

Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

The Bethlehem Area School District Health and Safety Plan outlines our school district's instructional and non- instructional school reopening activities for the 2022-2023 school year and was created in consultation with the **City of Bethlehem Health Bureau**. As with all emergency plans, the Health and Safety Plan developed for each school entity should be tailored to the unique needs of each school and should be created in consultation with local health agencies.

The plan has categorized reopening into three broad phases: substantial spread, minimal/moderate spread, or low/no spread. These designations signal how counties and/or regions may begin easing some restrictions on school, work, and social interactions. Depending upon the public health conditions in our county, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) designating our county as being in the substantial spread, minimal/moderate spread, or low/no spread phase. There may be times that our county may not experience a straight path from these designated phases. Instead, cycling back and forth between less restrictive to more restrictive designations may occur as public health indicators improve or worsen in our local area. **The Bethlehem Area School District** Health and Safety Plan accounts for changing conditions to ensure fluid transition from more to less restrictive conditions in each of the phase requirements as needed.

Initial Effective Date: August 29, 2022

Date of Last Review:

Date of Last Revision:

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Pandemic Coordinator/Team

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities
Dr. Kim Zsitek-Brannan	BASD	Pandemic Team Coordinator
Todd Repsher	BASD	Pandemic Team
Mark Stein	BASD	Pandemic Team
Russ Giordano	BASD	Pandemic Team
Jane Fischer	BASD	Pandemic Team
Kristen Wenrich	Bethlehem Health Bureau	Pandemic Team Consultant
Dr. Rajika Reed	St Luke's Community Health	Pandemic Team Consultant
Dr. Anita Shah	BASD Chief School Physician	Pandemic Team Consultant

Roles and Responsibilities for Health and Safety Preparedness and Response Planning

- Prevent accidents, injuries and work/school-related illnesses in the schools.
- Create and implement health and safety policies in accordance with the latest legislation and to ensure that these policies are implemented by staff.
- Create and implement health and safety procedures/protocols/practices in accordance with the latest guidance and recommendations for the Department of Health (DOH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) and to ensure that these procedures/protocols/practices are implemented by staff.
- Create a Health and Safety Plan and ensure it's regularly updated to reflect any changes to the law and/or guidance from federal, state, and local health officials. It's their responsibility.
- Ensure that each member of staff is aware of and adheres to the Health and Safety Plan.
- Provide regular inspections and risk assessments, and ensure that any hazards or defects are rectified immediately.
- Maintain records and thoroughly investigate any accident, community spread illness, and recommend any improvements in health and safety standards if required.
- Provide training to all staff in health and safety issues, and advise them on protective clothing and equipment where necessary.
- Serve as the key point of contact for any member of staff who has a query or concern regarding the health and safety of the workplace.
- Work closely with management, as well as health and safety inspectors.

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Addressing School Spread in Pre-K-12 Schools (Clusters in Schools)

BASD will utilize a routine communicable disease model to manage COVID-19.

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Excluding an ill child may decrease the spread of the disease to others in the child care and school settings.

Recommended exclusion varies by the disease or infectious agent. Children with the symptoms listed below should be excluded from the child care or school setting until symptoms improve, or a healthcare provider has determined that the child can return.

- Schools Subject to CDC and Commonwealth Guidance
- Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH health officials.
- COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols

Exclude children with any of the following:

Illness: Unable to participate in routine activities or needs more care than can be provided by the child care/school staff.

- Fever: Elevation of body temperature above normal when accompanied by behavior changes, stiff neck, difficulty breathing, rash, sore throat, and/or other signs or symptoms of illness; or is unable to participate in routine activities. Measure temperature before giving medications to reduce fever. The following temperatures are considered above normal:
 - Temperature: 100 degrees F or higher.
- Signs/Symptoms of Possible Severe Illness: Exclude until a healthcare provider has done an evaluation to rule out severe illness when the child is unusually tired, has uncontrolled coughing, unexplained irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs for the child.

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- Diarrhea: Until 24 hours after diarrhea stops or until a medical exam indicates that it is not due to a communicable disease. Diarrhea is defined as an increased number of stools compared with a child's normal pattern, along with decreased stool form and/or stools that are watery, bloody, or contain mucus.
- Vomiting: Until 24 hours after vomiting stops, unless determined to be caused by a noncommunicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- Mouth Sores with Drooling: Until a medical exam indicates the child may return or until sores have healed.
- Rash with Fever or Behavior Change: Until a medical exam indicates these symptoms are not those of a communicable disease that requires exclusion.
- Eye Drainage: When purulent (pus) drainage and/or fever or eye pain is present or until a medical exam indicates that a child may return.

For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the [CDC's Consideration for Schools](#)

Prevention Strategies: All Schools

Correct Wearing of Masks

Use of face coverings by staff and students:

- The wearing of masks will follow the most current guidelines set forth from the City of Bethlehem Health Department
 - CDC guidelines for cloth face masks: it should have at least two layers of fabric, fit securely against the face, have elastic around the ear or the capability to tie behind the head to allow for clear breathing, and also have the ability to be laundered. Cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Cloth face coverings are an example of source control. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings because of a lack of evidence of their

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effectiveness for source control. CDC guidelines: face coverings must fully cover the mouth and nose, be secured under your chin and fit snugly against the sides of the face.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Core principle for handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Through ongoing health education units and lessons, teach children proper handwashing and reinforce behaviors, and provide adequate supplies. Ensure that teachers and staff use proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

- Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students, teachers, and staff. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used.
- Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when not wearing a mask and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Some students with disabilities might need assistance with handwashing and respiratory etiquette behaviors.
- Adequate supplies: Support [healthy hygiene](#) behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, a way to dry hands, tissues, face masks (as feasible), and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans. If soap and water are not readily available, schools can provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

Cleaning and Ventilation

- **Cleaning:** Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces and objects such as door handles, sink handles, toilets and drinking fountains within the school and on school buses. If a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was in a facility within the last 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting, close off areas used by the positive case and do not use those areas until after cleaning and disinfecting. Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before starting the cleaning process.
- **Ventilation:** Improve [ventilation](#) to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.

Testing

In collaboration with the Bethlehem Area School District's Community Health Partners (St. Luke's University Health Network and the City of Bethlehem Health Bureau) the BHB will provide rapid tests for each school health room to be distributed to parent/guardian/staff of symptomatic student/staff.

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Vaccination Efforts

The Bethlehem Area School District has been diligent in working with our Community Health Partners to provide access to, and opportunities to receive the three currently accepted COVID 19 vaccines. The vaccine has been made available to the following populations:

- BASD staff members
- Parents/guardians of student body
- The student population 5 years and older

Protecting Vulnerable Students and Staff at High Risk for Severe Illness

Reasonable modifications, when necessary, must be provided to ensure equal access for students with disabilities. Consider additional prevention strategies to accommodate the health and safety of students with disabilities and protect their civil rights and equal access to safe in-person learning.

Behavioral Health Supports

- Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health Supports that may include:
 - EAP Program
 - Behavioral health support through employee benefits plan
 - Community resources
- Students and Families have access to the following Behavioral Health Supports:
 - SAP Program
 - Behavioral health support provided by community partners through telehealth services and in school services at each of the schools in the BASD
 - Community resource

Safety Drill Plans and Response

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- Each school principal or person in charge of a school shall schedule in the Navigate Prepared system a tentative schedule listing each drill for that school year on or before the first day of school.
- Conduct all drills in accordance with public school code of 1949 - 1949 Act 14 - Pa General Assembly, and your schools Emergency Operations Plan

RESOURCES:

- Superintendent
 - Joseph Roy, Superintendent, Bethlehem Area School District
 - Jack Silva, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
- Teaching and Learning
 - Jack Silva, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
- Special Education and Pupil Services
 - Claire Hogan, Chief Pupil Services Office, Bethlehem Area School District
- Technology
 - Marie E. Bachman, Chief Technology Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
 - Scott Best, Supervisor of IT Support Services, Bethlehem Area School District
- Transportation
 - Jenny Robinson Transportation General Manager, Bethlehem Area School District
 - Sandy McKeon, Transportation Manager, Bethlehem Area School District
- Facilities
 - Mark Stein, Chief Facilities and Operations Officer, Bethlehem
- Safety, Health, Dining and Security: Emergency Preparedness
 - Todd Repsher, Coordinator School Safety / Emerg. Mgmt, Bethlehem ASD

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- Kim Zsitek-Brannan, Supervisor Health Services, Bethlehem Area School District
- Amy Sura, Dietary, Bethlehem Area School District

- Human Resources
 - Russell Giordano, Chief Human Resources Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
 - Jane Fischer, Human Resources Manager, Bethlehem Area School District
 - Kelly Male, Employee Benefits Specialist, Bethlehem Area School District

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Resources:

- CDC Considerations for Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- CDC the Schools Decision Tree: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/K-12-infographic.html>
- CDC the Interim Guidance for Schools and Day Camps: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- Process to Reopen Pennsylvania: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>
- CDC People Who Need Extra Precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>
- CDC Print Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>
- CDC Considerations for Youth Sports: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- PA Guidance for Businesses Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees and the Public: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>
- DOH Guidance on Home Isolation or Quarantine and Returning to Work: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>
- CDC Important Information About Your Cloth Face Coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
- Guidance on Homemade Masks During COVID-19: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/Homemade-Mask-Guidance.aspx>
- PA COVID-19 PPE and Supplies Business-2-Business Interchange Directory: https://palcofirst.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/pennsylvania_covid-19_ppe_supplies_business-2-business_b2b_interchange_directory.pdf
- CDC How to clean and disinfect: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

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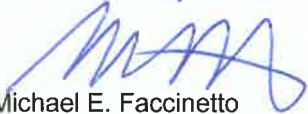
Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Bethlehem Area School District reviewed and approved the Revised School Reopening Health and Safety Plan on August 29, 2022

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on:
By: August 29, 2022


Michael E. Faccinetto
President, Board of School Directors

**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.