or divided in lanes	Directions traffic will be enacted as an ECSP.
37	Students move directly into classes/cohorts when arriving at school	To the greatest extent possible cohorting will be enacted as an ECSP.
40	Recess times/spaces staggered to separate classes/cohorts of students	As an ECSP student recess and lunch will be further staggered and separated.
41	Regular deep cleaning/disinfecting of facilities (describe)	EPS will continue with the Deep Cleaning Crew to clean/disinfect facilities to include: utilization of electrostatic machine and complete sanitization of high touch surfaces.
43	Process to review positive cases and to consider interventions based on data (describe) <i>Required as either current or additional CSP</i>	A structured process for reporting and tracking positive cases at all sites district wide has been implemented. Data will continue to be monitored and reported as required.
46	Drinking fountains closed (water bottles filled)	Touchless bottle filling stations have been installed at all school sites.
47	Lockers closed	As an ECSP student Lockers will be closed at MS/HS sites when necessary.