

SEARCH Day Program

2021-22 Virtual or Remote Learning Plan

October 2021

This school year appears to be one of transition, continued growth, and a return to more normalized school operations. SEARCH Day Program remains committed to maintaining a full-day (8:45am to 2:45 pm) schedule five days a week for in-person instruction for the upcoming school year. Discussions with parents/guardians, administrators, school nurses, teachers, and other community members helped inform this plan's development. In addition, this plan is a living document that will be continually updated as necessary or required, as it is expected that additional guidance will inform school operational decisions during the school year.

SEARCH Day Program is a state-approved, private school for students with disabilities (APSSD) with a student population of approximately 80 students. SEARCH Day Program provides intensive and individualized instruction using applied behavior analysis and evidence-based practices for autism educational services. Our plans have been developed to meet the unique needs of our students while maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Ensuring Continuity of Educational Services

Per NJDOE guidelines, students who must quarantine or isolate for COVID-19 related reasons will receive remote instruction aligned to in-person teaching and learning to the greatest extent possible. The school has a sufficient number of internet-ready laptop computers, Chromebooks and iPads to maintain a nearly 1:1 student/computer ratio. There is a process in place for parents to borrow a device from the school, if needed. In addition, the school has a supply of learning materials (picture cards, pre-vocational supplies, written and paper-based curriculums, manipulatives, etc.) that can be arranged to be sent home to assist parents who prefer to support their child's learning using low-tech remote instructional alternatives.

On an ongoing basis, as technology issues arise for students, parents, or faculty, each have been advised to contact the school principal or school supervisor for assistance in resolving their technology concerns. All efforts will be made to resolve technology issues efficiently, including delivering devices, resolving software concerns, repairing school devices, and obtaining internet services. When necessary, the school administration will contact the student's sending school district and case manager to assist in resolving technology issue.

Contact Information regarding technology needs:

Mike Carpino, mcarpino@searchdayprogram.com or 732- 531- 0454 ext. 107

Lori Evans, levans@searchdayprogram.com or 732- 531-0454 ext. 116

Steve Nuesch, steve@ppihx.com

Chris Porter at Cporter@searchdayprogram.com

Virtual or Remote Instruction

Students who must quarantine or isolate for COVID-19 related reasons will receive remote instruction aligned to in-person teaching and learning to the greatest extent possible. Remote instruction school days will plan for up to a minimum of 4 hours of standards-based instruction based on the student's

instructional, developmental, and emotional needs. Remote instruction will accommodate opportunities for both synchronous and asynchronous instruction based on student skills and the availability of support for learning in the home. To be scored present, students must participate in these activities to the greatest extent practical. For students whose skills do not allow them to participate in remote instruction to this extent, we will work with their families to develop alternative instructional activities and gradually increase the duration of instruction they can tolerate.

Considerations and procedures include: Those students who must isolate or quarantine due to a COVID-19 related matter will receive individualized remote instruction materials that are appropriate to their current IEP objectives and learning targets, with the necessary modifications and supports within one school day. Expectations for remote learning will be provided by the classroom teacher and related service providers and distributed to students (and parents) via the classroom teacher and related services providers using email, telephone contacts and video conferencing and/or instructional packets arranged to be distributed to home.

Prepare for Shift to Entirely Remote Learning

The school administrative team will continue to closely monitor NJ DOE, Health Department, and community public health guidance to determine if/when modifications to school schedules need to be implemented, such as transitions to all remote learning, modifications to in-person instruction, etc. SEARCH Day Program will plan to maintain a full-time, in-person and typical school schedule unless circumstances dictate that it is otherwise unsafe, and we will provide information to parents and school districts when necessary.

If SEARCH Day Program needs to close due to COVID-19 cases and the need to quarantine with consult of the local health department, the Monmouth County Superintendent and County Director of Special Services will be notified immediately and the following information will be provided:

- a) Name of the school;
- b) Date of closing;
- c) Anticipated date of re-opening;

Visitor Policy

Visitors continue to need to be scheduled, in advance, with the school office. Prior to arrival into the school building, they will be required to submit to a COVID-19 screening, and temperature check, to be completed by the school nurse, or nurse's designee. Visitors will be advised to wear a face covering (unless doing so would inhibit the visitor's health, if the visitor is under two years of age, or the face covering is impractical due to a disability). All visitors will be kept to a minimum. Essential visitors, such as district personnel, medical, and police or fire emergency personnel will be screened via COVID-19 symptoms checklist. Exemptions will be made for school emergencies.

General Health and Safety

Understanding that COVID-19 may impact certain areas of the state differently, NJDOH provides information on COVID-19 transmission at the regional level, characterizing risk as low (green), moderate (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red). SEARCH Day Program will follow the COVID-19 Regional Risk

Matrix to the greatest extent possible for everyday operations, school events, visitor's policy, cohorts, and quarantine, etc.

Face Coverings

Wearing masks is an important prevention strategy to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with other preventative actions and social distancing.

According to EO 251, masks must be worn indoors on school property by staff, students, and visitors in all situations with the following exceptions:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance;
- When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Educational Plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, precludes use of a face covering;
- When the individual is under two (2) years of age;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;
- When a student is participating in high-intensity physical activities during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals; or
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

Where an individual is seeking a medical exemption from the masking requirement pursuant to the first or third bullet above, documentation from a medical professional supporting this exception is required pursuant to Executive Order No. 253 .

In general, students or staff do not need to wear masks outdoors, including during outdoor physical education classes. However, schools may encourage the use of masks during outdoor activities that involve sustained close contact with other individuals or during periods of high community transmission.

The health office will continue provide information to staff and students on proper use, removal, and washing of masks.

Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting

Within classrooms: maintain 3 feet of physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable, combined with masking for all individuals per EO 251.

Outside of classrooms: including in hallways, locker rooms, indoor and outdoor physical education settings, and school-sponsored transportation, maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable.

Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms

All student desks have been re-arranged for allowing students to sit 3-6 feet apart; students will be seated in one direction, avoiding face-to-face arrangements, when possible. Additional instructional space continues to be available through re-purposing a multi-purpose room, school store, therapy rooms and designated outdoor spaces in order to maintain social distancing standards. Where necessary, physical barriers continue to be available to assist in social distancing modifications.

In classrooms, students and faculty continue to be treated as groups/cohorts. Modifications have been made to the school day, student/classroom schedules, and school transitioning patterns to permit groups to stay together and reduce any co-mingling across groups of students/faculty. This includes recreational and recess areas and schedules.

Classroom and student schedules have been modified to reduce transitions outside of classroom, reduce intermingling with others; faculty have been trained to be aware of the need to avoid intermingling with others from outside their cohort. In addition, groups/cohorts will continue to have separate assigned school building entrances/exits, separate use of microwaves, and bathroom stalls, etc. to reduce the potential for intermingling to the greatest extent possible.

Limited Shared Use of Objects

Classrooms have been re-arranged to eliminate sharing of classroom supplies, such as toys, books, or other material reinforcers; materials for pre-vocational tasks; instructional locations and supplies have been separated in classrooms to reduce potential for cross contamination and increase social distancing practices.

SEARCH Day Program will have adequate supplies (i.e., classroom supplies, equipment) to minimize sharing of high touch materials or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between use. Encourage hand hygiene practices between uses of shared items. Discourage use of shared items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.

Ventilation

Ventilation filters have been routinely replaced. In buildings with recirculated air, the HVAC has a fresh air component.

Classroom and office windows and doors will be open a minimum 2 times during each day for air circulation (unless there are medical concerns, such as seasonal allergy, asthma, or inclement weather present). The child-safe fans will be utilized to increase the effectiveness of open windows.

Sanitization Stations

Alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer dispensers and stations have been purchased and installed at various locations throughout buildings on campus; classrooms, near bathrooms and entrances, offices and therapy rooms.

Facilitate Student Handwashing

Teachers, teacher assistants and 1:1 aides continue to play a critical role in this area of student hygiene and safety. They are advising students to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

at regular intervals, such as upon arrival, when transitioning in the classroom, when returning into the classroom, before eating and after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing. There is also signage encouraging handwashing at various locations on campus, such as bathrooms and lunch areas. All faculty have received training regarding proper handwashing practices and have been encouraged to use those practices when instructing students in their classrooms.

Facilities Cleaning Practices

Since re-opening in July 2020, SEARCH Day Program has implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures using EPA approved disinfectants and following CDC guidance. These practices will continue;

- A checklist was created and distributed to each classroom for implementation and documentation of high-touch surface cleaning such as but not limited to desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.
- A checklist was created and distributed to cleaning team for cleaning and disinfecting common area such as the three recreational areas, bathrooms, water coolers handles, and printing areas.
- Faculty have been advised to clean and disinfect when students transition to new classroom, therapy room, and recreational locations; and before transitioning away from the instructional areas. All staff will then fill out the checklist and the cleaning team or the next class knows that the room has been disinfected. Teacher assistants and 1:1 aides play a critical role in these areas of daily student routines and programs.

Teacher assistants and 1:1 aides received specific training along with licensed professionals on cleaning, disinfecting, and documenting.

Transportation

SEARCH Day Program does not operate school transportation services for students. However, SEARCH Day Program school administration has worked (and will continue to work) with case managers, school district transportation personnel, and Directors of Special Services to ensure that staggered busing arrival and departures facilitate social distancing practices; and that social distancing and face coverings are practiced while students are being transported, to the greatest extent possible. As necessary, our bus aides and school administration communicate with sending school districts to maintain compliance with COVID-19 practices. Additionally, the school has signage in drop-off and pick-up areas and personnel present to ensure COVID-19 protocol compliance.

Screening and Admittance

The school will continue ongoing education for staff, students, and their families about when they should stay home and return to school. Students and staff should stay home if they:

- Have tested positive (viral test) for COVID-19.
- Are sick.
- They are not fully vaccinated and have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

Screening

Staff will check their temperature upon the school entrances at the Hersh, Ivy, and CLC buildings. Staff may proceed to their workspaces if their temperature is below 100 F; and sign in to classrooms acknowledging that they do not have COVID exposure in the past 14 days, no one is sick in their household, and they are COVID free symptoms based on NJDOH and CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained.

The school nurse will make sure that temperature scanners are calibrated regularly. The facility manager will monitor that batteries are changed regularly.

Daily health surveillance for students and staff will be documented when signs and symptoms of illness are observed. Any students or staff with symptoms related to COVID-19 will be isolated and removed.

Exclusion

Parents should not send students to school when sick. The NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school for further evaluation by a healthcare provider:

- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: Cough shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

Only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline will be used for students with chronic illness to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

SEARCH Day Program will notify MRHD when students or staff:

- Are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure;
- When they see an increase in the number of persons with COVID-19 compatible symptoms.
- Test positive for COVID-19.

COVID-19 exclusion criteria for persons who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19:

- Ill individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until **at least 10 days** have passed since symptom onset and **at least 24 hours** have passed after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic should stay home for **10 days** from the positive test result.
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school during periods of moderate, high, or very high community transmission.

SEARCH Day Program will follow the COVID-19 Exclusion Table to determine the need for and duration of school exclusion based on the level of COVID-19 community transmission in the Central-Eastern region of NJ.

COVID-19 exclusion criteria for close contacts:

Exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will be referred for COVID-19 testing, except people who had COVID-19 in the past 90 days.

- If negative, they will quarantine at home according to the COVID-19 Exclusion Table after exposure.
- If positive, they should isolate for 10 days.

Exposed close contacts who are asymptomatic and are either fully vaccinated or had COVID-19 in the past 90 days:

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, but should be tested 3-5 days following exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following exposure.
- Should wear a mask at school for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others and be referred to their health care provider.

SEARCH Day Program will utilize community transmission levels for excluded individuals who are close contacts of staff or students who tested positive for COVID-19:

- **High** (orange) exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded for 14 days.
- **Moderate or Low** (yellow or green) exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be excluded from school for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days).

Exception for household contacts: In all risk levels, students and staff who are not fully vaccinated and who are household members of a student/staff member with COVID-19 compatible symptoms that meet COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria will be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result.

SEARCH Day Program is serving medically complex pediatric population: Based on individual cases and the age of the students, the school nurse may use a 14-day exclusion period in all levels of community transmission.

Communication

SEARCH Day Program (SDP) Policies and Procedures on masks, vaccination, testing, and isolation have been added to their SDP Personnel Manual with faculty reviewing and signature of receipt.

A core way to support safe return is to encourage school staff, students, and their families to be vaccinated. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students (12 years and older), teachers, staff, and household members is a critical strategy to help schools safely resume full in-person operations.

SEARCH Day Program will continue to have an open conversation with families, students, and faculty and encourage steps to support COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and other prevention measures among their teachers, staff, students, and families.

Using electronic emails, virtual community meetings, paper flyers, etc. the school administration and school nurse have communicated to parents COVID-19 safety measures including:

- Keeping children home when ill
- Proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Importance of wearing face coverings
- Avoiding touching your face as much as possible
- Reporting illnesses and symptoms to the school nurse immediately

Testing

At all levels of community transmission, NJDOH recommends that schools identify rapid viral testing options in their community to test symptomatic individuals and asymptomatic individuals exposed to someone with COVID-19.

SEARCH Day Program will implement diagnostic testing to facilitate rapid diagnosis and limit unnecessary school exclusion for students and staff.

On April 21, 2021, SEARCH Day Program obtained Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) to satisfy NJDOH requirements for diagnostic testing. The point of contact (POC) person is health administrator, Viktoriya Orman, MSN, ANP-BC: vorman@searchdayprogram.com or 732-531-0454 ext.109.

During the school year of 2021-2022, SEARCH Day Program is utilizing the AccessBio CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test to detect SARS-CoV-2 Antigen (RCHM-02071) with BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card, which evaluates symptomatic individuals or individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19.

To comply with Executive Order No. 253 and support the safe return to full in-person learning, SEARCH Day Program will be implementing screening testing on-site at school implemented by vendor, Rover Labs, for unvaccinated staff in conjunction with NJDOH and DOE once per week.

Testing Logistics:

- SEARCH Day Program will offer Antigen Rapid Covid-19 Testing voluntarily to symptomatic students and staff
- The NJ State vendor, Rover Labs, will use supervised individual saliva PCR testing
 - The security protocol will be established for collection supervisors from Rover Labs entering the school each week
- Parental consent for all students must be obtained before testing
- All testing results will be reported electronically into the NJDOH Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS)
- Testing will be performed in the health office and/or the school store, and each location will be fully equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) for persons conducting screening

testing. In addition, increased airflow, air filtration, disinfecting, and cleaning protocols will be implementing to meet testing requirements

- Will maintain the confidentiality of results and protect student privacy
- If rapid test result is positive, an individual will be immediately sent home and referred to their healthcare provider for further evaluation and possible PCR testing to confirm COVID-19 diagnosis.

Method Collection:

- The CareStart™ COVID-19 Antigen will be used to test freshly collected anterior nasal swab samples directly using a dual nares collection (swab inserted in both nares, 5 rotations per naris) as outlined in the [Access Bio CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Instructions for Use](#)
- The PCR diagnostic test will be used to collect a specimen for testing, which involves collecting saliva (spit) in a small tube

Test:

- Test taker checks in; test kit is registered and assigned to a test taker.
- For rapid antigen test: A sample is collected from the test taker, applied to the test card, and the timer is started according to the test's Instructions For Use (between 10-15 minutes).
- For PCR saliva test: a sample of saliva is collected from the test taker into vial and sent to Rover Labs
 - Rover Lab provide end-to-end services that covers comprehensive testing services, from planning and coordination to test administration and reporting.

Results:

Rapid Testing:

- The result is read and interpreted by the school nurse. The result is then recorded in the Concentric by the Ginkgo portal.
- The school nurse will verbally share individual results with tested individuals and parents/guardians.
- In addition, tested individuals and/or parents/guardians will receive test results via email from Concentric by the Ginkgo portal.

PCR Testing:

- Rover Lab will provide results within 24-48 hours directly to the school, test taker, and state authorities

In the case of a delay from the state vendor, Rover Labs, SEARCH Day Program will begin to test unvaccinated individuals using their CLIA certificate and rapid antigen testing to satisfy testing requirements.

If SEARCH Day Program has direct cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and we will collaborate to follow up on next steps. When needed, the school nurse or school administrator will call MRHC#1 732-493-9520 for further guidance.

School administration and/or school nurse will immediately notify local health officials, staff, and families in the event that an individual who has spent time in the school tests positive for COVID-19.

Isolation of Symptomatic Individuals

Any student or staff will be isolated and removed if symptoms are related to COVID-19. There is a designated separate area for isolation in each school building (Hersh Hall- re-purposed break room; Ivy Hedge-re-purposed nursing room; CLC-repurposed fitness center). Suspected symptomatic faculty and students will be directed (students escorted) to the separated COVID-19 isolation area on campus.

Methods to Assist in Contact Tracing

The classroom faculty and students have been assigned according to groupings/cohorts that will reduce contact with others from outside groups/cohorts to assist with contact tracing. The use of toilets, sinks, microwaves, school entrances and exits, have been separated. There are school schedules and individual classroom plans illustrating the use of all locations. The school nurse will conduct follow-up and surveillance with symptomatic persons and cases, as required in CDC, local health department, and NJ Department of Health guidance.

When SEARCH Day Program has confirmed positive COVID-19 case(s), contact tracing will be coordinated through the school nurse. When needed, the school nurse or school administrator will call MRHC#1 732-493-9520 for further guidance.

Readmittance Policies/When to Return

All readmittance procedures will be coordinated between the school nurse, and when needed, NJDOH. If diagnosed with COVID-19, with or without positive test and/or symptoms, please refer to CDC protocol and NJDOH home isolation for persons diagnosed with COVID-19 for return to school or work.

Meals

At SEARCH Day Program, student lunch is only parent-provided. Classroom routines have been modified to accommodate social distancing practices during lunch periods. All students will eat separately in their classrooms at their individual desks (spaced at least 3- 6ft part). There will be no communal dining; and there is no cafeteria on campus. Families and parents send in food with their children each school day. A supply of plastic flatware, paper plates, paper cups, etc. have been acquired to replace the need for non-disposable food service items. For lunch preparation, the use of microwaves have been separated by classroom cohorts, to minimize cross-contamination. Teachers and classroom aides will clean and disinfect eating surfaces following all snacks and lunches. All faculty have been advised to wash their hands with soap and water after handling used food service items or when removing their gloves. If a faculty member identifies a family or student for which food security is a challenge, we will contact and work with the sending school district to identify ways to address this challenge.

Recess/Physical Education

Each classroom uses designated playgrounds and outdoor recreational spaces for students to practice IEP objectives, and participate in physical education classes. All outdoor activities are conducted in designated recreational areas on campus, and are assigned to classrooms using a cohort model to reduce potential for cohort intermingling. Fencing, cones, and signage are located at each recreational area to assist in maintaining social distancing between classes and students. Faculty and students have been advised to wash hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer) after using recreational spaces and before returning to the classroom. Following each physical education class, teacher assistants and 1:1 aides contribute to the enhanced cleaning protocol implemented by the physical education teacher. All playgrounds are disinfected by custodial staff right after a class exits with a backpack spraying system using an EPA certified disinfectant, Neutral Q. The disinfecting solution is sprayed and left to dry for 10 minutes before the next class is scheduled.

Field Trips, Extra-curricular Activities (CBI and SLE instruction)-

Depending on factors related to COVID-19, such as community spread, local and state NJDOE or NJDOH guidance, all off-campus activities such as Community Based Instruction (CBI) and Structured Learning Experiences (SLE) will be slowly re-implemented and begin with activities planned in open-spaced, unpopulated, and localized community settings, such as parks and farms. Until then, we are using a variety of virtual platforms, and on-campus activities to fulfill these IEP and program requirements. Alternatively, CBI's and SLE's are being addressed through a variety of activities, such as virtual CBI's, virtual work trips, and employee interviews. Depending on the student profile, students may also participate in guided student research and career opportunities, on site or in-person, simulated pre-vocational activities and simulating interactive job interviews, gardening and pre-cooking activities, as well.

Executive Order No. 251 <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-251.pdf>

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NJDOE Memo - Educating Students during Quarantine

<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2021/aug/11/Educating%20Students%20During%20Quarantine.pdf>

Access Bio CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test Instructions for Use

<https://www.fda.gov/media/142919/download>

Public Health Recommendations for Implementing COVID-19 Screening Testing in K-12 Schools

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/K-12_screening_testing_guidelines.pdf

The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year

<https://www.nj.gov/education/roadforward/docs/HealthAndSafetyGuidanceSY2122.pdf>

NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_schools.shtml

