

# CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE UNIT 10



## **CIU 10 HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN:**

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies, Continuity of Services: Academic, Social and Emotional, Mental Health, other needs

Date of Initial Plan: July 22, 2021

Updated: November 18, 2021

Updated: April 28, 2022

Updated: August 23, 2022

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**Initial Effective Date: July 23, 2021 Updated:**  
**November 18, 2021 Updated: April 28, 2022**  
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## **Health and Safety Plan Summary: Central Intermediate Unit 10**

- 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?**

The health and safety of the Central Intermediate Unit (CIU 10) staff and students remains, as always, the top priority for the organization. The CIU 10 Leadership Team and Health and Safety Committee continue to provide ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the expiration of statewide mitigation orders, CIU 10 has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all staff members as the organization transitions forward.

Based on updated guidance released by the CDC in May 2023, protocols include the following: (Please refer to this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>)

- Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms
- Following communicable disease reporting procedures
- Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- CDC guidance regarding face coverings will be reviewed regularly for consideration of implementation where applicable.
- Adherence to Health and Safety Plans of locations served will be followed
  - Information on Safety Plans will be gathered through LEA Directors
  - Dissemination of information to IU staff will occur through direct supervisors
- Cleaning and disinfecting one's workspace

- Staying informed of CDC's guidance relative to travel
- Monitoring communication and confidentiality
- Participation in Health and Safety training as needed
- Staying informed and maintaining best practices

The current CIU 10 Safety Plan is based on the latest information, guidance, and mandates as issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Leadership Team and Health and Safety Committee will continue to monitor communications from these organizations.

As conditions change and/or new orders/mandates are issued related to COVID-19, protocols are subject to change. The IU is prepared to provide prevention and mitigation strategies as a continuum of responses from most to least restrictive in response to the changing conditions of the pandemic.

CIU 10 will continue to practice mitigation efforts and strategies, but no strategy can completely eliminate risk.

CIU 10 Board grants authority to the Executive Director to make adjustments as dictated by guidance from the Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, etc.

**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?**

Students' Academic Needs:

The CIU 10 educational programs plan for a return to full in-person instruction in the fall of 2023 pending any change in mandates from PDE/DOH. And, in accordance with OCDEL, tele-intervention and/or virtual instruction will remain an option for delivering services by a student's IEP Team.

The CIU 10 educational programs and services may shift between in-person and virtual instruction depending on health circumstances as Directors determine appropriate/necessary and/or as directed by the DOH. CIU 10 will apply for the Emergency Instructional Time Template, Section 520.1. if applicable.

CIU 10 will consider multiple factors of student and staff health, safety, and well-being when making decisions regarding instructional models. CIU 10 will make all efforts to provide in person instruction; we are prepared to support the learning needs of our students on a continuous basis via virtual learning or a hybrid model, if necessary.

CIU 10 professional staff will follow the procedures of their IU program: Preschool Early Intervention, Special Education Services, Non-Public Services, Adult Education, Incarcerated Youth, Bridge, etc.

**Students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs:**

CIU 10 continues to make resources available through its employee assistance provider, online training system, and intranet site containing additional wellness resources and information.

Current employees and new hires, as part of their onboarding process, will be provided access to the CIU Health and Safety Plan.

CIU 10 employs several clinically licensed social workers, school psychologists, and a wellness coach who can address social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff.

CIU 10 does not typically provide food services; however, the IU is capable through social workers to connect LEAs and families to local resources.

- 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.**

**a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;**

- In the absence of masking orders or mandates issued by the Secretary of Health, CDC and/or Office of the Governor, CIU 10 will permit the employee or student's choice of wearing face coverings in buildings and or transportation.
- Pre-school Early Intervention face covering decisions will be informed by OCDEL guidance.
- CIU 10 staff will comply with LEA or alternate location safety plan
- CIU 10 will be informed by CDC, PDE, OCDEL, local data, and DOH guidance regarding the use of face coverings.
- Communicate effective face covering practices for all CIU 10 staff and students if needed.
- Comply with all 504 and IEPs in relation to face coverings.
- CIU 10 will continue to provide PPE as requested and required of specific CIU positions.
- CIU 10 reserves the right to implement face covering requirements based on locally informed conditions.

<p><b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CIU 10 will be informed by CDC, PDE, OCDEL, and DOH guidance regarding their recommendations for physical distancing.</li><li>● CIU 10 staff will continue to be provided with dividers and other PPE as requested.</li><li>● Physical distancing will be informed based on CDC guidance.</li><li>● Staff are expected to stay informed of the latest information and resources available, by visiting the CDC's website.</li></ul>
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**c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;**

- CIU 10 will be informed by CDC, PDE, OCDEL, and DOH guidance regarding their recommendations for handwashing.
- Signage for proper hand washing will continue to be displayed at IU locations and programs.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available at training locations and provided to staff upon request.
- Students through direct instruction will be taught respiratory etiquette (cough like a vampire, sneeze in your sleeve, etc.)

**Hand Washing and Respiratory Protocols:**

- Washing one's hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not available, using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer)
- Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into one's elbow
- Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students

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

- CIU 10 will be informed by CDC, PDE, OCDEL, and DOH guidance regarding recommendations for facility and classroom cleaning and ventilation.
- CIU 10 is committed to continuing the best practices based on CDC guidance developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping the workplace clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors.
- The use of universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases will continue to be implemented.
- Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials will remain available.
- Follow guidance regarding shared materials and use of toys that cannot be easily cleaned.
- Staff will continue to be expected to share in the cleaning and disinfecting of shared equipment and/or furniture/items within one's office/classroom.
- Additional cleaning and disinfecting measures/protocols may be required as deemed appropriate or directed by DOH depending on local circumstances.
- Ventilation will be improved by adding air filters where possible and opening windows when feasible.
- Air purification devices will remain in working condition and maintained in CIU 10 offices and program locations.



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

- DOH considers COVID-19 a respiratory virus. Only Outbreaks are reported.
- CDC and DOH guidance will be utilized to perform contact tracing, if warranted, and to require isolation and/or quarantine.
- Guidance may include the following:
  - Disease information;
  - The distribution of appropriate letters and communications;
  - Identification of high risk individuals;
  - Appropriate action and treatment; and
  - Ongoing support and assistance.
- Staff must follow the recommendation of their attending physician.

<p><b>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Referrals to appropriate healthcare facilities will be supplied to staff or families if needed/requested.</li> <li>● Home visitors may complete <i>Covid 19 Screening Questions</i> form prior to each home visit.</li> <li>● Staff are to follow the recommendation of their attending physician and/or DOH directive(s) as it relates to diagnostic and screening testing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities;</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff will be given updated information about obtaining vaccinations upon request.</li> <li>● The IU will be ready and able to again partner locally in providing support for vaccination distribution within our community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Individual consideration will be made for students with disabilities regarding all health and safety policies and procedures.</li> <li>● Special accommodations or health care needs of students with disabilities will be addressed through the IEP process.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Accommodations may include but are not limited to adapted service delivery models (i.e., tele-intervention, individualized services, when appropriate), and/or other health and safety precautions as outlined in an individualized health plan.</li><li>● For students who have difficulties wearing masks, teachers will continue to provide instruction and practice to support students with compliance.</li></ul>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CIU 10 will coordinate with state and local health agencies in regard to all aspects of the Health and Safety Plan.</li><li>● As with any communicable disease, CIU 10 will submit weekly COVID-19 cases as per the DOH.</li></ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Central Intermediate Unit 10** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 22, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: 8/22/24

By: 

*(Signature\* of Board President)*

**Jeffrey Johnston**

*(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.