

# LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*“Partnering with students, families, and community to provide opportunities for life-long success through academic excellence and individual growth in a safe and supportive environment.”*

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## Health and Safety Plan Summary 2024 School Year

**Initial Effective Date:** July 2020  
**Date of Last Review:** July 2021, August 2021, January 2022, March 2022, July 2022, August 2022, January 2023  
**Date of Last Revision:** August 28, 2023  
**New Effective Date:** **January 22, 2024**

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?

According to the CDC, the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended on May 11, 2023. If needed in the future, the District will review guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, PA Department of Health, local health officials and PDE to keep our schools open for in-person learning. This plan was developed in consultation with staff and local health officials to meet the unique needs of the Lehigh Area School District. The plan may be revised and updated as federal, state and local health information is received throughout the school year.

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?

The Lehigh Area School District offered summer programs in a safe and healthy environment to address learning loss for students in grades K-8 due to the impact of COVID-19. Students who participated in the Learning Loss Camp were provided social/emotional support, educational activities, and meals through ESSER Grant Funds. In addition, the Lehigh Area School District conducted summer Title I Reading and Math Programs for students who qualified. Our School Counselors,

Social Worker and Nurses were available as a resource during the above listed programs.

The District will continue to offer support throughout the upcoming 2024 school year. The supports include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- b. Remediation and recovery programs to combat COVID-19 associated learning loss
- c. School Counselors and Social Workers
- d. School Psychologists
- e. Behavior Interventionists
- f. Third Party Health and Safety Providers
- g. SEL and guidance lessons

3. 2024 Athletics Procedures

LASD Athletics will consider the guidelines/procedures as recommended from our current health/athletic provider, Lehigh Valley Health Network.

4. Transportation 2024

Lehigh Area School District will consider all recommended safety procedures for transportation of students related to COVID-19.

5. 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><b>A. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</b></p>	<p>At this time, masks will be optional in the district. If necessary, the Lehigh Area School District will consider recommendations from the CDC/PA Department of Health (DOH) regarding masking requirements.</p>
<p><b>B. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>If necessary, the Lehigh Area School District will consider recommendations from the CDC/PA DOH regarding physical distancing requirements.</p>
<p><b>C. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b></p>	<p>Lehigh Area School District will ensure access to adequate supplies including soap and hand sanitizer. Teachers will teach and reinforce proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette to their students. Posting of visual signs in high-traffic locations that promote good hygiene.</p>
<p><b>D. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</b></p>	<p>Lehigh Area School District will follow standard practices and appropriate regulations for cleaning and disinfection. Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC and PA</p>

	DOH recommendations/guidelines. Additionally, EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements. Furthermore, the District will routinely clean high-touch surfaces and objects. HVAC system/equipment and monitoring will be maintained by our service provider.
<b>E. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b>	With proper medical documentation, the District will defer to the guidance of the health care provider for recommendations of isolation and quarantine. If necessary, the Lehigh Area School District will consider recommendations from the CDC/PA DOH regarding quarantine/isolation guidelines and contact tracing.
<b>F. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</b>	School nurses will encourage students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they are sick or if they test positive for COVID-19. Additionally, school nurses will encourage symptomatic individuals to talk to their healthcare provider about getting a COVID-19 test. Proper medical documentation is needed for COVID-19 absences.
<b>G. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b>	Lehigh Area School District will continue to share vaccination information.
<b>H. Visitors to school</b>	Visitors will have access to hand sanitizer when they enter a District/school office area. Visitors who are sick should take precautions and limit their time in District buildings.
<b>I. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	With regard to health equity considerations in prevention strategies, Lehigh Area School District will implement an individualized approach for each student with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 plan. The District will also consider adaptations to prevention strategies while maintaining efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19.
<b>J. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	The District will work collaboratively with the PA DOH/PDE staff on matters related to risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations.

# Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for the Lehigh Area School District reviewed and approved the above Health and Safety Plan on Monday, **January 22, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

1 Absent

0 Abstained

Affirmed on: **Monday, January 22, 2024**

By:



(Signature of Board President)

Jeremy T. Glaush

(Print Name of Board President)