

Strang School at Ranch Hope Inc.

NJDOE Checklist for School Health-Related Closure and Emergency Remote Learning Plan

Opening Plan and Emergency Remote Learning Plan

Strang School is the on-site APSSD servicing the needs of students who are currently residing at Ranch Hope, Inc.'s Residential Treatment Facility, a behavioral healthcare center licensed by the NJ Department of Children and Families. Strang School provides instruction only to the students that reside at Ranch Hope and day students as enrolled. Our plan will be available and shared with all sending districts on our website: [Ranch Hope | An Expectation of Success \(www.ranchhope.org\)](http://www.ranchhope.org)

- Students will receive in-person instruction beginning September 7, 2022, as per the 22-23 school year calendar.
- Students will attend school Monday through Friday, 8:35 am to 3:05 pm daily in the approved school buildings located on the campus of Ranch Hope.
- Due to COVID 19 safety procedures and protocols have been put in place to minimize person to person contact.
- There is a Ranch Hope/Strang School team that meets regularly to discuss the safety of the residents/students and staff to ensure proper health protocols and academic expectations are met.

Equitable Access and Opportunity to Instruction

Equitable access and opportunity to instruction is provided for all students. Our educational program ensures that all students have access to varied high quality, standards-based instruction. Our youth's age-appropriate needs are met by providing educational, clinical, and residential services to maximize growth and learning outcomes. Currently we provide synchronous learning plans for our youth based on their Individual Learning Plans (IEP). Lesson plans will continue to be submitted to the academic leadership team as per the school's weekly lesson plan schedule. We continuously measure and communicate formative and summative student growth and learning daily by utilizing in person instruction.

Digital Divide

The digital divide issues are a non-issue due to the nature of our behavioral health care facilities. Our youth have limited access and restrictions to technology that are in place while a youth is residing at Ranch Hope during their treatment. Due to Ranch Hope/Strang School being a closed cell, regular school and social distancing can be maintained even in the event of a COVID case being on campus. For example, if a youth exhibits or contracts COVID 19, Ranch Hope's quarantine and isolation procedures will be enacted to maintain the safety and well-being of all youth/staff. This process can be applied for other School Health-Related Closure and Emergency Remote Learning Plan situations.

Addressing Special Education Needs

The program is designed to address all areas of the students' Individual Education Programs (IEPs) to the greatest extent possible. Materials and platforms are accessible. The documentation for IEP implementation of tracking of services, student progress, and provisions of accommodations and modification is completed by our school staff. Our school social workers work directly with the families and sending school districts to conduct IEP meetings, evaluations, and reevaluations for all our students.

Addressing English language learners (ELL) Plan Needs

Due to the nature and limitation of our residential treatment facility, we usually do not have ELL students enrolled. If the need arises, our leadership team will determine on a case-by-case basis to ensure the implementation of their IEP. We will secure appropriate training for staff as the needs arise. If we encounter a situation with families that are non-English speaking, we will provide all correspondence: emails, letters, text messages, and notices will be translated into the native language using Google Translate. Our program does include trainings for teachers, administrators, and counselors to learn strategies related to culturally responsive teaching and learning, socio-emotional learning, and trauma-informed teaching for students.

Currently, our program does not have any students affected by forced migration from their home country and if Strang School at Ranch Hope, Inc. places such students, we will secure appropriate training for staff.

Attendance Plan

Strang School is uniquely located on the campus of the behavioral healthcare facility, Ranch Hope, Inc. Our youth are scheduled to reside for 9 – 12 months to complete their individualized treatment plans. Our youth can walk from their assigned cottages directly to the school building. Our administrative team documents and reports attendance in accordance with our Committee on Education approved school calendar. Families and guardians are communicated with by our school leadership team, clinical department, and residential directors on a regular basis to discuss academic performance, discipline, and treatment goals.

Safe Delivery of Meals Plan

Students lunch times have been staggered to minimize the number of students that eat lunch together in the cafeteria. Tables are arranged to maintain social distancing and limiting the number of students/staffs per table. Meals are provided by our food services department. The cafeteria is in walking distance from all school, clinical, and residential related activities.

Facilities Plan and Cleaning Practices

Custodial staff and school personnel have been informed of their responsibilities to increase the cleaning and disinfection of targeted areas.

General Health/Safety

- All Strang School staff and students will be instructed to wear a face covering when indoors. If they do not have one, one will be provided.
- All staff will be required to be vaccinated or tested one time weekly for COVID beginning on September 12, 2022.
- All students will be informed of the 3' social distancing practices.
- Staff will limit the use of shared items as much as possible and in areas that items must be shared items will be wiped down with disinfecting wipes.
- The Ranch Hope maintenance department will ensure that indoor facilities will have adequate ventilation by maintaining operational heating and ventilation systems where appropriate and that recirculated air has a fresh air component. Heating and AC filters will be properly maintained according to manufacturer recommendations.

- If a student is ill, they will remain in their treatment home on campus and will not be permitted to return to school until cleared by Ranch Hope's on-site APN.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available to our students and staff. The custodial staff will ensure that the appropriate soap/sanitizers are readily accessible.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will take place daily in classrooms and throughout school buildings.

Transportation

- Students walk daily from their treatment homes to School; transportation is not necessary. In the event that travel is necessary students/staff will be required to wear a face covering and enact practices of social distancing to the maximum extent practicable.

Student Flow, Entry, Exit and Common Areas

- Residential treatment staff will inform the school nurse if a youth is exhibiting any COVID related symptoms prior to bringing them to school. The student will remain in their treatment home until the nurse can determine if it is safe for the student to attend school. The nurse will confer with the Ranch Hope APN to determine if a student needs to be tested and/or be quarantined.

Screening/PPE/and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms

- The Ranch Hope/Strang School Team work continuously to ensure that staff call-offs and staff that present symptoms are screened and directed how to enact and maintain safety protocols before returning to work.
- The Strang school nurse and Ranch Hope APN are in daily, direct communication with local health officials and administration. Students' parents/guardians are notified if a student presents with symptoms.
- Students that present with symptoms will be COVID tested which is coordinated by the Ranch Hope APN. While awaiting results the student will be quarantined in their room until test results are returned. If the results are positive the student will be instructed to stay quarantined in their room. Staff will follow quarantine protocols until student is cleared to resume normal activity.
- Any staff presenting symptoms while at work will be sent home immediately and required to follow COVID guidelines to ensure they are safe to return to campus.

Contact Tracing

- If a youth or staff is diagnosed with having COVID the Ranch Hope/Strang School HR department will request a list of all individuals that the diagnosed individual has been in close contact with during the past 72 hours. HR will communicate to the individuals reported on that list they may have been exposed to COVID. The HR department will also share that information with the Ranch Hope APN who communicates directly with the Salem County NJDOH as directed by CDC, state, and local health department guidance.

Essential Employees and School Personnel

- The building will remain open for youth to attend school while residing at Ranch Hope. We are currently a closed campus. Only staff and essential personal are permitted on campus. This includes but is not limited to Teachers, Teaching Assistants and 1:1 Aides, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, School Nurse, Administrative Assistants, Administrators, and Custodial and Maintenance Workers.
- When essential employees are identified, a list can be provided to the county office at the time of the Strang School's transition to a School Health-Related Closure and Emergency Remote Learning Plan.

Recess/Physical Education

- Students are encouraged to practice good hygiene after physical education or recess (ie. handwashing and sanitizing hands.)

Field Trips/Extra-curricular Activities & Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours

- Presently Strang School does not organize extracurricular activities after school.
- Outside visitors or organizations are not permitted on the premises of Ranch Hope/Strang School until further notice. Visitors are limited to essential staff and vendors. Visitors/vendors are required to wear the appropriate face covering and maintain social distancing.