Health and Safety District Overview

Aug. 14, 2020*

*The information provided here is the most current information on these topics to date.
Health and Safety Plan: Face Coverings

All students are required to wear face coverings on district transportation and on district property.

Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability is not required to wear face coverings. Exceptions to the face covering requirement will be documented in a student’s IEP, 504, or another individual student health plan.

Extra masks for students who forget or need a mask will be available.

Faculty and staff are required to wear face coverings (masks/face shields) when in the building and when working in close proximity to others (within 6 feet).
Health and Safety Plan: Cleaning

Cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses will occur daily by custodial staff. Spaces, including classroom and common areas, offices, restrooms, door handles, and district transportation, will be cleaned and sanitized.

Written protocols for cleaning throughout the day will be monitored through a checklist by custodial supervisors.

Teachers will have access to cleaning supplies that can be used throughout the day as needed.
Health and Safety Plan: Fountains

Communal drinking fountains will be turned off and covered. Each building will have touchless water filling stations installed as they become available.

Teachers should encourage students to bring their own water from home. Alternative sources such as bottled water will be provided to students as needed.
Health and Safety Plan: Ventilation

On average, two full air changes occur per hour in our classrooms as 30% new air is constantly circulated through our HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) systems.

The HVAC systems of schools are designed to provide proper ventilation, temperature, and humidity conditions. The amount of outside air will increase when conditions are favorable. Favorable conditions are when the temperature is no warmer than 60°F and with relative humidity less than 70%.

To avoid creating indoor air quality issues, it is best to keep the windows closed and allow the HVAC system to operate automatically. Our HVAC systems have air filters that filter contaminants from outside air and operate fully when windows are closed.
Health and Safety Plan: Transportation

Bus drivers and aides will be asked to wear a mask or face shield when students are entering and exiting the school vehicle, and to the extent feasible when the bus is in motion.

Drivers’ temperatures will be checked upon starting their AM and PM runs.

Drivers will be assigned to spray all high-touch surfaces with disinfectant between runs.

Weather permitting, bus windows will be open for ventilation.

Siblings may be seated together, and seat assignments will be provided to students to the extent feasible.

Spacing students on buses will occur to the maximum extent feasible.

Students will be required to wear face coverings at the bus stop and while riding the bus.
Health and Safety Plan: Breakfast and Lunch

Cafeterias and additional spaces will be utilized to allow for distancing during lunches. Alternative scheduling will be considered to decrease the number of students in lunch periods.

Where feasible, “grab and go” meals will be encouraged with other alternative locations to eat.
Health and Safety Plan: Breakfast and Lunch

Students will be separated in eating spaces and required to wear face coverings when not eating/drinking. Elementary and middle school students will be seated by cohorts, and students are not permitted to mix with other cohorts. High school students will be required to distance to the maximum extent feasible.

Students will be able to provide their pin/last name verbally to the cashier instead of entering it on the pin pad to eliminate the high-touch area. Cash payments are discouraged.

Cafeterias and other common areas will have markings and traffic flow signage, including spaced markings in serving lines.

Students will use disposable flatware, trays, and drink cartons to the extent feasible.
Health and Safety Plan: Social Distancing

The district will follow current state/county targeted mitigation order(s) that limits the size of gatherings.

Social distancing throughout instructional and non-instructional settings will be 6 feet to the maximum extent feasible.

The following additional strategies will be used to engage in social distancing:

- Orienting desks to face the same direction
- Seating students on only one side of tables or group desks
- Use of alternate building spaces to allow for further distancing
- Use of outdoor areas to increase social distancing during suitable weather in accordance with current safety guidelines
- Limit physical interaction by restricting partner or group work when feasible
- Establish distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks
- Removal of unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize social distancing (to the extent feasible)
Health and Safety Plan: Transitions

Movement will be limited throughout the building and mixing between groups will be restricted to the maximum extent possible by keeping the same student and staff groupings together throughout the school day as much as possible.

Transition times will be staggered to reduce hallway traffic throughout the day.

Face coverings are required for students and staff in hallways and all communal spaces unless they meet approved exemptions per health department guidelines.
Health and Safety Plan: Handwashing and Signage

Hand washing/sanitizing will occur frequently, including upon entry to the building, before and after meals or snacks, and after any transition from one building space to another.

Instruction will be provided to students on hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette on a regular basis.

Signage will be posted in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures and include information for how to prevent the spread of germs.

Directional markings will be utilized to limit face-to-face contact.
Health and Safety Plan: Classroom Materials

Sharing of high-touch materials will be limited to extent possible (art supplies, math manipulatives, science equipment, etc.), and the use of supplies and equipment will be limited to one group of children at a time and cleaned and disinfected between uses.

The district will do its best to procure additional manipulative materials for instruction.

Collaborative projects, experiments, and inquiries will be adjusted to limit student physical interaction but maintain student engagement and learning.

The use of communal spaces, such as science labs, will be restricted to assigned times with sanitation after each use.
Health and Safety Plan: Recess and PE

Recess can occur while maintaining proper social distancing and hand washing/sanitizing procedures by providing individual activities that are enjoyable and encourage physical activity.

Recess times may be staggered throughout the day, and specific areas may be assigned to cohorts to minimize exposure to students in other classes.

Activities in the gym will maintain social distancing when possible, requiring curricular adjustments to limit student contact and the sharing of equipment.

Physical education teachers will utilize activities that focus on student wellness, such as mindfulness, stress release, and fitness that accommodate social distancing to the extent feasible.

Physical education classes will be outdoors when possible.

Students will wear masks and use appropriate distancing when using locker rooms.
Health and Safety Plan: Trips, Visitors, and Meetings

Field trips will not be scheduled at this time. Virtual field trips may be used when possible.

Non-essential visitation will not be permitted. Essential visitors, such as outside student service providers, maintenance, and safety personnel, will adhere to health and safety procedures, including screenings, mask requirements, and limited access to the building.

Dropping off of lunches and other school materials is discouraged. When necessary, items dropped off during the school day will be left in the school lobby and district personnel will sanitize and distribute them to the student.

Current before- and after-school child care services held at district buildings can continue. All child care providers will adhere to district procedures and protocols.

Meetings with parents and families will be conducted virtually to the extent feasible.
Health and Safety Plan: Symptom Screenings

Symptom screening should be done by all parents/guardians and staff each morning before the school day. Students and staff members will adhere to the guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health below. Anyone exhibiting 1 or more symptoms in Group A or 2 or more Group B symptoms should not report to school or work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 or more symptoms</td>
<td>2 or more symptoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fever (100.4 or higher)</td>
<td>Sore throat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>Runny nose/congestion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
<td>Chills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty breathing</td>
<td>New lack of smell or taste</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Muscle pain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nausea or Vomiting</td>
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<td>Headache</td>
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<td>Diarrhea</td>
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Health and Safety Plan: Symptom Screenings

Parents/guardians should not send children with symptoms of COVID-19 on a bus or bring them to school. Students exhibiting symptoms at school will immediately be quarantined, screened, and sent home.

School staff will visually screen students upon entry and throughout the day for symptoms of COVID-19 and refer students to the nursing staff when symptoms are suspected.

Temperature screenings will be conducted randomly and for students exhibiting symptoms upon entry to the building and throughout the day.

Students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Staff will limit sending healthy students to the health office when possible.
Health and Safety Plan: Symptoms

Staff members must follow Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations regarding student health information.

Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic. Students or staff will be encouraged to contact their health care provider.

Each building will have a designated isolation/quarantine space in or near the nurse’s office for students to await pick up by a parent/guardian when exhibiting symptoms. Alternative rooms will be designated if multiple students require isolation at the same time.

When a student is being kept home for possible COVID-19 symptoms and/or exposure, parents will be required to report the absence to the school building the morning of the absence.
Health and Safety Plan: Symptoms

School nurses and other health care providers will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick students and staff members or those exhibiting symptoms.

The district will follow the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department protocols for quarantine/isolation, as well as clean and sanitize areas exposed to a student/staff that has been isolated.

The district will follow Pennsylvania Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department guidance for responding to suspected or known cases of COVID-19 by staff and students.
Health and Safety Plan: Symptoms

Students and staff members who are ill with COVID-19, or have been in close contact with a person who is ill, should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for isolation and quarantine.

Students and staff may return to school after following the timeline outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by the Allegheny County Health Department. The school nurse and/or principal must be notified prior to return to ensure that appropriate criteria have been met. Staff and students may be asked to provide written documentation from a physician clearing them to return to school after testing positive or suspecting COVID-19 based on symptoms.

Procedures may change if guidance changes. If this happens, new procedures will be shared.

Classrooms and other areas that were used by a person testing positive for COVID-19 will be vacated and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
Health and Safety Plan: Symptoms

Any faculty or staff member who presents with new COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be immediately relieved of daily duties and sent home. Those with a child/children in the district may be asked to take their child/children home from school as well.

Staff and students may return to school after following the timeline outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by the Allegheny County Health Department. The school nurse and/or principal must be notified prior to return to ensure that appropriate criteria have been met.
Health and Safety Plan: High Risk

Students and staff members who have traveled, or who plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases on the state Department of Health advisory list are recommended to quarantine for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania.

The district nursing department and administration will monitor Pennsylvania, Allegheny County, and federal guidance on COVID-19 transmission in our school communities.

Families who have students with high-risk health needs may contact the school nurse and/or school mental health staff to discuss the best learning options for their child.
Health and Safety Plan: Special Circumstances

Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided in classrooms where students may struggle to adhere to social mitigation measures.

Individualized 504 accommodations, specially designed instruction, or nursing plans may be developed to support individualized student needs.

All district facilities, including outdoor spaces and tracks, may be temporarily closed to all non-school personnel during the school day and during athletic practices and games. This is to further minimize risk to students and staff while they are on school grounds. The district will be utilizing outdoor spaces for instruction, lunches, and other school activities as weather permits.
Adjustments to the Learning Environment

The district recognizes that changing conditions, guidance, and unforeseen needs could result in a change to the planned instructional models.

The following examples illustrate circumstances in which the district would alter the plan for all students or an individual school building:

• Community spread of the illness in classrooms, individual school buildings, and/or across the district

• Inability to procure hand sanitizer and dispensers or other cleaning or sanitation supplies

• Staffing needs such as teacher, bus driver, food service, and custodial staff shortages due to sickness or quarantine

• Guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Allegheny County Department of Health, and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Education

• Large numbers of families opting for online instruction due to changing conditions