

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: August 24, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 30, 2021

Date of Last Revision: February 22, 2021

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 School implemented COVID-19 policies and procedures that align with CDC and PDE mandates and guidelines. The policies continue to evolve in response to the guidance. The School Administration, in collaboration with the String Theory Schools (STS) Management Team, and its legal counsel monitor the published guidance from the CDC, as well as from PDE and the City of Philadelphia, in order to ensure its policies are the most up-to-date regarding reopening and operation of the school facilities.

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 School will open fully to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, and through the use of ESSER funds, has hired additional staff to address learning deficits, as well as professionals in related services and mental health supports for students and staff. Throughout the pandemic, the School addressed the health needs of its students and staff by providing information on and access to community vaccine clinics and by spreading awareness of the vaccine and safety protocols throughout the community. The School also continues to provide meals to students, even through the summer months, and should the School shift to a hybrid or virtual learning model at any point, then the School will continue to provide meals for students.

The School will continue to provide cognitively rigorous and engaging instruction to all students. For the 2021-22 school year, the School seeks to use a data driven approach to support students through any loss from the COVID-19 school closures and prolonged remote instruction. Rtl teachers and mental health providers will be implemented to support all students who are not on grade level with academic and social emotional well being.

The School is committed to the recoupment of lost skills and educational progress with additional focus on exceptional students. The School's multidisciplinary special education team is prepared to conduct assessments of exceptional students in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) guidelines relating to "COVID-19 Compensatory Services." The School's administration has increased resources, personnel, and budgetary funds for this

initiative in Fall 2021.

In addition to school counselors on staff, the School will have two full-time trauma therapists available to support all students, along with offering counseling groups that will be facilitated through the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia to promote student mental health.

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.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>The LEA will enforce proper, universal masking in accordance with the CDC guidelines, where social distancing is difficult or not possible. For those who are not or cannot be vaccinated, masking is required.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Although opening fully, the LEA has modified facilities to create more streamlined traffic flow of students from classroom to classroom, and erection of barriers between desks, and between the students and teacher. Teachers will utilize seating charts and maintain period attendance for each class to support efforts of contact tracing, if necessary. The use of communal spaces and hallways will be staggered to allow for as much distancing as possible. Stairwells will have designated, one-direction traffic flow. Entrances and exits will be staggered by grade.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Students and staff will practice handwashing in accordance with the CDC guidelines, which include before handling and eating food, after using the bathroom, after coughing or sneezing, and after touching garbage. Hand sanitizer and handwashing stations are available throughout the school building. Community water fountain bubble heads have been closed to prevent the sharing of germs, and contactless water filler stations have been added.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The LEA will meet or exceed all OSHA, CDC, and Public Health Guidance with regard to disinfecting and sanitation procedures. The school facility will be cleaned daily, and classrooms will be disinfected between classes. Additionally, a facilities staff member will disinfect high touch areas throughout the building during the school day. Students and staff will have access to hand sanitizer in</p>

	<p>each classroom/space, throughout the hallways, and at the school entrances.</p> <p>Ventilation Upgrades: All efforts have been made to maximize air movement and fresh air intake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maximize exhaust fans: Building exhaust fans are set to run at a minimum of 12 hours every day. For every cubic foot of air that enters the building, one cubic foot must leave the building. ● Increase fresh air intakes to their maximum. ● Run units at highest settings for longer periods of time to increase both the amount of fresh air and number of air changes each day. ● Addition of Vollara Air and Surface Pro units in each classroom/space designed to eliminate viruses, bacteria and mold. ● Installation of Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization Air Purification Systems directly on the building air handlers to eliminate viruses and bacteria right at the unit.
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Contact tracing will be done in conjunction with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), who will be notified by the LEA of any community members who become symptomatic while on the school grounds or report to the school that they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are quarantining.</p> <p>The School will collaborate and consult with the PDPH regarding any requirements for isolation periods for staff or students who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>The School will require a quarantine period for staff or students who are determined to be a close contact and who are not fully vaccinated, for a period of time recommended and required by the PDPH, PA Department of Health, and CDC. Fully vaccinated individuals who are determined close contacts will not be required to quarantine, unless specifically advised to do so by county, state, or federal health officials.</p>

<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Before entering the school grounds, all staff and students are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. For those who experience symptoms while at school, the STS COVID-19 policies outline procedures for notifying staff and families of any confirmed student or staff member illness or exposure.</p> <p>Students and staff will be notified of any changes to the Health and Safety Plan and COVID-19 policies and procedures.</p> <p>The School will coordinate with the PDPH regarding diagnostic testing offered to Philadelphia schools for the 2021-2022 school year (more information pending).</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The School participated in the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s vaccination program for Philadelphia school employees that began in February 2021. The School provided coverage for teaching staff to receive the vaccine if the appointment occurred during class time. The School has also worked to communicate resources and information to the school community about vaccination centers, accessibility, and opportunities.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a clear, see-through mask or a plastic face shield.</p> <p>Students with the following conditions, as well as others, are eligible to use a face shield in place of a mask. This list is not exhaustive. Additional requests will be considered on an individual basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tracheostomies ● Neuromuscular and other conditions that limit the ability to self-remove a mask ● Autism ● Hearing Impairment ● Chronological young age ● Developmental young age

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive impairment • Facial deformities that make mask wearing difficult <p>Prior to entering the facility, students who are unable to wear a mask on account of a health-related or other concern should contact the school administration and nurse for further instructions.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The PDPH has implemented a contact tracing program to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Philadelphia. When notified of a staff member, student or approved visitor with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the School will coordinate with PDPH on COVID-19 reporting and response efforts.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School** will review and vote on the Health and Safety Plan on **August 23, 2021**.

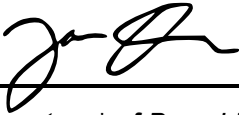
The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes (Unanimously Approved)

No

Affirmed on: **Scheduled for August 23, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Javier Kuehnle

(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.