

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Penn-Delco School District

Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2021

Date of Last Board Review/Revision:

Updated 8/31/21

Updated 1/9/22

Updated 2/23/22

Updated 4/27/22

Updated 7/20/22

Updated 1/25/23

Updated 9/27/23

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 school district has implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years using mitigation strategies recommended 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. Further, our district supported and advertised vaccination clinics for staff and students, and implemented COVID-19 testing programs to support identifying potential exposures and to keep students and staff in school.

Our district will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, Delaware County Health Department, and CHOP Policy Lab in the event new information is provided that the district should consider. For the 2023-2024 school year, the district may implement the recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PA Department of Health, CDC, or the Delaware County Department of Health. The district will rely on relevant board policies and legal and/or statutory requirements regarding communicable disease to guide responses to COVID-19. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district in the event of another outbreak.

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 district intends to operate all programs in an in-person format. The district has an approved *Emergency Instructional Time Plan* as permitted by PDE [Section 520.1 – 2023-2024 School Year]. This plan will guide any other strategies to be used in the unlikely event that the district must utilize non-traditional approaches to instruction to meet educational needs of students.

3. The table below explains 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 policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal and correct wearing of masks; 	<p>The district will not require masking for students, staff, volunteers, or visitors unless there is a mandate from the PA Department of Health, CDC, or the Delaware County Department of Health. The district will support all individuals who prefer to continue to wear a mask and that option to do so remains in place. It is highly encouraged for nonvaccinated individuals that masks are worn during high regional levels of COVID-19.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<p>The district will continue to provide extra attention to routine maintenance and repairs of school facilities and HVAC systems. The district will operate in-person for all educational programs. There will be no requirements for physical distancing during the 2023-2024 school year unless there is a mandate to do so from one of the governmental agencies listed just above.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; 	<p>Best practice encourages frequent hand washing. The district will encourage our students, staff, and contractors to implement and follow best practices around respiratory etiquette and handwashing.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; 	<p>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, with additional cleaning applied to areas that may have been occupied by those with known cases of COVID-19 as applicable.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will not be performing contact tracing activities, as these are the requirements of the health departments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for optional use when individuals become ill: gowns, face covering, eye protection, gloves. • The district recommends staff, contractors, and students to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing illness.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and guardians are recommended to always screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing illness. • The district may choose to implement a rapid antigen testing program for individuals (staff, students, contractors) who become symptomatic during the program, school or working hours. This program will be in place as long as the district is part of the Project ACE-IT program and testing supplies are available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; 	<p>COVID-19 Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of severe infection. The district encourages all staff, students, and family members to consider vaccinations as a key strategy for COVID-19.</p> <p>The district may advertise opportunities for families to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member, should parents be interested.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and 	<p>For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that required a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP may reconvene to develop specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<p>The district may consult with the Delaware County Health Department for all communicable disease questions and concerns.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other mitigation strategies at the district. 	<p>Mitigation strategies are outlined above. There are no other mitigation strategies being considered at this time.</p>

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, February 23, 2022, April 27, 2022, July 20, 2022, August 23, 2023, and September 27, 2023.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on **9/27/23**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Mr. Leon Armour

(Print Name of Board President)