

2021-22 Health and Safety Plan Summary: Quakertown Community School District

Effective Date: July 1, 2021 **Last Revised: August 26, 2021**
(Revision 2)

Date of Last Review and Revision: The 2020-21 QCSD Health and Safety Plan, as amended, ended on June 28, 2021. This plan will cover the 2021-22 school year, and was initially approved on August 12, 2021.

Introduction: School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic, with any exceptions fully described within this document. During 2020-21, Quakertown Community School District was open for in person instruction all year. Initially the district was open in a hybrid model, two days per week (four days per week for students with disabilities). On October 12, 2020, the district reopened five days a week for all K-5 students. Then on November 18, 2020, five days per week for all 6-12 students. This plan reflects those components we will keep in place to promote general health and safety for all students, employees and visitors as well as to remain compliant with national, state and local health guidance. **After the August 12th School Board approval of the Health & Safety, the Bucks County Department of Health provided additional reopening schools recommendations to align with state and federal guidelines and mandates.**

ESSER Requirements:

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

Each LEA must create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it 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. The Health and Safety Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each LEA and its schools and must take into account public comment related to the development of, and subsequent revisions to, the Health and Safety Plan.

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;

2. How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;
3. 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:
 - a. Universal and correct wearing of [masks](#);
 - b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
 - c. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
 - d. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
 - e. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with State and local health departments;
 - f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;
 - g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#);
 - h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
 - i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

Consistent with ESSER requirements, this plan was drafted by the Administration, reviewed by Dr. David Damsker, shared in draft form with the Board of School Directors, posted in draft form on the school district website with options for community input, discussed at the public board meeting on August 12, 2021, and approved by the Board of School Directors on that date.

Subsequently, the Bucks County Department of Health issued [2021-22 SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDANCE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#) on August 15, 2021, followed by an [amendment to that guidance on August 17, 2021](#). Dr. Damsker also met with county school nurses on August 18, 2021 to review the specific recommended protocols described in the REOPENING GUIDANCE. Finally, a revised BCHD guidance document was issued on August 23, 2021, strengthening the alignment between CDC guidance and BCHD guidance, and replacing the August 15, 2021 and August 17, 2021 Guidance. Recommended changes to this Health and Safety Plan based on the August 23, 2021 guidance are highlighted in orange. Explanatory notes and other recommendations of the Administration are highlighted in yellow.

The ARP Act requires LEAs to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

Quakertown Community School District Plan Summary:

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?

This plan will continually be monitored to include updated CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH) recommendations. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary at the district level by the district's Health and Safety Planning team. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, staff and the greater school community.

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?

Our methods for educational delivery for the 2021-22 school year will be:

Instruction will resume on August 30, 2021, on a normal Monday through Friday schedule. The following options will be available to families:

- a. Face to face, in classroom instruction
- b. Online option (Q-Flex) K-12

To adequately assess our staffing needs to provide these options, a survey was issued to parents/guardians who opted for a virtual setting in the previous school year or have newly registered students to determine if their child(ren) will be joining us for face-to-face or online instruction for the upcoming school year.

Student medical issues which require a temporary leave from school will be addressed on a case by case basis to determine appropriate instructional alternatives to continue the student’s education in consideration of information provided by the student’s health care provider, parent/guardians, principal, and counselor, and IEP team, if applicable.

To address the issue of mental health concerns for our students and staff, the following measures will continue to be in place for the 2021-22 school year:

1. School counselors and SAP (Student Assistance Program) counselors are available to provide mental health support for students and connect families with services
2. Schools will continue to utilize the SAP program to support students and families
3. One of the district’s comprehensive plan goal areas, Culture for Learning, focuses on continued needs assessment and instruction in SEL (Social Emotional Learning)
4. Staff will be routinely reminded of how to access the district Employee Assistance Program
5. Professional development options will continue that support mental health/stress reduction
6. Behavioral health supports will continue to be provided through our Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA)

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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Governor’s Universal Masking Order expired on June 28, 2021. 2. All individuals (students, teachers, staff, visitors) should wear masks in schools K-12 to begin the school year regardless of vaccination status. Individuals do not need to wear masks when outdoors.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Mask requirements are expected to change from time to time during the school year based on changes in recommendations from the Bucks County Department of Health. The Superintendent is authorized to adjust masking requirements to conform to Bucks County Department of Health recommendations as those recommendations evolve based on changing local data and circumstances. 4. During any period of time when masks are optional in the school district, masks may still be required for individual students, in individual classrooms, or in individual buildings as a Temporary Targeted Mitigation Strategy when recommended in consultation with the Bucks County Health Department. 5. Per the CDC order on wearing masks on public transportation, regardless of the school mask policy, masks are required to be worn by passengers and drivers on school buses. 6. The music department will develop and implement additional mitigation strategies for high risk activities such as choral singing and playing of woodwind/brass instruments.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize distancing where feasible. The CDC recommends maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms, with additional layered mitigation efforts employed if distance recommendations would prevent a school from fully reopening 2. Students will be taken outdoors when feasible 3. Building faculty meetings, full administrative team meetings, and professional development activities will occur in person unless designated as virtual by the meeting coordinator.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items. 2. Proper hand washing technique signs will be posted in all bathrooms and sinks

<p>D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All high-touch surfaces cleaned/disinfected by custodial crew regularly (water fountains, door handles, desks, light switches, etc.) following posted EPA/CDC/manufacturer guidelines 2. Clean desks on a frequent basis (soap and water for students/cleaning solution for faculty/staff). 3. Students and staff should sanitize/wash hands on a frequent basis. (Make hand sanitizer available in common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available). 4. PE equipment will be cleaned regularly. 5. Water fountains may remain disconnected and faculty/staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home and use filling stations. 6. Ventilate all classrooms and common areas when available/possible using windows. Doors and windows will be open to the extent feasible while maintaining perimeter security. If AC is running - doors and windows will be closed. Exterior doors will remain locked. Systems will be set to provide frequent air exchange
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents should report positive COVID-19 cases to the building nurse. 2. Employees are required to report positive cases of COVID 19 to their building nurse as soon as test results are received. 3. The school district is required to report cases to the BCHD. 4. When notified of a positive case by a parent/guardian or the Bucks DOH, the school district will issue classroom, bus, and building letters to notify the school community. (Per Amendment 8/12/21) 5. Whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days as both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can transmit the virus during that time. 6. Per the PADOH, schools should continue to work closely with BCHD to complete contact tracing for individuals diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19. As part of the contact tracing process, the PADOH and BCHD will continue to work with

	<p>schools to gather information about potential close contacts.</p> <p>7. CDC guidance adds the following exception to the definition of close contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and ■ Other K-12 school presentation strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting ■ This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians) on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at home before sending children to school and/or reporting to work. 2. Continue to send families a weekly reminder about home health screening requirements and symptoms to watch for (per Amendment on 8/12/21) 3. Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care 4. The nurse or designated employee will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms consistent with Policy and AR 203, and the recommendations of the Bucks County Department of Health. A flowchart detailing what this looks like is attached. 5. Any individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be referred for COVID-19 testing. 6. Emergency contacts must be up to date. A symptomatic student must be picked up within an hour and will not be sent home on the bus.

<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work with BCDH to provide opportunities for students and community members to receive vaccinations 2. District communication vehicles including School Messenger, Superintendent blogs, and building newsletters will be used to distribute information regarding vaccination clinics and designated hours. 3. All eligible individuals 12 years of age and older should get vaccinated. 4. The school district will mandate vaccination for all school staff and teachers, a position supported by the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director of Student Services, IEP case managers, school nurses, principals and counselors will work with families to develop a student-specific education plan for students with complex needs. 2. The district will also collaborate with BCIU and other education providers to coordinate plans for students with complex needs. 3. Students and staff in IU classes will follow the requirements of the BCIU Health and Safety Plan
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular communication will continue with the Bucks County Department of Health regarding potential implementation of updated guidance from the CDC and other health officials.
<p>j. Sports and Extracurricular Activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Per CDC guidance, individuals who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear masks or physically distance when participating in sports and extracurricular activities. 2. CDC recommends K-12 schools implement prevention strategies, including masking and physical distancing, during sports and extracurricular activities for participants who are not fully vaccinated. 3. Coaches and activity advisors are required to report cases of which they become aware to their building nurse, which will trigger the notification of the team/activity participants.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of School Directors for **Quakertown Community School District** received the initial Health and Safety Plan on **July 15, 2021**, after review by the Bucks County Department of Health, and confirmed their approval of this plan at their public meeting on August 12, 2021, with two Amendments, shown in bold. That amended plan was submitted to PDE.

This revised plan was reviewed by the Bucks County Department of Health, and presented for Board approval at their public meeting on August 26, 2021.

This revised plan was approved by a vote of ___ YES and ___ NO on August 26, 2021.

By:

Kaylyn Mitchell, Board President

Date

*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.