

MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health & Safety Plan Summary for 2021/2022 School Year



Initial Effective Date: **August 19, 2021**

Date of Last Review/Revision: **March 17, 2022**

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 Manheim Township School District has, and will continue to, focus on key efforts that support the continued opening and operation of the school facilities in order to continuously and safely conduct school for in-person learning. To illustrate, the district opened its doors to students from the first day of school during the last school year - August 25, 2020, and continued to provide in-person learning through the end of the school year - June 4, 2021. In preparation for opening the facilities during the 2020/2021 school year, the school district facilitated a highly structured process for developing the required comprehensive health and safety plan for the PDE. This final document, titled "2020/2021 PDE Health and Safety Plan for Reopening Schools," outlined the full safety measures in place for the return of students and staff into the buildings. The school district remained vigilant for the entirety of the 2020/2021 school year in the implementation of this Board-approved PDE Health and Safety Plan for Reopening Schools. And, as the requirements and guidelines for safety measures changed frequently throughout the school year, the district was responsive and pivoted accordingly. In the same way, this heightened attention to safety will remain a key focus for the 2021/2022 school year.

For the 2021/2022 school year, the district will utilize a layered approach to safety which involves implementation of the mitigation efforts outlined in #3 (below). The district will follow the directives of the CDC and the PA DoH to the extent that those mitigation efforts can be practicable. In the absence of a legally binding mask-mandate, masks/face coverings will be welcome, and optional for students and staff while participating in school and/or school activities. The district will continue to monitor the ever-changing, applicable and practicable

requirements provided by the Commonwealth of PA or the CDC. If there are any changes or revisions to those applicable, practicable requirements during the 2021/2022 school year, the district will follow them and update the plan accordingly. In order to provide the school district community with a rapid response to any new requirements, the Superintendent is authorized to modify this plan to reflect such new requirements.

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?

In order to ensure continuity of services, the Manheim Township School District will provide options for academic programming, access to social-emotional supports, and healthy meals.

For addressing students' academic needs, the district will provide two educational options: in-person (face-to-face) learning, Manheim Township Virtual Academy (MTVA).

When in-person students are in quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, their academic programming will involve synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction from their teachers through the use of the district's online learning platforms - Seesaw and Schoology. The same approach will apply if the PA DoH directs a school to close temporarily for in-person learning due to COVID-19 cases.

For addressing students' needs respective to their health and wellness, social-emotional health, and food/nutrition, services will be provided both in-person and virtually. Students learning via MTVA will have access to tele-health services and tele-counseling services when needed. The Food Services Department will offer daily breakfast and lunch meals to MTVA students on designated dates (through provision of several meals at one pick-up).

For students learning in person, the social, emotional, and mental health supports will be provided through a variety of ways, such as class meetings and advisory periods, student clubs, counseling sessions, etc. Students' health needs will be met individually through the school's Health Services Department. They will also continue to maintain access to free breakfast and lunch meals.

For staff, the district and individual schools will provide individual and collective support via faculty meetings, activities, in-services, and opportunities to receive free counseling services through the EAP (Employee Assistance Program).

The district will continue to monitor the ever-changing, applicable and practicable requirements or guidelines provided by the Commonwealth of PA or the CDC. If there are any changes or revisions to those applicable, practicable requirements during the 2021/2022 school year, the district will follow them.

3. Use the table/outline 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.

The outline below holds all required information related to safety. The Manheim Township School District does not have adopted policies that specifically address pandemic-related safety measures. All mitigation efforts involve internal procedures and resources.

Signage for good hygiene specifically for “Hand Washing” and “Respiratory Etiquette”:

- Signage remains in each building from the 2020/2021 school year in highly visible areas promoting safe measures.
- Hygiene handouts and videos created by the nurses during the summer of 2020 will remain available to the MTSD students and staff.
- MTSD will continue to educate students and staff on proper hygiene techniques.
- Students will continue to be encouraged to wash hands after sneezing or blowing their noses.
- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, and the PDE and PA DoH.**

Masks/Face Coverings:

- In the absence of a legally binding mask-mandate, masks/face coverings will be welcome, and optional for students and staff while participating in school and/or school activities.
- If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or the federal government should mandate mask wearing in the future, the district will comply with that order and immediately communicate that directive to staff, students, and families.
- Effective February 25, 2022, the [CDC no longer requires masking](#) on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education and childcare programs. In the absence of a legally binding mask-mandate, masks/face coverings will be welcome, and optional for students and drivers on school transportation vehicles.
- The MTSD health services team will continue to strongly encourage students/staff presenting to the health rooms exhibiting symptoms that may be indicative of COVID-19, to wear face coverings while caring for that student and/or staff member with suspected illness in the health suites.

Physical Distancing:

- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, and the PDE and PA DoH.**

Cleaning and Ventilation:

- When necessary, MTSD will follow internal procedures for pandemic cleaning procedures, sanitizing and cleaning of spaces, surfaces and other areas each night.
- All appropriate equipment will remain in place at each building if the need arises to isolate an individual, such as negative pressure machines and air purifiers within the health rooms along with cleaning supplies.
- Each building will utilize “cleaning stations” to provide accessible hygiene for all students and staff.
- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, and the PDE and PA DoH.**

Contact Tracing, Quarantine and Isolation:

- Parents will be encouraged to monitor student temperatures and symptoms before the school day, and encourage students with an elevated temperature or symptoms to stay home.
- Additional symptom monitoring may occur during the school day, and students with symptoms will be sent to the school nurse in each building for assessment.
- The Health Services Team will be in contact with the PA DoH as necessary regarding reporting and/or monitoring of cases in the school district.
- Staff must share with Human Resources if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and provide the appropriate documentation.
- Parents and Guardians are responsible for contacting their school nurse if their student tests positive for COVID-19.
- Universal case investigation and contract tracing are not recommended by the CDC (via the update on February 28, 2022).
- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, PDE and PA DoH.**

Diagnostic Testing:

- Again, parents and guardians will be encouraged to monitor student temperatures and symptoms before the school day and support students with an elevated temperature or symptoms to stay home.
- MTSD will encourage families and community members to reach out to their school's health services team for information on diagnostic testing.
- Free saliva PCR testing is provided as an option to parents/guardians for students who present with symptoms that may relate to Covid-19 in coordination with Lititz Apothecary.

Vaccinations:

- At this time, COVID-19 vaccinations are not required by the state in order to attend work or school. If a state or federal order occurs for vaccinations, the district will immediately communicate the directive to staff, students, and families.
- As we did last school year, we will continue to partner with IU13 and other agencies to communicate and provide information for those eligible and/or interested in receiving a vaccination.
- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, PDE and PA DoH.**

Coordination with the State and Local Health Officials:

- MTSD will continue to work in collaboration with state health officials as long as needed to provide safe, quality education.
- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, PDE and PA DoH.**

Special Education:

- Students with disabilities will have access to their education at the same rate as pre-pandemic. Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams, which include school staff and parents, will meet to decide the most appropriate placements and support for each student. A full continuum of support and services as required by law will be available to students as they are eligible. Individualized services as necessary for students with an IEP will continue as appropriate and obligated by the PDE.
- **MTSD will continue to follow federal and/or state mandates from the CDC, PDE**

and PA DoH.