

Pottsville Area School District
Health and Safety Plan
2021-2022 School Year



Health and Safety Plan Summary:

Pottsville Area School District invites our Pandemic Planning Team including parent/guardian representatives to meetings through the Skyward Messenger System.

Fourteen (14) members of our Pandemic Planning team met on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 8 AM via Zoom.

Thirty-five (35) members of our Pandemic Planning team met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 8 AM via Zoom.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2021 at 7 AM. Please email Dr. Gerace for the Zoom link (jgerace@pottsville.k12.pa.us). If a meeting in the interim is warranted, we will provide notification through the Skyward Messenger System.

The PDE updated its guidance on August 13, 2021:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/CDCGuidanceInformation/Pages/default.aspx>

Initial Effective Date:

June 29, 2021 Pandemic Planning Team meeting

Posted on the District Website to invite additional stakeholder feedback before July 14, 2021 School Board Meeting as an agenda item

Date of Last Review:

Reviewed by the Pandemic Planning Team including parent representatives on August 17, 2021. Posted on Website to invite additional stakeholder feedback before the September 8, 2021 School Board Meeting as an agenda item. Since the first day of school is August 25, 2021, any mandates will be implemented, which was the language initially Board approved on July 14, 2021.

Date of Last Revision:

August 17, 2021. Posted on the Website to invite additional stakeholder feedback before the September 8, 2021 School Board Meeting as an agenda item.

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 Pottsville Area School District will, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for reopening for in person learning by using the guidance to make informed decisions that better ensure the District is able to open and continuously maintain face to face learning while keeping the health, safety, and welfare of students and staff as its primary focus. This document provides an operational strategy for safe delivery of in-

person instruction through the integration of a package of prevention and control components:

- a. Consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools
- b. Consideration of indicators of community transmission to reflect levels of community risk
- c. Regular monitoring of cases within the PASD zip codes will inform our decision-making process. These zip codes include the cases from Schuylkill County prison located in Pottsville as well as personal care and nursing homes. College students who have a permanent address but attend school outside of the County may also be attributed to our zip codes.

PASD zip codes

1. 17901 (includes more than PASD - Pottsville, Palo Alto, Mount Carbon, Mechanicsville, East Norwegian-partial and Norwegian are in PASD, while Cass, North Manheim, Branch, New Castle and Foster are not in PASD)
*As of August 13th, there have been 21 cases over the last 15 days which equals **less than 2 cases per day over that time period**. Additionally as noted, some of these cases may not be within PASD.
2. 17974 (Norwegian)
*As of August 13th, there have been **zero cases over the last 15 days**.
3. 17965 (Port Carbon and East Norwegian-partial)
*As of August 13th, there has been **1 case over the last 15 days**.

For purposes of SCASD students at PAHS

4. 17930 (Blythe-partial)
*As of August 13th, there have been **zero cases over the last 15 days**.
5. 17953 (Middleport)
*As of August 13th, there have been **zero cases over the last 15 days**.
6. 17959 (New Philadelphia, Blythe-partial, East Norwegian-partial)
*As of August 13th, there has been **1 case over the last 15 days**.
7. 17970 (Saint Clair, New Castle)
*As of August 13th, there have been 9 cases over the last 15 days which equals **less than 1 case per day over that time period**.

- d. Phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission: **If Schuylkill County remains in a high level of community transmission for an extended period of time, we will reconvene this committee. Regardless of community transmission rate, our next meeting will be scheduled for September 14, 2021 at 7 AM.** Please email Dr. Gerace for the Zoom link (igerace@pottsville.k12.pa.us).

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools:

- Encourage testing to identify individuals with a SARS-CoV-2 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks
- PASD provided vaccination opportunities through collaboration with Rite-Aid:
 - For staff on March 12, 2021
 - For anyone ages 16 years or older on April 27, 2021/May 6, 2021

- For anyone ages 12 years or older on July 27, 2021/August 18, 2021.
 - We strongly urge those able to be vaccinated to do so if they have not done so already.
 - PASD will offer the vaccine again within the District in the future if the need arises.
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?

We met with our Pandemic Planning Team including parent representatives on June 29, 2021 for the initial Health and Safety planning meeting and again on August 17, 2021; we will continue to have meetings to request input for revisions. We welcome questions and feedback throughout this process.

Pottsville Area School District provides all students, faculty, and most paraprofessionals (K-12) with a district issued electronic device. PASD will assist families with internet access in their homes to ensure access to academic, social, mental health, and other needs.

Regardless of the instructional format, PASD will continue to offer access to food services, academic, social, mental health, and other needs. PASD provided food services throughout the summer of 2021. The District has hired additional personnel for social-emotional learning including a Certified Counselor at DHHL Middle School, a Graduation Coach, and others to be determined based on stakeholder input and need.

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.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to universal and correct wearing of masks. Pottsville Area School District has determined based on the Governor lifting the face covering mandate on June 28, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are optional for students and staff, unless mandated by the CDC/PA DOH. ● Students attending Schuylkill Technology Centers or the

	<p>Emerging Health Professionals program will follow their guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are required for students/staff on District transportation (school buses and vans) due to the CDC mandate and reinforced by our solicitor's recommendation.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing. Pottsville Area School District has determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing will be implemented when necessary, depending upon the level of community and school transmission. • We will maintain accurate seating charts to assist with contact tracing, including on school transportation. • PASD hired an additional teacher for 1st and 5th grades based on the larger class sizes, which ultimately leads to better physical distancing.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Pottsville Area School district has determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are encouraged to practice regularly scheduled

	<p>handwashing or sanitizing including but not limited to entry into the school, classroom, after using the restroom, before and after eating, after coughing/sneezing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hand sanitizer will be made available in the classrooms, common areas, and hallways. ● Staff will teach and reinforce handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes with students, staff, and visitors. ● We greatly appreciate the significant and generous donation from Lowe’s Charitable Organization, which includes 135 Floor Dispensers, 252 Tabletop Dispensers, 180 Wall Dispensers and 2,048 Gallons of Sanitizer.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation. Pottsville Area School district has determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses will be cleaned or disinfected daily. ● Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. ● Electrostatic spray disinfectant will be used as needed. ● HVAC filters will be replaced periodically. ● Windows will be opened, when possible, to increase air circulation, including on buses

<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments and determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will collaborate with state and local health departments to consider all recommendations regarding mitigation. ● We will follow all mandates related to contract tracing and quarantining as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. ● At this time, PASD will contact trace and inform families if their student(s) were identified as possible close contacts of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. PASD will recommend students quarantine based on DOH recommendations. Students are not required to quarantine at this time, unless they exhibit symptoms.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to diagnostic and screening testing and determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/guardians should screen children for symptoms at home each morning before the school day. ● Faculty/staff should screen themselves for symptoms at home each morning before the school day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faculty/staff, parents/guardians must notify the school if an absence is due to COVID-19 symptoms, close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, or a positive COVID-19 test.
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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities and determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will continue to collaborate with local health organizations to communicate information regarding vaccination opportunities within the community and school district.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will follow all individualized education plans and provide appropriate accommodations regarding the health and safety of students with disabilities.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Pottsville Area School District will continue to work with state and local health officials as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education as they continue to provide guidance and direction related to not only the pandemic but also any future health, safety and welfare matters that are beyond the scope of the District.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Pottsville Area School District** reviewed and approved the revised Health and Safety Plan on **September 8, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **September 8, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.