



**Pen Argyl Area School
District Health and Safety
Plan for the 2021-2022 School
Year**



Purpose of the Plan

The Pen Argyl Area School District Health and Safety Plan outlines how the District will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and which will serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. This plan was created considering the guidance from multiple sources, including St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), PA Department of Health (DOH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and in consultation with staff, Board of Directors, and local health agencies. The plan is unique to the needs of the Pen Argyl Area School District, and will be monitored, revised, and updated as Federal, State and local orders and health data evolve.

The process for developing this initial draft of the 2021-2022 Pen Argyl School district plan included multiple cycles of review and revision as the district utilized the input from various stakeholder groups.

As long as communicable diseases like COVID-19 exist in our community, revisions to this Health & Safety Plan may be necessary to meet public health requirements.



Introduction

The Pen Argyl Area School District, to the greatest extent practical, will utilize the most recent guidance from the PA Department of Health, and our health partners at St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) to inform our decisions for health and safety planning. We will continue to use State and local guidance to implement appropriate prevention and mitigation protocols in response to the level of community spread in our county and in our local community. Our goal has been and continues to be to maximize the amount of in-person learning for our students in the safest manner possible. This plan will be monitored, revised, and updated as Federal, State and local orders and health data evolve.

In order to ensure the continuity of education during the duration of this plan, the Pen Argyl Area School District will operate a summer program for students through ESSER funds during the summer of 2021 for students identified with potential learning loss. The District will also offer, if appropriate, an Extended School Year (ESY) program for students with special needs. ESSER funds will also be utilized at all levels for after school academic programs during the 2021-2022 school year designed to target students identified with learning loss. Additionally, staff will be hired at all levels to provide remediation for students identified with learning loss.

The District is prepared to provide a continuum of services as may be needed to transition between in person instruction, hybrid and remote learning in the event a classroom or school is deemed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) to necessitate closure or based on changing conditions within our county.

In addition students and families will have access to behavioral health supports including school counselors, school psychologists, behavior interventionists, social workers, and third party providers to assist students. Additionally, students may access the Safe2Say reporting tool and Student Assistance Program when needed. Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health Supports that may include: EAP Program Pinebrook Family Answers 610-432-3919 Preferred EAP, Behavioral health support through employee benefits plan, and community resources.



Mitigation Efforts

Standard

Organizational Expectations

Universal and Correct Wearing of [Masks](#)



Policies and Procedures:

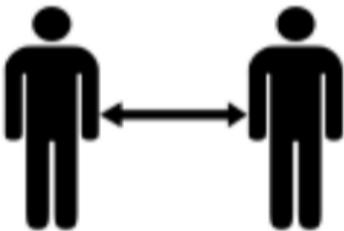
Effective June 28th, the DOH no longer requires face coverings; however, any student or employee who prefers to wear a face covering will be permitted to do so moving into the 2021-2022 school year.

State orders and/or local data may result in modifications to the District’s face covering practices.

Transportation

Under a Federal order ([link](#)) issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of the vaccination status, when on public transportation- this includes on school buses operated by public and private schools. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for [Physical Distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)



Policies and Procedures:

Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent practical.

Students and staff will be informed of this policy as needed and as dictated by their age, position, and/or other relevant factors.

[Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette](#)



Policies and Procedures:

Handwashing

- Staff and Student hygiene practices will be implemented according to PA DOH guidelines.
- Students and staff are encouraged to perform hand hygiene when entering classrooms, restrooms and before and after meals.
- Hand soap and hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) will be provided, with paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, cafeteria and frequently trafficked areas. Hand sanitizer use shall be supervised in younger children
- Each classroom is equipped with a bottle of disinfectant for use during the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom/common area, where running water isn’t accessible.

Cafeteria: Serving Models:

- Students can provide their own breakfast/lunch
- Students, attending school in-person, receiving breakfast/lunch will use the traditional serving line. **NO SELF SERVE.**



Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette Cont.'d

- Grab and Go bags will be available on instructional days to Pen Argyl ASD virtual students only.

Respiratory Etiquette

- Students and Staff will be encouraged to do the following:
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
 - Throw used tissues in the trash.
 - If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
 - Staff and students are encouraged to immediately [wash your hands](#) after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing

Posters encouraging covering coughs and sneezes, and performing hand hygiene often will be placed in serving meal areas in sight of all students and staff. Posting signs in highly visible places to reinforce handwashing and personal hygiene and social distancing.

School announcements will be made reminding students of the importance of handwashing and personal hygiene.

[Cleaning](#) and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving [Ventilation](#)



Policies and Procedures:

All high-touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly, such as touchless water filling stations, door handles, light switches, and student desks. Students and staff will be encouraged to use individual water bottles from home or disposable plastic bottles.

Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting will be informed by current DOH guidelines. EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements and staff will be trained on how to appropriately use these products.

Buildings and Equipment

- Electrostatic sprayers and foggers are staged throughout the district and are available for use in all buildings.

Cafeteria

- Cleaning of cafeteria and high touch surfaces throughout the school day will be conducted after each meal service.

Buses

- Windows and roof vents will be opened whenever possible to increase air exchange on buses and increase outside air. Frequent opening of the door will also increase air exchange.
- Siblings / students from the same household will be seated together.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses.
- All buses will be sanitized at least twice daily. High touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Drivers will continue to perform a self screening before reporting to the terminal every morning.

Ventilation

- All ventilation fans are inspected / serviced monthly
- A/C filters are changed every 4 months
- Exhaust fans will be on when the building is occupied
- Fresh air intakes will be open



[Contact Tracing](#) in Combination with [Isolation](#) and [Quarantine](#), in Collaboration with the State and Local Health Departments



Policies and Procedures:

The District will continue the established case investigation/contact tracing, isolation and quarantine procedures for COVID-19 positive cases as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) until otherwise deemed unnecessary by the DOH.

The PA DOH and CDC websites will be utilized as resources and references for communication materials.

Students and staff will be trained through a combination of digital media curated by District staff as well as direct instruction. Age of students will determine the level of scaffolding provided within direct instruction. Supervisors will meet with staff on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance and address any issues.

[Diagnostic](#) and Screening Testing



Policies and Procedures:

Symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. Symptomatic children should remain at home, and the school should be notified accordingly. All District staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if symptomatic or sick.

District staff and students should continue completing a daily screener form to assess physical conditions prior to arriving at District buildings.

Daily Symptomatic Screening reminders will be emailed to all families and Staff.

Staff and parents shall report a positive diagnosis to the school nurse or pandemic coordinator.

District will help facilitate access to community testing sites.

Signage will be posted reminding individuals of COVID-19 symptoms and to stay at home if symptomatic.

Efforts to Provide [Vaccinations to School Communities](#)



Policies and Procedures:

The District will continue to work with local health agencies to offer opportunities for vaccinations.

The District will help to publicize vaccination opportunities within the local community

See all St. Luke's University Health Network vaccine clinic locations and schedule an appointment [here](#).



Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies



Policies and Procedures:

Student accommodations will be identified collaboratively by the physician, parents/guardians, school nurse and administrator and specified in individual student plans. (504, Accommodation plan, Individual Health Plan, IEP).

Continuity of education plans should be followed for those students that may not be able to attend due to high risk.

Behavioral Health Supports

Students and families have access to the following Behavioral Health Supports:

- Mental Health Counseling provided within the school setting or through telehealth delivery
- School Counselors are available to meet with students while maintaining a list of resources to provide to students who are in need of additional services
- Northampton/Lehigh County Residents- Health Choice Provider List

Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health Supports that may include:

- EAP Program
- Behavioral health support through employee benefits plan
- Community resources

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials



Policies and Procedures:

Maintain existing partnerships with St Luke's University Health Network, state(PA DOH/PDE) health officials

Refer to the PA DOH as needed for guidance concerning COVID-19 cases.

The District Pandemic Coordinator will maintain direct contact with the DOH and other agencies as appropriate.

If school closures or changes in safety protocols related to COVID-19 are needed, they will be communicated to providers, appropriate agencies, and/or families through school messenger, the District website and other means of communication. Changes in protocols and school closures will be based on guidance from the DOH and DOE.



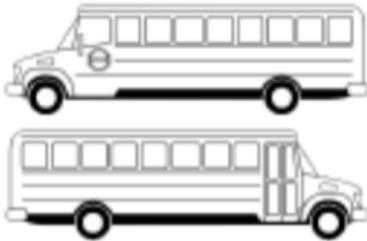
[Travel](#)



Policies and Procedures:

If engaging in domestic travel, please be mindful of CDC guidance as well as state guidelines regarding travel advisories or orders. However, if travelling internationally, please notify your child's building that international travel has occurred, and the school nurse will follow up as deemed necessary.

[Transportation](#)



Policies and Procedures:

Under a Federal [order](#) issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation - this includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.

Cafeteria



Policies and Procedures:

In cafeterias and other areas used to serve lunch, individuals will be seated in a manner best designed to minimize transmission of illness to the extent feasible and practical.

Cleaning in the cafeterias will occur between services.

A touchless and cashless Point of Sale will be utilized for staff and student transactions in the cafeteria

Volunteers/Visitors/University Placements



Policies and Procedures:

Volunteers/Visitors/University Placements During Instructional Day

Limit, to the extent practical, visitors in the buildings, during the instructional day.

Require all school visitors and volunteers, during the instructional day, to wear a face covering or provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Require all University/College placements to wear a face covering or provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Face Coverings are not required outside.

Volunteers/Visitors Before and After the Instructional Day

[Effective June 28, 2021, face coverings are no longer required](#) under the PA Governor's mask order.



<p>Volunteers/Visitors/University Placements Cont.'d</p>	<p>Before and after the instructional day, face coverings are optional for school visitors and volunteers.</p>
<p>Sports/Extracurricular Activities</p> 	<p>Policies and Procedures: Continuing to follow CDC guidelines regarding face coverings which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued masking for all individuals (coaches, athletes, staff) during team travel (on bus/van). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face coverings must cover nose and mouth ● Fully vaccinated guidance (≥ 2 weeks from final vaccine dose) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face coverings optional, maintain distancing and hand hygiene ● Unvaccinated guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face coverings recommended, maintain distancing and hand hygiene ● Healthcare workers (Athletic Trainers, Team Physicians, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continued masking during patient care <p><u>Prevention Strategies</u> The following prevention strategies should continue to avoid potential outbreaks and suspension of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Athletes are required to bring their own water to practices and events ● Distancing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to spread out during water breaks and on sidelines ● Cleaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to clean hands and shared equipment frequently (“sanitation breaks”) <p><u>Screening and Attendance</u> Participants should self-screen before arriving to campus, and anyone not feeling well should stay home and call their healthcare provider. Accurate attendance should continue to be taken for every practice, lift session, etc. to allow for contact tracing in the event of a positive case and/or exposure.</p> <p><u>Return-to-Activity Following COVID Case</u> Any athlete with a positive Covid-19 diagnosis in the last 90 days, will require clearance documentation to return to sports (unrestricted activity) from his/her healthcare provider.</p>

Resources

LEAs are advised to review the following resources when developing their Health and Safety Plans:

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)



Reviews and Submissions

Initial Effective Date: 7/26/2021

Date Approved by the Pen Argyl Area School District Board of Directors: 7/20/2021

Date of Last Revision: 7/20/2021

Date Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education: 7/21/2021

Posted to the Pen Argyl Area School District Website: 7/21/2021

Website URL:

<https://www.penargylschooldistrict.org/penargyl/District/Coronavirus%20Resources%20and%20Communications/>



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Pen Argyl Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 20, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes: 9

No: 0

Affirmed on: **July 20, 2021**

By: Mr. Robert Rutt



(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.

