



# CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN - FEBRUARY 2023

The Chester County Intermediate Unit Health and Safety plan for the 2022-2023 school year is based upon the Pennsylvania Department of Education's expectation for an annual plan. This plan is constructed in consultation of the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Chester County Department of Health and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Policy Lab. The guiding policy and procedures for our mitigation measures and response are found in our policy on communicable diseases, Policy 203: Immunizations and Communicable Diseases.

This health and safety plan is subject to change as conditions and guidance necessitate.

## **UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT WEARING OF MASKS**

- Mask wearing is optional. This applies to all programs and buildings except for any regulated programs where masks are still required.
- Students and staff will be expected to adhere to mask wearing in response to the guidance from Chester County Health Department regarding exposure, quarantine and/or a positive diagnosis.
- If necessary, based upon consultation with the Chester County Health Department or other governmental mandates, the Intermediate Unit reserves the right and authority to implement mask requirements should transmission levels within a specific program or building necessitate this mitigation effort.

## **MODIFYING FACILITIES TO ALLOW FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING (E.G., USE OF COHORTS/PODDING)**

- School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with 3 feet or greater being the social distancing expectations to the greatest extent practicable.
- We will consider the guidance from our local and state health departments should conditions necessitate implementing greater social distance mitigation strategies.

## **HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE**

- Best practice encourages hand washing prior to and after meals and snacks, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing. Our schools will encourage our students and staff to follow these best practices.
- Our schools will have available hand sanitizer in classrooms, public areas, and other strategic locations.
- Our schools will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette.

## **CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION**

- There will be routine and daily cleaning of our school buildings with attention to high traffic and high touch areas.
- Our school buildings will ensure that ventilation systems operate properly.



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## **CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

- We will support and implement public health guidance on isolation and quarantines.
- Student or staff, who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is a probable case, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual.
- Student or staff, who was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, must notify the program administrator/principal immediately. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or Chester County Health Department.
- Additional consultation provided by CDC, PADOH, and CCHD will be considered throughout the implementation of this plan.

## **DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING**

- We will follow our Immunization and Communicable Diseases Policy #203 for guidance on communicable diseases.
- We will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, masks, eye protection, gloves.
- We will require staff to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms.
- Staff and students, who are ill must stay home from work, programs, and schools.
- Staff and students shall be sent home if they become ill at work, school, program or service. Students and staff shall report immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or Chester County Health Department.

## **EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO SCHOOL COMMUNITIES**

- Our schools will provide information to staff and families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

## **APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES**

- For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that required a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team may reconvene to develop a specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student.

## **COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS.**

- We will consult with the Chester County Health Department on specific cases or issues as needed.