

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Palisades School District

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2022

Introduction: School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic; the exceptions will be fully described within this document. Palisades School District was open all year for in person instruction, for five days a week, during the **2020-2021 and 2021-2022** school years. 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 remaining compliant with national, state and local health guidance.

This plan will continue to be adapted as conditions change.

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 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 as well as the building level teams but at a minimum it will be reviewed every 6 months. 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 **2022-2023 school year** will be:

1. Instruction will resume on **August 29, 2022**, on a normal, Monday through Friday schedule.
2. The following options will be available to families:
 - a. Face to face, in classroom instruction
 - b. Homeschool/face to face (this option has long been available to our homeschool families)
 - c. Virtual courses (as offered prior to the pandemic)

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 be in place for the **2022-2023** school year:

1. A licensed professional counselor (LPC), in addition to the 6 building school counselors, are available to provide mental health support for students and connect families with services
2. Staff will be routinely reminded of how to access the district Employee Assistance Program
3. Professional development options will continue that support mental health/stress reduction
4. Behavioral health supports will also be added through a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (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 |
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| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <p>Masking is optional for students and staff.</p> <p>If a student/employee is actively coughing/sneezing when they enter the nurse's suite, they may be asked to wear a mask until they can be assessed.</p> |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize distancing where feasible. • Students may be taken outdoors for instruction as often as possible. • 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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items. • Proper hand washing technique signs will be posted in all bathrooms and sinks |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All high-touch surfaces cleaned/disinfected by custodial crew daily (water fountains, door handles, desks, light switches, etc.) following posted EPA/CDC/manufacture guidelines. • Clean desks on a frequent basis (soap and water for students/cleaning solution for faculty/staff). • 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). • PE equipment and fitness center will be cleaned daily with Victory Sprayer. • Water fountains will remain disconnected and faculty/staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home and use filling stations. • Personal cloth furniture and area rugs will not return to classrooms for the 2022-2023 school year and must be taken home. • Ventilate all classrooms and common areas when available/possible using windows. Use air circulation patterns that push inside air towards open windows. Doors and windows will be open to the maximum extent feasible (doors locked and propped in case we need to lockdown classrooms quickly) and ceiling fans will be operational to promote proper ventilation. Pedestal fans will be used in multipurpose rooms/gyms/cafeterias. If AC is running - doors and windows will be closed. Exterior doors will remain locked. Quarterly filter changes will occur to maximize air flow |
| <p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID infections will be handled similarly to other communicable diseases as noted in policy 203 http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pali/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BSTJPH4D5692 <p>According to policy 203, students may return to school when the criteria for readmission following a communicable disease, as set forth in law, regulations or guidance from state or local health officials, have been met.</p> |

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| <p>health departments;</p> | <p>For instance, once a student has resolving symptoms and has been fever-free for 24 hours without medication, they may return to school.</p> <p>According to BCDH, if a person tests positive for COVID, but they are asymptomatic it is recommended that the person remains home for one to two days to ensure they aren't about to become sick (they were pre-symptomatic when they tested).</p> <p>Palisades will excuse a student that has tested positive for COVID but remains asymptomatic for up to two days to see if symptoms emerge.</p> <p>Testing of asymptomatic individuals is not recommended by BCDH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine are not required for school attendance or employment, it is highly encouraged for all students and staff to get the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine. |
| <p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians) on the signs and symptoms of communicable diseases, including COVID-19, at home before sending children to school and/or reporting to work. • The nurse or designated employee will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms and advise parents/guardians how to obtain a COVID test. No student will be tested without parental permission. • Testing of asymptomatic individuals is not recommended by BCDH • 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. • Until further notice, recognitions or awards for perfect attendance will not occur. Maintaining this recognition may encourage symptomatic students to attend school. |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with BCDH to provide opportunities for students and community members to receive vaccinations. No student will be vaccinated without parental permission. • District communications vehicles will be used to distribute information regarding vaccination clinics and designated hours. |
| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The district will also collaborate with BCIU and other education providers to coordinate plans for students with complex needs. |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication will continue with the Bucks County Department of Health to confirm updated guidance from the CDC and other health officials. • In accordance with Policy 203, the school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Palisades School District reviewed and approved the School Health and Safety Plan on June 15, 2022

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 - Yes

0 - No

Affirmed on: June 1, 2022

By:  _____

(Signature of Board President)*

Robert S. Musantry

(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.