

Penn-Delco School District Health and Safety Plan
2021-22 Academic Year
Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2021
UPDATED 8/31/21
UPDATED 1/9/22
UPDATED 2/23/22

Overview:

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The Penn-Delco School District substantially limited the effect of COVID-19 on school district operations during the 2020-2021 school year by adhering to professional advice and recommendations from established public health agencies. The district intends to follow a similar practice for the upcoming school year. The school district implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health, CHOP Policy Lab, and the Chester County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Throughout the school year, the district promoted widely accepted practices, such as hand-washing, masking, and physical distancing, to limit the spread of the virus. The Penn-Delco School District supported and advertised opportunities for students to participate in regional vaccination clinics and partnered with the DCIU to ensure that an overwhelming majority of employees were vaccinated when the opportunity became available.

The Penn-Delco School District will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and CHOP Policy Lab, whenever public health guidance is revised, updated, or released. This information will assist the district when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan as necessary. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

The Penn-Delco School District anticipates a full return to in-person, face-to-face learning for the 2021-22 Academic Year. Nevertheless, supports and select interventions will be in place throughout 2021-2022 school year for any student or staff member who is impacted by COVID-19. Penn-Delco's fully online Cyber School, select all-synchronous secondary courses, and asynchronous learning opportunities, will be available. Asynchronous course content that has been curated from coursework delivered during the 2021-2022 school year will also be utilized if necessary.

Social and emotional supports for students and staff will continue to be a focus during the 2021-2022 school year. School level PBIS committees will lead this work to ensure students have the support they require to be successful.

PBIS committees will plan school-wide PBIS expectations and develop monthly SEL lessons. The PBIS teams will utilize the Student Risk Screening Scale from the Comprehensive Integrated 3-Tiered Model for Internalizing and Externalizing behaviors to proactively identify and monitor students who require support and interventions. PBIS committees are trained to support classroom teachers with Tier I or II interventions that teachers can apply in the classroom.

Students requiring significant Tier II or III support and interventions, will have access to individual and/or group counseling sessions with the school counselor. In addition, students may be assigned a teacher mentor for additional support.

The district will continue to support secondary students and families through the Student Assistance Program (SAP).

The district will continue to participate in the National School Lunch Program. Students in attendance at school will have the opportunity to purchase lunch or receive a lunch under the free or reduced plans, while qualifying fully virtual students may access meal distribution once a week every Wednesday for the following week.

The district will submit an Emergency Time Template to document credible instructional hours to meet ongoing instructional requirement via synchronous and asynchronous supports when schools cannot open for in-person learning.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA 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 policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

*** NOTE: The district will refer to the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K12 Schools as a reference of guidance and directives. The table below represents some of the key items from the full list of recommendations of the CDC, PA DOH, and CHOP Policy Lab that the district will rely upon. In a case in which the guidance from the three agencies may conflict, the district will defer to protocols that enable it to prioritize in-person learning supported by active efforts at mitigation and safety protocols to best manage schools during a pandemic period.

<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective 2/24/22, The Penn-Delco School District shall recommend, but not require, universal masking of all persons in our schools in response to notable reduction in virus cases throughout Delaware County, PA • The district will maintain an ample supply of back-up masks for students who may forget their personal mask. • The district will consider recommendations and orders concerning face coverings that may be put in place by health and/or government officials. • Signage that reiterates the current status of masking will be posted in various high traffic locations in the schools. • School to Home communication and announcements will reiterate the guidance from PA DOH, CDC, and CHOP Policy Lab as needed. • Per the CDC’s order on wearing masks on public transportation, masks are required to be worn by passengers and drivers on school buses until this order is lifted.
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<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per the CDC and PA DOH, “schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures.” • By striving to maintain at least 3 feet of physical distancing between students in classrooms, the risk of transmission is reduced. • All visitors will follow the masking protocol in place in that building at the time of visitation.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice encourages hand washing before and after meals, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. Effective handwashing calls for 20 seconds of effort. The district will encourage our students, staff, and visitors to implement these best practices. • The district will continue to make available hand sanitizer in strategic locations of high traffic areas. • The district will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district utilizes EPA Approved Disinfectants for use against COVID 19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces. • If there is a known case of COVID-19, a cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place. • The district will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. The district will change filters regularly for these systems.

<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will report confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the health department using the reporting procedures and requirements that are in place at a given time. • Students, staff or contractors, who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are probable cases, are required to notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual. • Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 can return to school 5 days after symptom onset, or date of test positivity if they have no symptoms, provided they have resolving symptoms (including resolution of fever) and continue to wear a mask for 5 additional days, even when masks may be optional or recommended. • Students and staff who are close contacts with an individual who has COVID-19, and not a household member, may remain in school and work if they are asymptomatic. Persons in this scenario must conduct daily symptom screenings and wear a mask at all times for seven days (CHOP PolicyLab refers to this as Mask to Stay) even when masks may be optional or recommended. • Students and staff who are close contacts with an individual who has COVID-19, and is a direct household member with that person, may remain in work and school if they are asymptomatic and the student/staff member is fully vaccinated. • The close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and exposed students wore masks. Close contact tracing of in-school students and staff who become symptomatic and have been unmasked while consuming lunch for an extended period of time may occur if possible. • Athletics and extracurriculars are suspended if the PA DOH recommends a specific school closure due to a COVID-19 outbreak identified and acknowledged by DOH.
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<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will follow policy directives on Immunization and Communicable Diseases for guidance on communicable diseases such as COVID 19. • The district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, face shields, masks, eye protection, gloves, etc. • The district requires staff and contractors to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms as will be outlined at the start of the school year. • Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any. • Staff and students who are ill must stay home from work, programs, and schools. • Staff and students shall be sent home if they become ill at work, school, program, or service. • Students, Staff, and Contracted service providers shall report immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or health department. • The district may implement a rapid antigen testing program for individuals who become symptomatic during school or working hours, subject to the availability of resources and tests.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member as it is notified of opportunities. The district will promote clinics that are co-sponsored by the district should one occur.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that require a specially-prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team may reconvene to develop specially-designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of School Directors for the **Penn-Delco School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 18, 2021**, and further reviewed and updated the plan on **January 9, 2022**, and **February 23, 2022**.

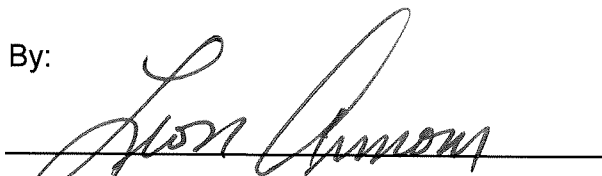
The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes 7-0-2

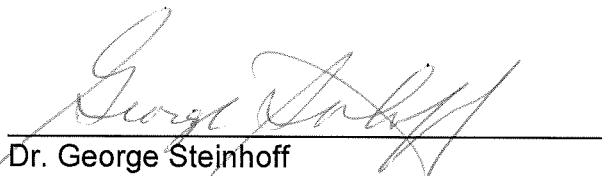
No

Affirmed on: **February 23, 2022**

By:



Mr. Leon Armour
PDSD School Board President



Dr. George Steinhoff
Penn Delco School District, Superintendent of Schools

Board Approved

FEB 23 2022

Penn-Delco School District