

# 2021-22 Health and Safety Plan Summary: Quakertown Community School District

**Effective Date: July 1, 2021    Last Revised: January 6, 2022**

**Date of Last Review and Revision:** The 2020-21 QCSD Health and Safety Plan, as amended, ended on June 28, 2021. This plan will cover the 2021-22 school year and was initially approved on August 12, 2021, revised on August 26, 2021, revised on September 9, 2021, and revised again on October 14, 2021.

**Introduction:** School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic, with any exceptions fully described within this document. During 2020-21, Quakertown Community School District was open for in person instruction all year. Initially, the district was open in a hybrid model, two days per week (four days per week for students with disabilities). On October 12, 2020, the district reopened five days a week for all K-5 students. Then on November 18, 2020, five days per week for all 6-12 students. This plan reflects those components we will keep in place to promote general health and safety for all students, employees, and visitors as well as to remain compliant with national, state, and local health guidance. **This revision reflects the priority to have students in school as much as possible.**

## ESSER Requirements:

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

Each LEA must create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and which will serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. The Health and Safety Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each LEA and its schools and must take into account public comment related to the development of, and subsequent revisions to, the Health and Safety Plan.

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;

2. How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;
3. 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](#);
  - b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
  - c. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
  - d. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
  - e. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with State and local health departments;
  - f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;
  - g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#);
  - h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
  - i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

Consistent with ESSER requirements, this plan was drafted by the Administration, reviewed by Dr. David Damsker, shared in draft form with the Board of School Directors, posted in draft form on the school district website with options for community input, discussed at the public board meeting on August 12, 2021, and approved by the Board of School Directors on that date.

The ARP Act requires LEAs to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

Subsequently, the Bucks County Department of Health issued [2021-22 SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDANCE AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#) on August 15, 2021, followed by an [amendment to that guidance on August 17, 2021](#). Dr. Damsker also met with county school nurses on August 18, 2021 to review the specific recommended protocols described in the REOPENING GUIDANCE. Finally, a revised BCHD guidance document was issued on August 23, 2021,

strengthening the alignment between CDC guidance and BCHD guidance, and replacing the August 15, 2021 and August 17, 2021 Guidance.

On December 27, 2021, the CDC revised its guidelines for isolation and quarantine. The PA Department of Health issued a Health Update on December 30, 2021: UPDATE: Isolation and Quarantine Periods for COVID-19 for the General Population

## **Quakertown Community School District Plan Summary:**

### **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?**

This plan will continually be monitored to include updated CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH) recommendations. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary at the district level by the district's Health and Safety Planning team. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, staff and the greater school community.

### **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?**

Our methods for educational delivery for the 2021-22 school year will be:

Instruction will resume on August 30, 2021, on a normal Monday through Friday schedule. The following options will be available to families:

- a. Face to face, in classroom instruction
- b. Online option (Q-Flex) K-12

To adequately assess our staffing needs to provide these options, a survey was issued to parents/guardians who opted for a virtual setting in the previous school year or have newly registered students to determine if their child(ren) will be joining us for face-to-face or online instruction for the upcoming school year.

Student medical issues which require a temporary leave from school will be addressed on a case by case basis to determine appropriate instructional alternatives to continue the student’s education in consideration of information provided by the student’s health care provider, parent/guardians, principal, and counselor, and IEP team, if applicable.

To address the issue of mental health concerns for our students and staff, the following measures will continue to be in place for the 2021-22 school year:

1. School counselors and SAP (Student Assistance Program) counselors are available to provide mental health support for students and connect families with services
2. Schools will continue to utilize the SAP program to support students and families
3. One of the district’s comprehensive plan goal areas, Culture for Learning, focuses on continued needs assessment and instruction in SEL (Social Emotional Learning)
4. Staff will be routinely reminded of how to access the district Employee Assistance Program
5. Professional development options will continue that support mental health/stress reduction
6. Behavioral health supports will continue to be provided through our Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA)

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Governor’s Universal Masking Order expired on June 28, 2021. As of that date, masks are optional for all that choose to wear them while on Quakertown Community School District property or participating in district sponsored events, except as required by law or regulation.</li> <li>2. In regards to the PA DOH Order regarding masking requirements for K-12 schools, the Board adopts the</li> </ol>

	<p>format and content of the Central Bucks Exception Form request, subject to comments of the special education counsel for the district. (Per Amendment 9/9/21)</p> <p>3. The Exception process referenced in #2 above does not apply to the CDC requirement to wear masks on public transportation, including school buses. (Per Amendment 9/9/21)</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize distancing where feasible.</li> <li>2. Students will be taken outdoors when feasible</li> <li>3. Building faculty meetings, full administrative team meetings, and professional development activities will occur in person unless designated as virtual by the meeting coordinator.</li> </ol>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items.</li> <li>2. Proper hand washing technique signs will be posted in all bathrooms and sinks</li> </ol>

<p>D. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All high-touch surfaces cleaned/disinfected by custodial crew regularly (water fountains, door handles, desks, light switches, etc.) following posted EPA/CDC/manufacturer guidelines</li> <li>2. Clean desks on a frequent basis (soap and water for students/cleaning solution for faculty/staff).</li> <li>3. Students and staff should sanitize/wash hands on a frequent basis. (Make hand sanitizer available in common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available).</li> <li>4. PE equipment will be cleaned regularly.</li> <li>5. Water fountains may remain disconnected and faculty/staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home and use filling stations.</li> <li>6. Ventilate all classrooms and common areas when available/possible using windows. Doors and windows will be open to the extent feasible while maintaining perimeter security. If AC is running - doors and windows will be closed. Exterior doors will remain locked. Systems will be set to provide frequent air exchange</li> </ol>
<p>e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parents should report positive COVID-19 cases to the building nurse. If the parent self reports based on an at home test, the parent will be encouraged to go to a medical facility to conduct a verifiable test. QCSD will report at home positive reports to the BCHD but will only use laboratory verified positive results in case counts and communication to the school and community (Per Amendment 9/9/21)</li> <li>2. Employees are <u>required</u> to report positive cases of COVID 19 to their building nurse as soon as test results are received.</li> <li>3. The school district is required to report cases to the BCHD.</li> <li>4. When notified of a verified (per Amendment 9/9/21) positive case by a parent/guardian or the Bucks DOH, the school district will issue classroom, bus, and <u>team/activity building</u> letters to notify the school community. (Per Amendment 8/12/21; <u>updated 1/6/22</u>) <u>Building data will continue to be reported weekly on the QCSD website. (Per Amendment 1/6/22)</u></li> </ol>

5. Whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain isolated at home for a minimum of three (3) days from onset. If symptoms resolve AND if fever-free for 24 hours, then they may return to school/work and must wear a mask through the 7th day from onset (no mask exemptions). (Amended 1/6/22)
6. QCSD will not be performing contact tracing. In the event that any student, staff member, or visitor has been identified as a close contact by any health authority, regardless of the nature of this contact, they are encouraged to monitor for symptoms and may return to class, work or visitations as long as they remain symptom-free and are not placed under official quarantine orders from that health authority. (Amended 1/6/22)
7. Procedures Following Exposure (Close Contact): If a QCSD student, employee, or guest is exposed to someone who has a known positive case of COVID19: If SYMPTOMATIC, regardless of the level of exposure, the student, employee, or visiting guest is to remain home for a minimum of three days from onset. If symptoms resolve AND if fever-free for 24 hours, then they are able to return to school/work and must mask through the 7th day (no mask exemptions). If ASYMPTOMATIC, regardless of the level of exposure, the student, employee, or visiting guest is able to continue to come to school so long as they remain asymptomatic. (Amended 1/6/22)
8. Students, Staff and Visitors will not be subject to further distancing protocols when returning from isolations and quarantines (i.e. cafeteria, classroom, and other activities). (Amended 1/6/22)

<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educate all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians) on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at home before sending children to school and/or reporting to work.</li> <li>2. Continue to send families a weekly reminder about home health screening requirements and symptoms to watch for (per Amendment on 8/12/21)</li> <li>3. Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care</li> <li>4. The nurse or designated employee will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms consistent with <a href="#">Policy and AR 203</a> and the recommendations of the Bucks County Department of Health. A flowchart detailing what this looks like is attached.</li> <li>5. Any individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be highly encouraged to test for COVID-19. (Per Amendment 8/26/21)</li> <li>6. Emergency contacts must be up to date. A symptomatic student must be picked up within an hour and will not be sent home on the bus.</li> </ol>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to work with BCDH to provide opportunities for students and community members to receive vaccinations</li> <li>2. District communication vehicles including School Messenger, Superintendent blogs, and building newsletters will be used to distribute information regarding vaccination clinics and designated hours.</li> <li>3. All eligible individuals 42 <b>5</b> years of age and older are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. (Per Amendment 8/26/21; <b>updated 1/6/22</b>)</li> <li>4. District staff are also highly encouraged to get vaccinated. (Per Amendment 8/26/21)</li> </ol>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Director of Student Services, IEP case managers, school nurses, principals, and counselors will work with families to develop a student-specific education plan for students with complex needs.</li> <li>2. The district will also collaborate with BCIU and other education providers to coordinate plans for students with complex needs.</li> </ol>



i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	1. Regular communication will continue with the Bucks County Department of Health regarding potential implementation of updated guidance from the CDC and other health officials.
j. Targeted Mitigation Strategies	1. In the event there is evidence of potential COVID 19 spread within the school, BCHD will advise whether further mitigation strategies should be taken. "Targeted Temporary Mitigation" (TTM) strategies might include but are not limited to physical distancing, temporary masking, cleaning/disinfecting, and virtual learning. These strategies will be targeted to just the concerned classrooms, groups, or schools/district buildings where the potential spread of COVID-19 is of concern. These strategies will be temporary meaning they will be ended when the potential spread of the virus, in that case, is expired or as otherwise directed by the BCHD. (Amended 1/6/22)

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of School Directors for **Quakertown Community School District** received the initial Health and Safety Plan on **July 15, 2021**, after review by the Bucks County Department of Health, and confirmed their approval of this plan at their public meeting on September 9, 2021, with the Amendments shown in bold. The amended plan has been submitted to PDE.

This revised plan was approved by a vote shown below on January 6, 2022.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*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.