



## **CASD Health & Safety Plan**

- I. Catasauqua Area School District will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies aligned with the most up-to-date guidance for the operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning.**

### **Health & Safety Protocols**

To the greatest extent feasible, Catasauqua Area School District will follow the guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and the recommendations of the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health and will implement core essential and mitigation strategies in order to prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff.

#### **Essential Strategies**

- Staying home if unwell and going home if an individual becomes unwell at school
- Face coverings may be required in response to local data and/or state mandates
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

#### **Mitigation Strategies**

- Physical distancing to the greatest extent feasible
- Adjusting ventilation systems to introduce additional outside air exchange to introduce fresh air
- Cleaning, disinfecting, sanitizing, and maintaining healthy facilities



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### **Student Wellness Checks**

Prior to school each morning, parents/guardians should conduct a wellness check for each of their children. Students should not report to school if they feel unwell. Parents/guardians should contact the school nurse to discuss any COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Employee Wellness Checks**

Employees not reporting to work due to COVID-19 must complete the: [CASD COVID-19 SELF REPORTING FORM](#)

### **Targeted School or District Closure and Transition to Online Learning**

While the goal is for all schools within the District to remain open for instruction, COVID-19 transmission levels will be monitored regionally and locally on a regular basis to promote the health and safety of staff and students. More specifically, COVID-19 cases in schools, evidence of transmission within schools, staffing levels, data related to community spread, etc. will be considered when making decisions related to school or district closure due to spread of COVID-19 within the school(s), district, and/or local community.

### **Athletics**

Please refer to the CASD Athletics webpage for more detailed information related to the fall, winter, and spring athletic seasons. Updated information will be posted to the website as it becomes available.



## II. Continuity of Services

### Academic

#### In-Person Instruction

Catasauqua Area School District returned to in-person instruction at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

### Social, Emotional, Mental Health

Catasauqua Area School District educational staff has been trained on Trauma Informed Practices. As a result of this training, the District recognizes:

- the widespread impact of trauma and pathways to recovery.
- trauma signs and symptoms.
- the need to integrate knowledge about trauma into all facets of the educational program.
- the need to resist re-traumatization of trauma impacted individuals by decreasing the occurrence of unnecessary triggers and by implementing trauma-informed procedures and practices.

(National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2017)

Trauma informed guiding principles and practices (Transforming Education, 2020) will guide the District's design of supportive classroom and school environments by:

- creating predictable routines.
- building strong and supportive relationships.
- empowering students' agency.
- supporting the development of self-regulation skills.
- providing opportunities to explore individual and community identities.

Catasauqua Area School District employees and students have access to a variety of social, emotional, and mental health supports. More specifically, employees have access to supports that may include:

- Employee Assistance Program - Provided in consultation with the Superintendent
- [Mental Health Resources for Staff](#)
- [Highmark Blue Shield \(Behavioral Health\)](#)

Students and families have access to the following supports:

- School Counseling Services
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Behavioral Health Resources](#)



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### Health Services

School nurses will advise students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they are sick. Additionally, school nurses will encourage these individuals to talk to their healthcare provider(s) about getting a COVID-19 test.

The District will work collaboratively with the PA Department of Health staff on matters related to risk assessment and infection control recommendations.

### Food Services

The Catasauqua Area School District in collaboration with the Food Service Department will implement the below mitigation strategies to promote the health and safety of all staff and students:

- Practice frequent handwashing with soap and water before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.
- Clean high-touch surfaces and objects between use or as much as possible.
- When necessary and feasible, modify food service procedures to reduce crowding and encourage social distancing.
- When necessary and feasible, serve grab-and-go individually packaged items or individually plated meals.
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes, napkins, tablecloths). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that used or dirty non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed, rinsed, and sanitized to meet food safety requirements.

### Transportation

Face coverings/masks will be optional for all students and staff on school vehicles (buses, vans, etc). State orders and/or local data may result in modifications to the District's face covering practices.



**III. Maintenance of Health & Safety of Students, Educators, & Other Staff**

<b>ARP ESSER Requirement</b>	<b>Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</b>
<b>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</b>	Face coverings/masks will be optional for all students and staff in buildings and on school vehicles (buses, vans, etc.). State orders and/or local data may result in modifications to the District’s face covering practices.
<b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b>	When necessary, Catasauqua Area School District will implement physical distancing strategies (modified classroom layouts, desk spacing, staggered arrival/dismissals, use of multiple entrances/exits, self-contained classrooms, one way traffic flow, removal of non-essential classroom furniture, block scheduling) in accordance with CDC/PA Department of Health/PA Department of Education guidance and recommendations to the greatest extent feasible.
<b>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</b>	All Catasauqua Area School District employees will be/have been trained on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Teachers will teach and reinforce proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette to their students. Additionally, the District will ensure access to adequate supplies including soap and hand sanitizer.
<b>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</b>	Catasauqua 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 DOH guidelines. Additionally, EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements. Furthermore, the District will routinely clean high touch surfaces and objects.



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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<b>e. Diagnostic and screening testing;</b>	School nurses will advise students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they are sick. Additionally, school nurses will encourage these individuals to talk to their healthcare provider about getting a COVID-19 test.
<b>f. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</b>	Vaccines are an important tool to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Catasauqua Area School District has facilitated employee vaccination efforts. Additionally, Catasauqua Area School District will continue to work collaboratively with local vaccination providers to share vaccination clinic information and to offer vaccination clinic space when needed.
<b>g. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	With regard to health equity considerations in prevention strategies, Catasauqua 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 and alternatives to prevention strategies while maintaining efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19.



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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<b>h. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	The District will work collaboratively with the PA Department of Health. Additionally, to the greatest extent feasible, Catasauqua Area School District will implement the essential elements of K-12 safe school operations in accordance with CDC/PA Department of Health/PA Department of Education guidance and recommendations.

### RESOURCES

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)



## Catasauqua Area School District - Health & Safety Plan

### HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN GOVERNING BODY AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Catasauqua Area School District reviewed and approved the revised Health and Safety Plan on **Tuesday, September 10, 2024.**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes    0 No

Affirmed on: September 10, 2024

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Dale R. Hein*

Dale Hein, Catasauqua Area School District School Board President