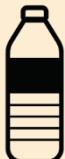
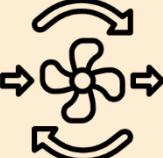


DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN - HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

2022-2023

The changes to the Health and Safety Plan for the 2022-2023 school year primarily addresses protocols for individuals who have tested positive or who have symptoms of COVID-19. Our goal is to continue to keep our students and staff well, our schools open and our students in school. As we open this school year, we aim to bring back the programs, services and activities that were offered prior to March 2020.

Mitigation Strategies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will emphasize and reinforce proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses especially during key times in the day (for example, before and after eating, after using the restroom, and after recess). • The school will provide adequate handwashing supplies, including soap and water. • In addition, it is recommended that the school will provide hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol in classrooms and common areas.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water fountains will not be available for use unless the water fountain has been renovated to serve as a bottle filling station. • Students are encouraged to maintain a water bottle in the classroom.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing is no longer mandated. • Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows or doors. • Schools, when possible, will flex to outdoor or less-crowded indoor locations during periods of high seasonal transmission, so long as such practices do not impose major challenges to normal program operations and safety.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school will maintain a daily cleaning procedure for desks and high traffic areas. • Deep cleaning will be conducted as necessary, particularly in areas where known positive cases were present.

Response to Symptoms and Positive Cases	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will not be conducting contact tracing. • Individuals who are exposed to a COVID-19 positive case may remain in school and participate in activities, provided they remain asymptomatic.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to CDC guidelines, individuals experiencing sore throat, fever, cough, fatigue, headache, congestion, or loss of taste and smell are asked to test for COVID-19. • If a student exhibits COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the school will isolate the student, contact parents for pick-up, and clean and disinfect the area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate at home for 5 days. The individual may return to school on Day 6 if symptoms have improved and they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Individuals are encouraged to test before returning to school/work. Individuals returning to school after isolation must wear a well-fitted mask from Days 6 through 10.
 Clusters and Outbreaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Health or the local health bureau to determine if an outbreak has occurred at an individual school or in a classroom. If those situations occur, parental notifications, social distancing, contract tracing and other measures will be put in place to mitigate the outbreak and to keep our students and staff safe, our schools open and our students in school.

Other Considerations	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation safety protocols are decided by individual public-school districts. The school will not conduct contract tracing for exposures which may occur on the bus. Educational field trips are permitted and are encouraged.
 Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distancing requirements for cafeterias and other areas are no longer mandated. Good hygiene is an important part of the lunch period, which will include the ability of students to wash hands, or use of hand sanitizer, prior to and after eating lunch, as well as the cleaning and sanitization of tables between lunch periods.
 Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no restrictions on participating in or attending athletic events. Covid positive individuals must follow the same protocols, including the isolation period and wearing of a well-fitted mask upon return on day 6 through day 10.
 Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no COVID related restrictions on volunteers and visitors. Symptomatic or Covid positive individuals must follow the same protocols as students and staff members. Community events may resume. During periods of high seasonal transmission, the school may adopt practical strategies, such as increased sanitation and using facilities with wide open space, to mitigate the possibility of transmission. Vaccinations are available for any parent who elects to immunize their child 6 months or older. Students who are ill—particularly those with cough, muscle aches and fever—must stay home to recuperate. Individuals should remain home until fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and until symptoms are improving.

*****Schools will report all COVID-19 *school* cases of students and staff to the Diocesan Office of Education each Friday following Diocesan procedures. *****