



**Initial Effective Date: July 27, 2021**

**Date of Last Reviews: July 26, 2021; August 23, 2021; December 15, 2021; January 10, 2022, September 26, 2022**

**Date of Most Recent Revision: June 26, 2023**

### **Update**

On August 11, 2022, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) streamlined its COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools. The goal was “to help people better understand their risk, how to protect themselves and others, what actions to take if exposed to COVID-19, and what actions to take if they are sick or test positive for the virus”. The CDC went on to inform that while “COVID-19 continues to circulate globally” there are additional tools available which can reduce the severity of COVID-19. In streamlining their guidance, the CDC asserts that there is considerably less risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death now, as compared to the early stages of the pandemic. As a result, the District has made significant changes to the Health and Safety plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

### **Health and Safety Plan Feedback Summary**

During the 2021-2022 school year the District received valuable feedback from parents/staff regarding the Health and Safety Plan. That feedback allowed the District to create a plan that met the unique needs of our District. The foremost goals of that plan were two-fold and included; keeping students and staff safe, and keeping students and staff in schools for in-person learning. The former plan was effective in accomplishing both goals.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District continued to carefully collect data on COVID-19 cases in conjunction with a careful review of attendance rates for students and staff. The results of the District’s data collection showed a dramatic decrease in COVID-19 cases as the 2021-2022 school year progressed. In response to the decreased case counts experienced in the 2021-2022 school year, and in response to the August 11, 2022 guidance from the CDC, the District has now revised this plan and is providing an opportunity for parent feedback on the plan. Feedback on the plan can be submitted to [HSPFeedback@schuylkillvalley.org](mailto:HSPFeedback@schuylkillvalley.org).

### **Organization of the Plan:**

The organization of the 2022-2023 school year plan remains relatively unchanged and includes student and staff sections. In addition, while the 2022-2023 plan continues to include an athletic section to provide clarity for what will occur in athletics, the plan does not include a section for what will occur in times of mandatory masking. The mandatory masking sections have been removed in response to the information provided by the PA Department of Health and in response to the District’s success with mitigation procedures during the 2021-2022 school year.

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## Student Protocols

### Student Prevention and Mitigation Policies

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**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?**

On August 11, 2022, the CDC updated guidance for K-12 Schools. A summary of the recent changes include the following:

- Removed the recommendation to cohort
- Changed recommendation to conduct screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak
- Removed the recommendation to quarantine, except in high-risk congregate settings
- Removed information about Test to Stay
- Added detailed information on when to wear a mask, managing cases and exposures, and responding to outbreaks

In addition to the afore stated summary, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) streamlined its COVID-19 guidance for K-12 schools. The goal was “to help people better understand: their risk, how to protect themselves and others, what actions to take if exposed to COVID-19, and what actions to take if they are sick or test positive for the virus”. The CDC went on to inform that while “COVID-19 continues to circulate globally” there are additional tools available which can reduce the severity of COVID-19. In streamlining their guidance, the CDC asserted that ‘there is considerable less risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death now, as compared to the early stages of the pandemic’.

The plan that follows has considered the latest CDC, DOH and PDE guidance and has considered a review of District specific procedures enacted in the previous school years. In response, the District has made significant changes to the Health and Safety plan for the 2022-2023 school year. The District will continue to review ongoing CDC guidance as well as any continued and emerging guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Links to the CDC COVID-19 page can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Links to the latest PDE guidance can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

During the course of the pandemic, the District has engaged in varied efforts to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At the onset of the pandemic, during return to school efforts and for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year, the District used a layered approach in the implementation of prevention and mitigation strategies. The District Health and Safety Plan from its inception has placed a priority on: the safety of students and staff, and the continued prioritization of in-person learning for students. All District implemented prevention strategies that were delivered supported these foci.

During the 2021-2022 school year the District prevention efforts included, but were not limited to; social distancing, (to the greatest extent possible), encouraged handwashing where possible, installation of hand sanitation stations that allowed students and staff to hand sanitize at varied times during the day, e-misting of classrooms and increased cleaning protocols. During the 2022-2023 school year, the District will continue to: encourage handwashing, allow for the use of hand sanitizing stations, e-mist classrooms as needed, and will continue to use increased cleaning protocols in response to specific cases (or during instances of increased case counts).

During the 2021-2022 school year the District continued the use of virtual meetings which began during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. The use of virtual meetings during those times were deemed by the District as a means of allowing parents and guardians to attend important educational meetings without entry into schools. While this was not the preferred meeting method for interacting with parents regarding student progress, it was a necessary precaution in those years and continued in part during the 2021-2022 school year. During the 2022-2023 school year, the District will return to in-person parent/teacher meetings. Virtual meeting options will only be used in specific instances where the health and safety of students or staff would be negatively impacted by an in-person meeting.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District also recognized that an alternate approach to attendance was necessary. During the 2021-2022 school year the District encouraged students to stay home when feeling ill in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and in an effort to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. Parents and families partnered with the District in keeping students who were ill or symptomatic home, however, parents provided important information on the challenges that existed in securing appointments with their child's medical provider. As a result, and in response to the challenges parents faced in securing medical appointments, the District relaxed the requirement for securing a doctor's note to document student absences. While the district will continue to encourage students to stay home when they are feeling ill, for the 2022-2023 school year, medical providers are more readily opening their facilities for in-person appointments and as such, the District will return to requiring a doctor's note when a student is absent three or more consecutive days.

For the 2022-2023 school year, and as in pre-COVID-19 years, in instances where a student is at school and begins to feel ill, the school nurse will follow their pre-COVID-19 screening procedures which included a review of symptoms and a temperature check. Students with a fever higher than 101 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication to return to school.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District took great care to inspect and adjust cleaning protocols for each building. While the District has always maintained a rigorous cleaning protocol, the District employed cleaning regimens that exceeded pre-COVID-19 daily cleaning schedules by adding the use of E-mist machines in classrooms and areas where exposure has been noted.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the District building and grounds department will return to standard, daily cleaning protocols. In instances where increased COVID-19 cases are experienced, the buildings and grounds department will use E-mist machines to sanitize rooms and will increase cleaning protocols as appropriate. The District also recognizes the importance and benefit of maximum air flow and air transmission, and seeks to achieve such to the greatest extent possible. To that end, the District has installed new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) units in the large spaces at the High School and Elementary School. The District is also currently in the process of replacing each unit ventilator in each classroom at the Elementary School. The District will continue to inspect the filters used in ventilation systems, and will continue to use the highest rated filters that can be used, without reducing or restricting air flow.

While the District previously used a layered approach in the implementation of mitigation strategies, that approach was in response to the COVID-19 concerns at that time. Since that time, the emerging information being presented regarding mitigation and the emerging information provided from the Department of Health, CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Education has resulted in additional revisions to the HSP. The 2022-2023 revisions continue to prioritize student and staff safety, as well as in person learning. The revisions in the 2022-2023 plan also continue to provide parents with choice regarding masking and demonstrate the District's commitment to providing continued mitigation and protection options for families who elect or may need to access them. These assurances are aligned with the District theme for the 2022-2023 school year, "Achieve, Belong, Connect". The District Health and Safety Plan continues to play an important role in the continued effort to ensure our schools are one in which students and staff "Achieve, Belong and Connect" and one in which families/students have a comfort level that promotes continued attendance in our schools and at our events.

## Student Academic, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

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**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?**

### Academic Needs:

The District had previously developed a continuity of education plan that allowed students to continue their education during school closures. Though the District continued to review the progress of students in an effort to offset the impact that school closures had during the 19-20 and 20-21 school year, the most recent standardized tests, along with curriculum-based and teacher created assessments, demonstrate the impact that remote learning has had on student achievement.

While each school building valiantly attempted to monitor student progress and provide support during periods of remote learning, there is no substitute for the experiences our students have when they are in our classrooms, in our buildings and with our teachers, administrators and staff. The 2022-2023 school year will be an important year for younger learners who may be experiencing their first full year of uninterrupted, in-person learning as 3<sup>rd</sup> graders! Similarly, middle and high school students who spent a portion of time at home and in remote learning, will also benefit from additional support during the current school year. In response to that need, for the 2022-2023 school year, the District has developed master learning schedules that provide time the elementary, middle and high school, for additional support.

In an effort to closely review learning loss experienced during remote and interrupted learning, the District has partnered with New Solutions Group to create a guiding coalition of teachers, administrators and staff that will inspect the impact of student achievement during the pandemic. The guiding coalition will also consider the future of learning and will make recommendations to the Board of School Directors on any additional resources or programs that may be needed.

### Student Social Emotional /Mental Health and Other Needs:

The impact of the pandemic has not been limited to academic learning loss. The pandemic has changed the way that schools operate, the way children receive their education, the way parents view education, and the way in which teachers and staff deliver education to students. To that end, the District

implemented a number of supports during the 2021-2022 school year in an effort meet the needs of students.

Across the District K-12, the District employs two school counselors in each building who are available to meet individually and in small groups to discuss any concerns that students may have. In addition, students have access to mental health services through the SAP programming, the District employs certified behavior support personnel, employs three full-time school psychologists, and three nurses. These services will continue in the 2022-2023 school year. In addition to existing services, the District has also written social work services into the Federal Grant funding for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

During the 2021-2022 school year the Elementary School counselors pushed into classrooms one time per cycle to focus on social/emotional needs of students. The school counselors also served as an additional support to students who were demonstrating increased needs that have resulted from, or may have been connected to, the pandemic. The Elementary School had two representatives from CONCERN who provided counseling to students. In addition to the representatives from CONCERN, the Student Assistance Program (SAP) addressed specific student social and emotional needs. Unfortunately, as was the case for many agencies, schools and other places of employment, CONCERN and the CARON Foundation experienced staffing challenges in the 2021-2022 school year. For the 2022-2023 school year the agencies report that those staffing challenges still exist in part. As such, the District has reached out to other agencies in the effort to fill the social work supports.

During the 2021-2022 year, the Middle School, much like the Elementary School, offered multiple support groups that were facilitated by the CARON liaison. In addition to the CARON liaison, the Middle School had two representatives from CONCERN that were tasked with spending pre-determined days on-site in which counseling could be provided. However, due to the staffing shortages mentioned above, the availability of CARON and CONCERN counselors were limited during the 2021-2022 school year. In response, Middle School guidance classes also increased the focus of instruction on social and emotional needs of students and the Student Assistant Program (SAP) team worked to address specific student social and emotional needs. For the 2022-2023 school year, the school counselors will continue to provide such services in the. CARON and CONCERN will continue to provide services to the District in the 2022-2023 school year. The District also will also begin the delivery of social work services, as appropriate, once staffed.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the High School also worked to address any social or emotional impacts associated with COVID-19. Specifically, the High School implemented “Panther Friday” for the first nine weeks of the school year. “Panther Friday” was used to create a ‘home base’ by which students could reconnect with their peers and with their homeroom teacher. Students participated in social emotional activities and study skills activities both of which had emerged as a need in the transition back to school (and in-person learning). “Panther Friday” continued through the 2021-2022 school year. Panther Friday’s occurred one time per month. The High School also offered multiple support groups that were facilitated by the CARON liaison. In addition to the CARON liaison, the High School had two representatives from CONCERN that spent pre-determined days on-site and provided counseling. However, due to the availability of CARON and CONCERN counselors, those services did not span the entire 2021-2022 school year. CARON and CONCERN will continue to provide services to our District in the 2022-2023 school year. The District also will also begin the delivery of social work services, as appropriate, once staffed.

## Student Health and Food Services:

The District recognizes the importance of meals for students and will continue to provide opportunities for students to purchase lunches at school. The District also makes available, to qualifying students, free and reduced meal plans. Because, the CDC has recognized the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects and as such the District, in the 2022-2023 school year, will return to the service of meals rather than pre-packaged, single use items. The District will also continue to provide a selection of grab and go items.

## Safety of Students

**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;

1. The District supports the choice of parents in making decisions on mask wearing for their child and the District will support parents who elect to have their child wear a mask. The District will not require universal masking for students (*or staff- see the staff section of this plan*).
2. While the District did not experience a need to do so during the 2021-2022 school year, and while the District does not anticipate the need to do so in the 2022-2023 school year for reasons of safety, the District reserves the right to transition to remote learning when any of the following metrics occur:
  - a) Staff absences exceed a rate at which appropriate classroom instruction can be provided even after exhausting coverage and substitute efforts.
  - b) Bus driver absences create a situation that prevents the transportation of students to school.
3. Should it be necessary, teachers will provide mask breaks for students who, by an expressed parent concern, have a need to engage in mask wearing.

### B. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding):

1. During the 2021-2022 school year, school buildings and schedules were configured where possible, to allow for social distancing.
2. During the 2022-2023 school year, the school buildings and schedules were developed in a manner that prioritized collaboration and in-person instruction over social distancing.
3. The latest CDC guidance has removed the recommendation for “podding” and cohorting.

### C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

1. The District will continue to make instructional literature regarding handwashing



and respiratory etiquette available in the school nurse offices.

2. Nurses will provide age appropriate instruction on handwashing and respiratory etiquette when necessary and appropriate.
3. Hand sanitation stations have been placed in various locations throughout the buildings and appropriate use will be encouraged.

#### D. [Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;](#)

1. The District will continue to implement a thorough cleaning schedule in bathrooms, classrooms, locker rooms, cafeterias, and other high traffic spaces.
2. In instances of known cases, the District will increase cleaning and E-misting efforts as appropriate in identified areas.
3. The District will ensure that ventilation systems are serviced and will attempt to increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces to the greatest extent possible.
4. The District will improve the level of air filtration to the greatest extent possible without significantly decreasing air flow.

#### E. [Contact tracing in combination with \[isolation\]\(#\) and \[quarantine\]\(#\), in collaboration with the State and local health departments;](#)

1. For students who test positive for COVID-19 the District recommends that students and families follow the [CDC guidance](#) which includes but is not limited to the following:
  - a) (At least) 5 days of isolation from others in the home during what is likely the most infectious period. Isolation may end after 5 days and after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and improved symptoms, or in the absence of symptoms from onset.
  - b) Wearing of a high-quality mask when returning to be around others at home and in public.
  - c) Regardless of when isolation ends, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
  - d) Wearing a high-quality mask through day 10.

#### F. [Universal Case Investigation and Contact Tracing](#)

1. Universal case investigation and contact tracing are no longer recommended by the CDC in school settings. The CDC now recommends [case investigation and contact tracing](#) only in health care settings and certain high-risk congregate settings. Schools are not considered high-risk congregate settings by the CDC.

## G. Diagnostic and screening testing;

1. The District encourages parents and students to stay informed about COVID-19 symptoms and to monitor the health of their children prior to sending their children to school. While at school, the District will monitor the health of children and will keep parents informed of any concerns that occur while children are in school.
2. The District recommends that students:
  - a) Who are not feeling well,
  - b) Who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, stay home.
  - c) Who are taking fever-reducing medication stay home and/or seek medical attention, and that they follow the usual procedures for reporting off from school.

**For the 2022-2023 school year a doctor's note will be required when a student is absent three or more consecutive days.**

3. Students who exhibit symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea while at school should:
  - a) Return home.
  - b) Seek medical attention if parents feel such medical attention is necessary.
  - c) Follow the procedures for leaving school early (and for reporting off the next day if necessary).

## H. Efforts to provide communities;

1. The District partnered with a local pharmacy in June 2021 to provide on-site vaccinations for eligible community members.
2. Because of the wide-spread availability of vaccination sites, the District has no plans to offer on-site vaccination clinics to staff or students.
3. The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU), in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), has asked the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to host a school community testing center to ensure access to free COVID-19 testing and over-the-counter tests for educators, families of school-aged children, and the broader community. The BCIU has agreed to host the center at the BCIU Main Office, 1111 Commons Boulevard., Reading, PA 19605 as a park-to-test site.

## I. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;

1. The District will continue to follow the individualized programming and specifically designed instruction for students with disabilities.

2. The District will continue to collaborate with parents and will make every effort to accommodate students who have expressed health needs that require accommodations.

#### J. Coordination with state and local health officials;

1. The District will continue to participate in Berks County Intermediate Unit meetings and other County meetings where matters of health and safety are discussed.
2. In cases where any Federal, State, PDE or Local Orders/Mandates are implemented, the Board will meet to discuss those Orders and will consider the recommendations and will make revisions to the plan as appropriate.
3. The District will continue to report cases as required by the PDE.



## Staff Protocols

### Staff Prevention and Mitigation Policies

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On August 11, 2022, the CDC updated guidance for K-12 Schools. A summary of the recent changes include the following:

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During the 2021-2022 school year the District prevention efforts included, but were not limited to; social distancing, (to the greatest extent possible), encouraged handwashing where possible, installation of hand sanitation stations that allowed students and staff to hand sanitize at varied times during the day, e-misting of classrooms and increased cleaning protocols. During the 2022-2023 school year, the District will continue to: encourage handwashing, allow for the use of hand sanitizing stations, e-mist classrooms as needed, and will continue to use increased cleaning protocols in response to specific cases (or during instances of increased case counts).

During the 2021-2022 school year the District continued the use of virtual meetings which began during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. The use of virtual meetings during those times were deemed by the District as a means of allowing parents and guardians to attend important educational meetings without entry into schools. While this was not the preferred meeting method for interacting with parents regarding student progress, it was a necessary precaution in those years and continued in part during the 2021-2022 school year. During the 2022-2023 school year, the District will return to in-person parent/teacher meetings. Virtual meeting options will only be used in specific instances where the health and safety of students or staff would be negatively impacted by an in-person meeting.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District also recognized that an alternate approach to attendance was necessary. During the 2021-2022 school year the District encouraged staff to stay home when feeling ill in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and in an effort to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

For the 2022-2023 school year, and as in pre-COVID-19 years, in instances where a staff member is at school and begins to feel ill, they will be encouraged to go home.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District took great care to inspect and adjust cleaning protocols for each building. While the District has always maintained a rigorous cleaning protocol, the District employed cleaning regimens that exceeded pre-COVID-19 daily cleaning schedules by adding the use of E-mist machines in classrooms and areas where exposure has been noted.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the District building and grounds department will return to standard, daily cleaning protocols. In instances where increased COVID-19 cases are experienced, the buildings and grounds department will use E-mist machines to sanitize rooms and will increase cleaning protocols as appropriate. The District also recognizes the importance and benefit of maximum air flow and air transmission, and seeks to achieve such to the greatest extent possible. To that end, the District has installed new HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) units in the large spaces at the High School and Elementary School. The District is also currently in the process of replacing each unit ventilator in each classroom at the Elementary School. The District will continue to inspect the filters used in ventilation systems, and will continue to use the highest rated filters that can be used, without reducing or restricting air flow.

**While the District previously used a layered approach in the implementation of mitigation strategies, that approach was in response to the COVID-19 concerns at that time. Since that time, the emerging information being presented regarding mitigation and the emerging information provided from the Department of Health, CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Education has resulted in additional revisions to the HSP. The 2022-2023 revisions continue to prioritize student and staff safety, as well as in person learning. The revisions in the 2022-2023 plan also continue to provide staff with choice regarding masking and demonstrate the District's commitment to providing continued mitigation and protection options for families who elect or may need to access them. These assurances are aligned with the District theme for the 2022-2023 school year, "Achieve, Belong, Connect". The District Health and Safety Plan continues to play an important role in the continued effort to ensure our schools are one in which students and staff "Achieve, Belong and Connect" and one in which staff have a comfort level that promotes continued attendance in our schools and at our events.**

## Staff Academic, Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

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**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?**

### Staff & Academic Needs:

The District had previously developed a continuity of education plan that allowed students to continue their education during school closures. The District continued to review the progress of students in an effort to determine the impact that school closures during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year may have had on student achievement and/or learning loss. In the 2021-2022 school year each school developed supports and services for students which are outlined in the paragraphs that follow.

The Elementary School continued to monitor the progress of students. The Elementary School provided academic supports for students who were more than one year behind. In addition, the school counselors provided for social and emotional needs of students.

The Middle School took also steps to address learning loss and reconfigured the ISTA schedule to provide additional instructional scaffolding and opportunities for support by which teachers can assist students. This assistance was universally applied to all students at all learning levels. In addition to scheduling adjustments, Middle School grade level teams of teachers met twice per month to discuss the academic and non-academic progress of students. The discussions on student progress drove the development of strategies and implementation of interventions for student specific supports that will be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year.

At the High School level, academic study halls existed and were offered to students. The academic study hall was a small group experience in which one or two teachers worked specifically with students on study skills, organization and other needs. Academic study hall opportunities were initially afforded in direct response to student learning loss in the 2020-2021 school year. However, in the 2021-2022 school year, the academic study served students who needed assistance in the transition back to school and served students who are new to the District. In the 2022-2023 school year, the High School will continue to offer peer tutoring for students in need. The High School counselors will continue to play an important role in matching student ambassadors (tutors) with student requests. Access to the peer tutoring service will be available on the District website.

### Staff Social Emotional /Mental Health and Other Needs:

The impact of the pandemic has not been limited to academic learning loss. It has changed the way that schools operate, the way children receive their education and it has changed the way in which teachers and staff deliver education to students. Change can be challenging, and while SVSD has worked to meet the demands of COVID-19, the social emotional impact should not be dismissed. To that end, the District has the following mechanisms in place in an effort to meet the needs of staff and recognizes a continued need moving forward.

For Staff COVID-19 has meant managing a different workload in a different way. It required learning and dealing with new communication and learning tools and it also meant dealing with the associated technical difficulties along the way. The increased use of technology has also created a new work schedule for many, and has required the adaptation to mobile and changing workspaces. In addition to work related changes, many people have experienced the need to take care of a family member or a loved one, while still maintaining the increased and changed demands of their current position. All of these above-named changes can and have led to work place stress and burn out. The most recent information regarding teacher and administrator certificate issuance confirms the stress associated with teaching, administration, and work in schools in general. In addition, staff positions at the custodial, secretarial, food service, and paraprofessional level can also be challenging and reduced staffing can lead to burn out. The District will continue to positively highlight the work of staff, teachers and administrators and invites parents and families to do the same. It will take an entire community working together, valuing each other, and supporting each other to avoid the staff shortages that other Districts have faced.

To combat work place stress and burn out, the District maintains an employee assistance program that provides for mental health assistance and other forms of assistance during these times. During the 2021-2022 school year, the District used in-service days to provide additional time for teachers to communicate with families and work with technology changes. For the 2022-2023 school year, the District intentionally developed the teacher & staff in-service days with time for self-care and will continue to promote health and wellness opportunities for employees.

## Staff Health and Food Services:

The District employs a food service department that in addition to serving students, also serves staff. The District Food Services staff carefully prepare food and follow all food preparation protocols during the preparation and serving of meals to staff who purchase meals. The CDC has recognized the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects and as such the District continues in the service of meals rather than pre-packaged, single use items. The District still provides grab and go items, and the District continues to lid items that staff can serve themselves. Great care is taken to use wrapping and enclosed containers for self-serve items, where possible. The District continues to use wrapped plastic wear.

## Safety of Staff

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**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, when no masking mandate or Order is in place**

### A. Universal and correct wearing of masks;

1. The District supports the choice of staff to make decisions on mask wearing and the District will support staff who elect to wear a mask.
2. Notwithstanding issues of inclement weather, the District may transition to remote learning when any of the following metrics occur:

a) Staff absences exceed a rate at which appropriate classroom instruction can be provided even after exhausting coverage and substitute efforts.

b) Bus driver absences create a situation that prevents the transportation of students to school.

B. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding):

1. During the 2021-2022 school year, school buildings and schedules were configured where possible, to allow for social distancing.
2. During the 2022-2023 school year, the school buildings and schedules were developed in a manner that prioritized collaboration and in-person instruction over social distancing.
3. The latest CDC guidance has removed the recommendation for “podding” and cohorting.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

1. Hand sanitation stations have been placed in various locations throughout the buildings and appropriate use will be encouraged.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;

1. The District will continue to implement a thorough cleaning schedule in bathrooms, classrooms, locker rooms, cafeterias, and other high traffic spaces.
2. In instances of known cases, the District will increase cleaning and E-misting efforts as appropriate in identified areas.
3. The District will ensure that ventilation systems are serviced and will attempt to increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces to the greatest extent possible.
4. The District will improve the level of air filtration to the greatest extent possible without significantly decreasing air flow.

E. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

1. For staff who test positive for COVID-19 the District recommends that staff follow the [CDC guidance](#) which includes but is not limited to the following:
  - a) (At least) 5 days of isolation from others in the home during what is likely the most infectious period. Isolation may end after 5 days and after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and improved symptoms, or in the absence of symptoms from onset.
  - b) Wearing of a high-quality mask when returning to be around others at home and in public.
  - c) Regardless of when isolation ends, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
  - d) Wearing a high-quality mask through day 10.
2. Universal case investigation and contact tracing are no longer recommended by the CDC in school settings. The CDC now recommends [case investigation and contact tracing](#) only in health care settings and certain high-risk congregate settings. Schools are not considered high-risk congregate settings by the CDC.



#### F. Diagnostic and screening testing;

- a) The District encourages staff to stay informed about COVID-19 symptoms and to monitor their health prior to coming to work.
- b) The District recommends that staff:
  1. Who are not feeling well,
  2. Who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, stay home.
  3. Who are taking fever-reducing medication stay home and/or seek medical attention, and that they follow the usual procedures for reporting off from work.

#### G. Efforts to provide vaccines to school communities;

1. The District partnered with a local pharmacy in June 2021 to provide on-site vaccinations for eligible community members.
2. Because of the wide-spread availability of vaccination sites, the District has no plans to offer on-site vaccination clinics to staff or students.
3. The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU), in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), has asked the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to host a school community testing center to ensure access to free COVID-19 testing and over-the-counter tests for educators, families of school-aged children, and the broader community. The BCIU has agreed to host the center at the BCIU Main Office, 1111 Commons Boulevard., Reading, PA 19605 as a park-to-test site.

#### H. Appropriate accommodations for students/staff with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;

1. The District will continue to support staff and encourage staff who have expressed health needs that may require accommodations, to contact Human Resources.

#### I. Coordination with state and local health officials;

1. The District will continue to participate in Berks County Intermediate Unit meetings and other County meetings where matters of health and safety are discussed.
2. In cases where any Federal, State, PDE or Local Orders/Mandates are implemented, the Board will meet to discuss those Orders and will consider the recommendations and make revisions to the plan as appropriate.
3. The District will continue to report cases as required by the PDE.



## Athletic Plan: Safety of Students

**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;

1. The District supports the choice of parents to make decisions on mask wearing for their student athlete and the District will support parents who elect to have their student athlete wear a mask, as long as mask wearing is permitted by the PIAA. The District will not require universal masking for students (*or staff- see the staff section of this plan*).
2. Notwithstanding issues of inclement weather, the District may transition to remote learning when any of the following metrics occur:
  - a) Staff absences exceed a rate at which appropriate classroom instruction can be provided even after exhausting coverage and substitute efforts.
  - b) Bus driver absences create a situation that prevents the transportation of students to school.
3. When permitted by the PIAA, coaches will provide mask breaks for student athletes who elect to wear masks.

*B. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);*

1. The school buildings and schedules will be configured in a manner that promotes in-person instruction and participation in athletics.

*c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;*

1. Hand sanitation stations have been placed in various locations throughout the buildings and appropriate use will be encouraged.

*D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;*

1. The District will continue to implement a thorough and daily cleaning schedule in bathrooms, classrooms, locker rooms, cafeterias, and other high traffic spaces.
2. In instances of known cases, the District will increase cleaning and E-misting efforts as appropriate in identified areas.
3. The District will ensure that ventilation systems are serviced and will attempt to increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces to the greatest extent possible.
4. The District will improve the level of air filtration to the greatest extent possible without significantly decreasing air flow.

*E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;*

1. For students who test positive for COVID-19 the District recommends that students and families follow the [CDC guidance](#) which includes but is not limited to the following:
  - (a) (At least) 5 days of isolation from others in the home during what is likely the most infectious period. Isolation may end after 5 days and after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and improved symptoms, or in the absence of symptoms from onset.
  - (b) Wearing of a high-quality mask when returning to be around others at home and in public.
  - (c) Regardless of when isolation ends, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
  - (d) Wearing a high-quality mask through day 10.
2. Universal case investigation and contact tracing are no longer recommended by the CDC in school settings. The CDC now recommends [case investigation and contact tracing](#) only in health care settings and certain high-risk congregate settings. Schools are not considered high-risk congregate settings by the CDC.

## F. Diagnostic and screening testing;

1. The District encourages parents and students to stay informed about COVID-19 symptoms and to monitor the health of their children prior to sending their children to school. While at school, the District will monitor the health of children and will keep parents informed of any concerns that occur while children are in school.
2. The District recommends that students:
  - a) Who are not feeling well,
  - b) Who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, stay home.
  - c) Who are taking fever-reducing medication stay home and/or seek medical attention, and that they follow the usual procedures for reporting off from school.

**For the 2022-2023 school year a doctor's note will be required when a student is absent three or more consecutive days.**

3. Students who exhibit symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea while at school should:
  - a) Return home.
  - b) Seek medical attention if parents feel such medical attention is necessary.
  - c) Follow the procedures for leaving school early (and for reporting off the next day if necessary).

## G. Efforts to provide communities;

1. The District partnered with a local pharmacy in June 2021 to provide on-site vaccinations for eligible community members.
2. Because of the wide-spread availability of vaccination sites, the District has no plans to offer on-site vaccination clinics to staff or students.
3. The Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU), in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), has asked the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) to host a school community testing center to ensure access to free COVID-19 testing and over-the-counter tests for educators, families of school-aged children, and the broader community. The BCIU has agreed to host the center at the BCIU Main Office, 1111 Commons Boulevard., Reading, PA 19605 as a park-to-test site.

## H. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;

1. The District will continue to follow the individualized programming and specifically designed instruction for students with disabilities.
2. The District will continue to collaborate with parents and will make every effort to accommodate students who have expressed health needs that require accommodations.

I. Coordination with state and local health officials;

1. The District will continue to participate in Berks County Intermediate Unit meetings and other County meetings where matters of health and safety are discussed.
2. In cases where any Federal, State, PDE or Local Orders/Mandates are implemented, the Board will meet to discuss those Orders and will consider the recommendations and make revisions to the plan as appropriate.
3. The District will continue to report cases as required by the PDE

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Schuylkill Valley School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on \_\_\_\_\_.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on:

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

*(Print Name of Board President)*