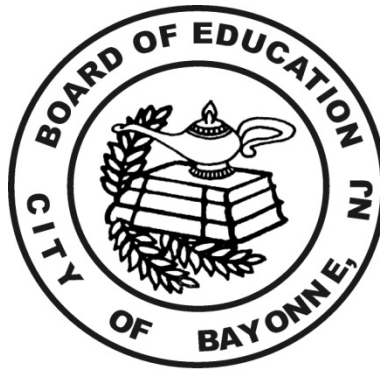


COVID-19 Pandemic  
Bayonne Readiness Drill



**July 15, 2020**  
**Summary Report**

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COVID-19 is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus. Most cases of COVID-19 are mild to moderate, like the common cold. But it can be more severe in older adults and people with chronic health conditions. (<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>)

The virus is most likely to be spread from person to person by droplets when coughing and from contact with surfaces where those droplets have landed. Since this virus is new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. (<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>)

On March 16, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order 104, calling for schools to halt in-person instruction to protect the State from the spread of COVID-19. That order triggered widespread changes to the State's education system and way of life. Educators transitioned critical services to remote settings; families turned their living rooms into classrooms; and students took on new lives balancing their studies with the deep personal and socioemotional impacts of this pandemic (NJDOE The Road Back)

On March 13, 2020 the Bayonne School District closed for the protection of all students, faculty, staff and administration. The safety and security of our students, stakeholders and their families are at the forefront of our academic mission. The 2019-2020 school year came to a close in June 2020 after almost four months of virtual learning.

The 2020-2021 Bayonne school year is currently under study, review and research. As part of our planning and preparedness a Readiness Drill (Red Drill) was performed. A Red Drill (in the context of our planning) is a simulation of actual events in a school day. The Drills purpose is to identify and analyze Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) as we analyze the return to school during a pandemic.

On July 15, 2020 The Bayonne School District conducted a Red Drill. The participants were teachers, nurses, athletic trainer, office staff, security and custodial staff. All in attendance to observe were the Board of Education Association President, Board of Education President and administration of the Bayonne Board of Education.

The purpose of the drill was to simulate the return to instruction in socially distant buildings with new screening protocol.

Teachers were to role play themselves acting like high school students. Each normal school day operation was recorded. Each classroom was set up to accommodate nine students to allow for six feet of social distancing. Social distancing was observed in the classroom, however as with all normal operations, instruction must be given and reinforced about social distancing.

Teachers were assigned various roles - the roles were:

- Fever
- Forgot something
- Parent picking up
- Doctor's appointment
- Family Member had COVID-19
- Needs medication

Each participant role played the above as if it was a normal scheduled day and results were recorded – as we observed the student walk from the classroom to a point of destination.

Timeline:

09:15-09:31

Students (teachers) enter through main entrance and submit to thermal image scan for body temperature as well as screened by security through metal detector as normal entrance protocol

09:40 Students report to class / while in class all students acting out their specific role

Within this report are the confidential reflections of some participants.

Observations of the Red Drill are attached.

Summary:

The Red Drill exposed the inherent challenges of maintaining social distancing while providing a thorough and efficient education for all students. Maintaining social distancing will be a challenge. There are a plethora of incidents and occurrences that take place with a school. The Red Drill took a snapshot of a few such incidents such as a student with a fever, going to the bathroom, forgetting something, parent pick up, doctor's apportionment, and a family member having COVID-19.

The Red Drill lessons learned are attached - we may require more personnel to teach, secure and screen our morning and afternoon arrival and dismissal procedures. The natural ebb and flow during the school day of students and employees needs constant monitoring. The district will find it very difficult to prevent and combat students from failing to maintain social distance at all grade levels. The risk of in-person instruction and exposure to COVID-19 is a challenge that will require personnel and materials that may be difficult to obtain. The classroom while separated by six feet from each desk is also the launching point from where students will leave and return for the normal occurrences of a school day. Student belongings will also incur a challenge and risk. Lunch and Breakfast will be a grab and go and occur outside of the classroom. The district is investigating mechanisms for distribution - no mechanism will allow for students to travel to the cafeteria or have lunch in large group settings. Meals may be provided in bulk before and/or after school.

At the time of this writing: The Bayonne School District is actively acquiring and purchasing personal protective equipment, plexiglass, sanitizer, technology and heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) to mitigate the exposure to COVID-19.

The safety and security of our students, employees and Bayonne families is our utmost priority and we will work to provide the safest learning platform for our students.