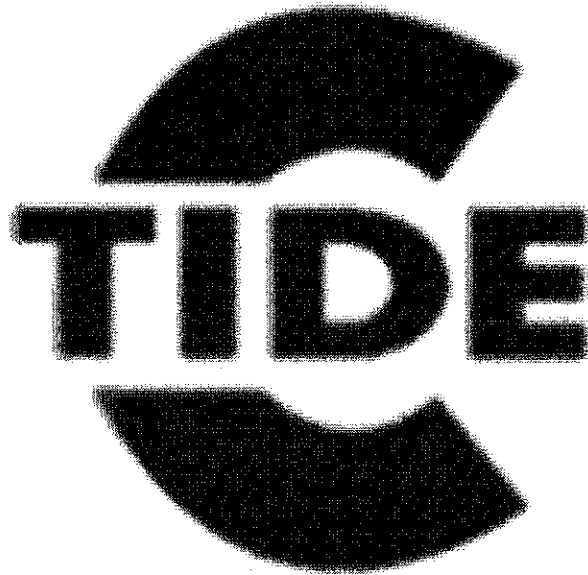


Pottsville Area School District
Health and Safety Plan
2022-2023 School Year

<https://www.pottsville.k12.pa.us/domain/210>



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.

Thirty-one (31) members of our Pandemic Planning team met on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 7 AM via Zoom.

The PDE updated its guidance on September 1, 2021:

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

The following website is utilized for zip code data: <https://data.pa.gov/Covid-19/COVID-19-Cases-and-Persons-Testing-Negative-by-PCR/tsf6-pnaf>

Twenty-eight (28) of our Pandemic Planning team met on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7 AM via Zoom.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court affirmed the Order of Commonwealth Court on December 10, 2021, which vacated the Face Covering Order issued by the Department of Health in August. The written opinion by the Supreme Court will be issued at a later time. Thus, the decision regarding wearing of masks has been shifted back to School entities.

Twenty-one (21) members of our Pandemic Planning Team met on Tuesday, February 01, 2022 at 7 AM via Zoom.

Since no significant changes have occurred pertaining to Covid-19, PASD plans to affirm the current plan during the school board meeting on January 18, 2023.

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.

Reviewed by the Pandemic Planning Team including parent representatives on August 17, 2021 and August 31, 2021. Posted on Website to invite additional stakeholder feedback. Mandates have been implemented, which was the language initially Board approved on July 14, 2021.

Date of Last Review: December 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: December 14, 2021

Current review on February 1, 2022. Additional stakeholder feedback was requested through a survey which closed on February 4, 2022. We will post this Health and Safety plan on the website when the agenda is posted before the February 9, 2022 School Board Meeting.

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 remain 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. Phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission

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. Local healthcare providers and pharmacies such as LVHN, Geisinger, CVS and Rite-Aid have been offering vaccines within our school community.
- 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, August 30, 2021, December 14, 2021 and February 01, 2022; we will continue to have

meetings to request input for revisions. We welcome questions and feedback throughout this process. We have provided surveys to seek input from our stakeholders.

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. PASD has received ECF (Emergency Connectivity Funds) to purchase additional wi-fi access for families who request.

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and recommendations from CDC related to universal and correct wearing of masks. The Governor lifted the face covering mandate on June 28, 2021 and reinstated on September 7, 2021. On January 12, 2022, the School Board voted to remain in Phase I for one month. The second phase will be considered on February 9, 2022. If needed, this plan will be revisited at any time.</p> <p>PHASE I - 12/14/21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are mandatory for students, staff, and visitors during the school day. ● Face coverings are optional for students, staff, and visitors for extra-curricular activities unless mandated by the CDC/PA DOH. ● Masks are required for students/staff on District transportation (school buses and

	<p>vans) due to the CDC mandate and reinforced by our solicitor's recommendation.</p> <p>PHASE II - 2/10/22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings are optional for students, staff, and visitors, unless mandated by the CDC/PA DOH. Face coverings are strongly encouraged when social distancing is not possible. ● Students attending Schuylkill Technology Centers or the Emerging Health Professionals program will follow their guidelines. ● 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. ● Masks are required for students and staff who are selecting to return from isolation after Day 5 instead of Day 10 following a positive case.
<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 to the greatest extent practicable. ● We will maintain accurate seating charts to assist with contact tracing, including on school transportation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PASD hired an additional teacher for 1st and 5th grades based on the larger class sizes, which ultimately leads to better physical distancing. ● Parent meetings will be virtual or telephone until further notice. ● Facility use requests will be approved or denied based upon health and safety as well as educational benefit for PASD students.
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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 handwashing or sanitizing including but not limited to entry into the school, classroom, after using the restroom, before and after eating, after coughing/sneezing. ● 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

	<p>Dispensers, 180 Wall Dispensers and 2,048 Gallons of Sanitizer.</p>
<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. Faculty and staff have been provided with appropriate supplies. ● 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. ● PA DOH is no longer contact tracing. The PDE is no longer requesting line lists for contact tracing from school districts. Quarantining of close contacts has

	<p>been optional, and during the month of January, 2022, no PASD families have chosen to quarantine their students. At this time, PASD will no longer contact trace. We will revisit contact tracing in general during weekly meetings with administration and nursing staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families will continue to be informed of daily cases based on school building through a dashboard on its website. Remove on January 18, 2023 • Quarantines will continue to be mandatory for household contacts, based on current guidelines.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></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. • 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.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school</u></p>	<p>Pottsville Area School District has considered all guidance and</p>

<p><u>communities;</u></p>	<p>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 the 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 **January 18, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

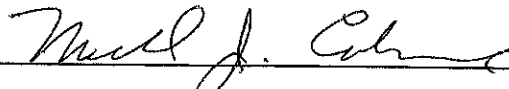
8 Yes

0 No

Patricia C. Lombel, Board Secretary
1/18/2023

Affirmed on: **January 18, 2023**

By:

 1/18/2023
(Signature* of Board President)

DR. Michael J. Cardamone
(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.