

# Health and Safety Plan Summary: School District of Philadelphia

**Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: August 19, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: August 19, 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 School District of Philadelphia's ("SDP") goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to safely welcome all students back to school for full in-person learning five days a week. This plan is designed to prioritize student learning recovery and acceleration; attend to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff; and provide safe and healthy schools that support high-quality teaching and learning and equitable outcomes for all students.

Overall student and staff health and wellness, and protecting staff and students from COVID-19 in particular, is a priority for school reopening. SDP has used the most up-to-date guidance, recommendations, and mandates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the Pennsylvania Department of Education ("PDE"), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health ("PDPH"), and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia ("CHOP") as well as input and feedback received from families, students, staff, and community members in response to two surveys and multiple community forums to create a plan that considers local context and uses evidence-based prevention and mitigation strategies to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

SDP will use a combination of required masking of all staff and students, daily cleaning, testing of staff and students, limiting non-essential visitors, continued promotion of vaccinations, and additional prevention and mitigation strategies described below in order to create and maintain safe and healthy learning environments. As recommended by the CDC, SDP plans to layer multiple prevention strategies to account for the fact that a full reopening of schools will prevent SDP from maintaining at least three feet of physical distance in all cases.

SDP will continue to consult with local public health experts from CHOP and PDPH throughout the 21-22 school year and make adjustments to this plan based on their recommendations as necessary.

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?

**Instructional design:** SDP will fully open for five-day-a-week, in-person learning for all students in fall 2021. The instructional design model will focus on standards-aligned instruction to facilitate student mastery of grade level outcomes. There will be an intentional focus on priority Common Core Standards while connecting prior and current learning. As student achievement is a fundamental priority, we will promote equity and access to quality grade-

level instruction for all students with accommodations and/or modifications provided to students with diverse learning needs. We will engage students to apply key learning concepts to reach a deeper understanding of content and regularly monitor student progress to offer targeted intervention tailored to students' needs.

Grade-level instruction may include lectures, modeling, approved videos and presentations, and other forms of teaching, aligned to grade-level content and student supports, accommodations and modifications identified in Individualized Education Plans ("IEPs"), ESOL supports, and response to intervention. Through this, students will be provided with background knowledge and current grade-level context. A key component of the instructional approach is observing and monitoring students' learning, and making adjustments as needed. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their learning as teachers provide prompt class and small group feedback, and use formative assessments to inform instruction. Teachers will utilize the power of choice, having students learning through games, attending digital field trips where applicable, and collaborating in various projects.

**Virtual option and staff accommodations:** Students and their families will be able to opt into a virtual, asynchronous program through the Philadelphia Virtual Academy ("PVA"). PVA is an already existing SDP school that currently serves students in grades 6-12, but is prepared to expand to also serve grades K-5. Students who enroll in PVA and later choose to transfer back to their neighborhood school will be able to do so at the end of each quarter.

Staff can inquire about accommodations for remote work, which are reviewed on a case by case basis.

Families will be notified if and when a school closure will occur or when changes are made to the Health and Safety Plan via SDP's website, mail to homes, and robocalls.

**Technology:** At the end of the 2019-2020 school year and the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, SDP distributed chromebooks to all students. SDP will continue to operate as a 1:1 district through the upcoming school year and to offer technology support and repair services through its three Parent and Family Technology Support Centers, as well as offer support through a telephone hotline and through email.

**Student social, emotional, and mental health supports:** Supporting the social-emotional well-being of students and staff alike is a priority for 2021-22. SDP has developed a robust set of resources and programming in this area, and principals and school staff will be trained to implement these in August. Specifically, SDP will provide schools with extensive, flexible content and allocated time in the school day for classroom-based community meetings, which will focus on building relationships and social-emotional learning. In addition, all staff will be trained and receive supports for implementing SDP's Three Signature SEL Practices for 2021-22: Inclusive Welcomes, Engaging Strategies, and Optimistic Closings. SEL learning goals and activities will also be embedded in academic lesson plans. In addition, all K-8 schools will benefit from new coaching, resources, and professional development designed to improve the quality of recess and lunchtime experiences for all students, with the goal of building all schools' capacity for fun, engaging, socially positive recess and lunch. Finally, each school will focus on creating a welcoming climate by implementing an evidence-based school-wide climate program (e.g. restorative practices or PBIS) in alignment with their PDE school plans. Over this summer, SDP staff are providing consultation and planning support to prepare schools to implement this programming. All of the above activities are being rolled out for the first time this year.

**Staff social, emotional, and mental health supports:** SDP's Employee Assistance Program ("EAP") provides every employee and members of their household 24/7 access to assistance connecting with licensed counselors for emotional/mental health support. All SDP employees have free access to Headspace, an app that supports mindfulness and mental health through guided meditations. SDP is also planning a larger focus in the 21-22 school year on mental health, including through holding information sessions for staff with a goal of removing the stigma of therapy. Schools can also opt to receive supports and resources for a focus on adult wellness tailored to their individual needs, with the goal of helping them plan intentional supports for all adult staff members.

**Food services:** Food service staff will distribute grab and go breakfasts to students on their way into school buildings, to be taken to the classroom for consumption. Students will go through the cafeteria line to pick up their lunch, and either eat socially distanced in the cafeteria, or return to their classroom. Markers will be placed on cafeteria tables to notate where students should sit and on floors to direct traffic.

Students who participate in virtual learning will have the option of picking up weekly meal boxes that include five breakfasts and five lunches from designated pick-up spots.

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>At the start of the school year, employees, students, and visitors will be required to wear a face mask or other approved face covering that covers their mouth and nose while in SDP buildings, regardless of vaccination status and with limited exceptions. Masks will be available at schools for those who need them. Masks are not required outside if six feet of distance can be maintained.</p> <p>Students receiving transportation will be required to adhere to SDP's health and safety rules including mask wearing.</p> <p>Students who are unable to wear a mask due to medical or other conditions may wear a face shield. Certain students may not be able to wear a mask or face shield based on individual circumstances. All other mitigation strategies will be employed including frequent hand washing, social distancing, and wearing of masks by those interacting with these students.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Classroom learning spaces will be organized to mitigate spread. This will include layouts of desks, tables, chairs, and other items to promote social distancing in classrooms and common areas. To the maximum extent possible, when indoors students will be socially distanced three feet apart.</p> <p>When eating and, therefore, unmasked all persons will maintain 3 feet of social distancing to the maximum extent possible.</p>

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	<p>Common spaces and the use of outdoor spaces will also adhere to social distancing guidelines. Signage is installed in school buildings to remind students and staff to maintain social distancing. Schools have been allowed to add other mitigation strategies such as floor and wall decals to accomplish the same intent. Outdoor spaces, when possible, will be utilized to also help maintain social distancing and minimize the number of students in a classroom.</p> <p>Based on class/student schedules, small groups (cohorts) will be identified and kept together throughout the entire day to the greatest extent possible. Interactions between groups of students outside of designated cohorts will be restricted.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>SDP has installed hand sanitizing stations in every school. Soap and/or hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available in every classroom, restroom, and throughout the school facilities to encourage good hand hygiene.</p> <p>All staff will model healthy hygiene practices for students. There will be a system for routine use of handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer applications for students that ensures handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p> <p>General health and hygiene protocols distributed to staff are <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Significant work has been and is being done over the summer to clean and prepare buildings for the fall.</p> <p>SDP is installing an air and surface purifier in every instructional space in every school. We are also deep cleaning and sanitizing every school, including all walls, floors, furniture, doors, windows, bathrooms, railings, and more.</p> <p>Water fountain bubble heads have been disconnected in all schools in order to limit the use of communal drinking sources. Additionally, we are testing the more than 1,000 touchless hydration stations in our schools to make them fully operational and comply with all regulations for safe drinking water.</p> <p>SDP is refilling touchless hand sanitizer stations in every school and ensuring all schools have the supplies they need to support frequent hand washing by students and staff.</p> <p>When school begins, SDP will follow the CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools, found <a href="#">here</a>. Crews will clean schools during the school day and for several hours after the school day ends, using EPA registered cleaning supplies and electrostatic backpack sprayers.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<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>Symptom screening will continue to be done at home by parents/guardians. SDP will provide regular communication reminding families to complete daily symptom screening of all students. School communities will continuously be advised to monitor themselves for symptoms.</p> <p>Children with symptoms will not report to school and follow up with a healthcare provider. Staff with symptoms will not report to work that day and follow up with the healthcare provider.</p> <p>Students who become ill during the school day will report to the health room for assessment. All schools have established Medical Waiting Rooms where school nurses can isolate a sick student, if necessary.</p> <p>Consistent with PA regulations for communicable diseases, if an individual in a school or office suspects or knows they have COVID-19, or if they have been in contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19 and are not vaccinated themselves, SDP's point of contact will notify PDPH and receive direction on next steps that could include, but are not limited to, whether to quarantine the class or school; providing necessary information for PDPH to conduct contact tracing; and when individuals can resume school or work. Positive cases must isolate for at least 10 days.</p> <p>Quarantine models and schedules are subject to change with updated guidance from CDC and PDPH.</p> <p>The school community will be frequently updated on COVID-19 related issues including changes in symptom presentation, quarantine, and isolation requirements.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;</p>	<p>At the start of the school year, all staff will be required to be tested weekly, regardless of vaccination status. Asymptomatic testing will also be available to students. In-school symptomatic day of testing will be conducted for students who exhibit COVID-like symptoms. Test to play/performance testing models will be implemented for athletics and performing arts (band and choir). Testing models and schedules are subject to change with updated guidance from CDC and PDPH.</p>
<p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>All SDP staff became eligible for COVID vaccination in March 2021. SDP partnered with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center to offer vaccination to every SDP employee, including through appointments and through one-time clinics. SDP also worked with CHOP and Penn Medicine to host webinars for SDP staff about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in an effort to encourage more staff members to get vaccinated.</p> <p>SDP is currently partnering with CHOP to provide COVID vaccination events for youth 12 and up. Mobile vaccine events in partnership with PDPH and other medical providers will occur in targeted areas based on vaccine access and uptake.</p>

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	<p>Vaccination status of students will be tracked and documented by Student Health Services.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>An individualized approach for COVID-19 may be needed for individuals who have difficulty accessing information, require close contact with direct service providers, have trouble understanding information, have difficulties with changes in routines, or have other concerns related to their disability. This approach will account for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing and isolating may be difficult for many people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Wearing cloth face coverings may be difficult for people with sensory, cognitive, medical, or behavioral issues.</li> <li>• Cloth face coverings are not recommended for children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.</li> </ul> <p>Extra precautions will be taken for students with needs including but not limited to low incidence Autism Support, Multi-Disabilities Support, Life Skills, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Visually Impaired programs.</p> <p>If a student is unable to wear a mask as a result of their disability, or a health or medical condition, the IEP team will re-evaluate the type and method of face covering for the student.</p> <p>Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (e.g., counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets); and equipment such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes, oxygen tanks, and tubing; communication boards; and other assistive devices before and after student use.</p> <p>If there is potential that staff may be splashed or sprayed by bodily fluids during the course of the workday, they will use standard precautions and personal protective equipment (PPE) including facemask, eye protection, disposable gloves, and a gown.</p> <p>Staff will wash their hands with soap and water: when entering and leaving the home or community setting; when adjusting or putting on or off face masks or cloth face coverings; or before putting on and after taking off disposable gloves. If soap and water are not readily available, staff will use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>SDP will continue to be in regular communication and consult with the PDPH in regards to all COVID-19 health, prevention, and response policies and actions.</p> <p>SDP's website will be updated frequently with changes in protocols related to COVID-19 mitigation strategies.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the School District of Philadelphia** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 19, 2021**.


The plan was approved by a vote of:

  7   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **August 20, 2021**

By:

  
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(Signature of Board President)

JOYCE S. WILKERSON  
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(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.