

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Portage Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 14, 2021

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 health and safety of the Portage Area School District (PASD) and the staff and students remain, as always, the top priority for the organization. The PASD will continue to take critical steps making decisions that protect the health and safety of our organization in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the expiration of statewide mitigation orders, PASD has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all staff members as the organization transitions forward. Protocols include the following:

- Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms
- Following communicable disease reporting procedures
- Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Optional use of face coverings / adherence to health and safety plans of locations served
- Cleaning and disinfecting one's workspace
- Maintaining physical distancing protocols to the maximum extent feasible
- Staying informed of CDC's guidance relative to travel
- Monitoring communication and confidentiality
- Participating in required training
- Staying informed and maintaining best practices

Expectations are based on the latest mandates issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The PASD will continue to monitor communications. As conditions change related to COVID-19, protocols are subject to change.

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?

PASD will ensure access to remote learning opportunities for all our students in the following ways, including but not limited to: Live synchronized lessons and demonstrations by our teachers -Additional asynchronous lessons and student assignments via Microsoft TEAMS and/or other similar platforms. Paper packets will be utilized as a last resort.

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of June 28, 2021, face coverings are optional for all individuals (staff, students, parents, and visitors), regardless of vaccination status, in PASD offices, classrooms and sponsored events per expiration of PA required mandate. • Staff who travel to other locations to provide service must adhere to the Health and Safety Plan of the location of service. • Staff are expected to stay informed of the latest information and resources available and visit CDC's website which include, but are not limited to, universal and correct wearing of masks.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PASD will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC relative to physical distancing. • Physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible will continue to be recommended for indoor and outdoor spaces regardless of vaccination status. • In anticipation of class sizes returning to full capacity in the fall of 2021 as allowed by program

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<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>regulations and requirements, PPE safeguards will be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations related to handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be emailed, posted on PASD’s web site, and emailed to each student/staff member. • Protocols include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Washing one’s hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds ○ If soap and water are not available, using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer) ○ Avoid touching one’s eyes, nose, and mouth ○ Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into one’s elbow ○ Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PASD will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC related to cleaning and ventilation. • PASD is committed to continuing the best practices developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping the workplace clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors. • The use of universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases will continue to be implemented. Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials will remain available.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting shared materials and use of toys that cannot be easily cleaned will continue. • Staff will continue to be expected to share in the cleaning and disinfecting of shared equipment and / or furniture / items within one's office / classroom. • Additional cleaning and disinfecting measures / protocols may be required as deemed appropriate or directed by DOH depending on circumstances. • Staff will continue to be expected to adhere to appropriate personal protective equipment guidelines.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH considers COVID-19 a communicable disease. As such, it is among DOH's listing of reportable diseases. • Students/Staff are required to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 to the district within 24 hours. • Students/Staff must follow the recommendation of their attending physician. • PASD will contact DOH and follow their guidance. Guidance may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disease information; ○ The distribution of appropriate letters and communications; ○ Identification of high risk individuals; ○ Appropriate action and treatment; and ○ Ongoing support and assistance.

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f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students/Staff are required to follow the recommendation of their attending physician and / or DOH directive(s) as it relates to diagnostic and screening testing.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PASD continues to collaborate with local health care providers and epidemiologist leaders regarding targeted areas of needs and will continue to serve as a vaccination host site if called upon. PASD continues to communicate local vaccine opportunities available to staff and the community at large.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special accommodations or health care needs of students with disabilities will be addressed through the IEP process. Accommodations may include but are not limited to adapted service delivery models (i.e., teleintervention, individualized services, when appropriate), and / or other health and safety precautions as outlined in an individualized health plan.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PASD will continue to maintain existing partnerships with local and state agencies. As with any communicable disease, PASD will contact the DOH to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 and follow its guidance.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Portage Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 14, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **July 1, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Erik Thrower

(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.