



Health and Safety Plan for the Carlynton School District 2023/2024

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented all School Districts with countless challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among others, has found that while children can be affected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to staff members, students, and their families. The Carlynton School District will take the precautions to safeguard members of our community from the spread of the virus. Carlynton is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff and families and looks to provide preliminary guidance regarding our students' return to academic setting and will consider recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This plan will be reviewed on a regular basis. As new information and guidance becomes available, the District will make alterations to plan outlined below.

The purpose of this document is to serve as guidelines for providing students with in person instruction during the 2023/2024 school year and is required by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This plan was originally created on July 1, 2021, was shared with all stakeholders prior to board approval and implementation. Since that time, the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023, however the district continues to access funding from the American Rescue Plan. For that reason, the district is required to implement a plan for the 2023/2024 school year.

The Carlynton School District will offer two choices for students to receive instruction during the 2023/2024 school year:

1. Full in-person instruction, five days per week using the safety precautions outlined in this plan.
2. Full remote instruction, five days a week, in the Carlynton Cyber Academy using an asynchronous approach at home.

Effective Date: August 15, 2023

Date of Last Review: January 17, 2023

Date of Last Revision: March 8, 2022

Health and Safety Plan Summary for the Carlynton School District

How will the Carlynton School District, 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 Carlynton School District safely implemented a full in-person instructional model five days per week in the 2021/2022 school year. This model provided accommodations to students who were not comfortable physically reporting to school by providing asynchronous learning opportunities to students using the Carlynton Cyber Academy. The District created, implemented, reviewed, and revised a Health and Safety Plan to safely provide in-person instruction and services to students during the 2021/2022 school year. Throughout the course of the school year, the District closely monitored the number of cases in the region and at the local level. Data collected during the school year support the conviction that the Carlynton School District can safely offer in-person instruction. The District is committed to support prevention and mitigation policies while considering recommendations from the CDC, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Allegheny County Health Department. This will be achieved through regular communication with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Allegheny County Health Department. These agencies will be used to help with the interpretation of recommendations and mandates. Throughout the course of the 2022/2023 school year, the District continued to examine local conditions and recommendations and has no major changes to the Health and Safety Plan.

How will the Carlynton School District 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 Carlynton School District continues to measure the impact of the pandemic in regard to student learning by administering diagnostic testing and collecting formative and summative assessment data to determine specific gaps in learning. Throughout the pandemic, the district offered summer learning opportunities to students at the elementary and secondary level to address areas of concern in multiple content areas and offered all students the opportunity to engage in activities that focused on socialization, critical thinking, and the arts. As we continue into the next school year, personalized learning opportunities will be implemented to provide remediation of the identified learning gaps of the students and enrichment activities for those students who progressed through the standards. The district recently purchased new curricular resources that will assist with accelerating students through the learning of previously taught curriculum and to provide greater access to learning to all students.

The District is building upon their partnership with the Allegheny Health Network by expanding services to Crafton Elementary School by participating in the Chill Program. Our partnership with AHN created a Chill Room at Carnegie Elementary School in the 2020/2021 school year and a Chill Room in the Junior/Senior High School in the 2021/2022 school year. In the 2023/2024 school year, Crafton Elementary School will utilize services from the Chill Program. The Chill Program incorporates mindfulness-based exercises to equip students, staff, and families with a common language and universal skills to identify, discuss, and react positively to stressful situations. Through the Chill Project, participants have access to counseling, support groups, medication management, and school based outpatient services. With an integrated approach to classroom lessons, students receive preventative services and social-emotional curriculum. Furthermore, the District advertised to hire an additional school psychologist to provide additional support in the 2023/2024 school year only.

The District also partnered with local and regional organizations to assist with after school learning activities and services provided to English Language Learner families. These partnerships continue to strengthen community engagement and create greater access to acquiring skills that will have a direct impact on student learning and success in their personal lives.

The District will continue to offer meals to all students free of charge during the 2023/2024 school year.

The table below explains how the Carlynton School District will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and provides 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. <u>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</u></p>	<p>Surgical style and KN 95 masks along with face shields will be available to all staff and students in K-12 buildings.</p> <p>Students and staff at the elementary and secondary level may use their discretion regarding the use of a mask indoors and while using district transportation. Individuals returning from isolation as a result of being infected with COVID-19 will be recommended to wear a mask for five calendar days following their return to school.</p> <p>School nurses will be provided with additional personal protective equipment such as gloves, N95 masks, and gowns to use at their discretion.</p> <p>Universal and correct wearing of masks may be changed based upon local, state, or federal mandates. Any changes to this policy will require Board approval.</p>

b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);

Both Elementary and Secondary schools will be prepared to operate at full capacity. Teachers are encouraged to position work spaces at a minimum of three feet between all individuals in the classroom. Small group work at less than three feet will be permitted at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Meals will be served in cafeterias. Meals will be provided to all students free of charge.

A variety of signs, translated in multiple languages, will be posted in high visibility areas throughout District facilities and on the District webpage that promote everyday protective measures, and how to mitigate the spread of germs.

In-person meetings will be facilitated, however, the District reserves the right to schedule meetings virtually when necessary. Field trips and large gatherings of individuals will be permitted. Parent volunteers must be approved by building principals and must have all clearances submitted in Raptor.

Health and Physical Education classes will be held both indoors and outdoors. Students will have the opportunity to sanitize their hands before and after class through hand washing or hand sanitizer.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

At the secondary level, sanitation stations will be set up throughout the building and will include hand sanitizer. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom. Hygiene and safety precautions will be reinforced in all content areas and may require more intense practices in content areas such as Family and Consumer Science, Art, Technology Education, Physical Education, Business Education, and Music. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or sanitize prior to and after consuming food.

At the elementary level, all elementary students will have hand sanitizer available prior to and following the serving and consumption of meals, including snacks. Proper hygiene will be reinforced with all elementary students as part of the regular curriculum in all content areas. Playground equipment will be available for student use and will be cleaned regularly.

All students and staff will be asked to exercise respiratory etiquette after coughing or sneezing. Hand sanitizer or wash stations will be available to all students and staff after coughing or sneezing.

<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>All high touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly, including water stations, door handles, light switches, handrails, playground equipment, and student desks. These tasks will be scheduled by the Director of Facilities and will be completed daily by building custodians. As an extra layer of protection, all areas such as restrooms, cafeteria areas, drinking fountains will be electrostatic sprayed and protected using approved Environmental Protection Agency products by custodial staff on a regular basis. The District will conduct, collect and maintain data related to surface area tests for contamination.</p> <p>Students in grades K-12 will be able to regularly clean their personal spaces with disinfectant wipes. These wipes meet the Environmental Protection Agency standards and will be stationed in each classroom. A number of water fountains have been replaced with bottle filling stations.</p> <p>Classrooms and common areas will be properly ventilated by maximizing the HVAC systems in each building with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible. Capital improvement projects in regard to air quality were recently completed at the junior/senior high school and Crafton Elementary School. This work greatly enhances air flow and filtering in all areas of the building. Carnegie Elementary School's HVAC system was recently inspected and is maintained regularly for proper operation. Classrooms in all buildings currently have fresh air brought in by the HVAC systems.</p> <p>The custodial and maintenance staff members have been trained regarding proper cleaning procedures and expectations for cleaning routines and protocols. This staff has been trained regarding proper protocol and application of specific cleaning solutions and tools. Data is collected and recorded regarding the cleanliness of surfaces on a regular basis. Ongoing trainings and specific supervision strategies are implemented to ensure effectiveness of cleaning processes and procedures.</p>
<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>The District will work with the Allegheny County Health Department when a positive COVID-19 case is reported to school officials. In the event a positive case is reported, the District will follow ACHD recommendations.</p> <p>The District will follow all mandates and requirements issued by the Department of Health, the Allegheny County Health Department, and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Education in regard to contact tracing and determining close contacts. Classroom teachers will maintain accurate seating charts and attendance records to assist with contact tracing when necessary.</p>

	<p>Any student or staff member in K-12 buildings who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be removed from the general population and will report to the school nurse for further evaluation. Students and staff members exhibiting symptoms will be required to wear a mask while they are being evaluated and will be quarantined in a safe environment if necessary. Certified School Nurses will make the determination of whether a student is able to remain at school. Students will be placed in the care of their parents/guardians and will be readmitted to school with the clearance of a physician or when they are symptom free or by using protocols provided by the Allegheny County Health Department and school nurses. The District will report the number of positive cases as required by ACHD.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians will be provided with an updated list of signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Parents/Guardians who notice any sign or symptom of COVID-19 will be instructed to keep their child at home and seek medical attention if necessary. Parents and staff members will be asked to self-report the diagnosis of COVID-19 or the seasonal flu of any immediate family member of the student or staff member. Reports should be directed to the school nurse.</p> <p>All District employees will receive current information on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and will be asked to assess themselves daily prior to reporting to work. Employees with any signs or symptoms should enter their absence as sick time and not report to work.</p> <p>Students and staff will be made aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19. A section of the District website is dedicated to COVID-19 related information, including District correspondences and resources. The website will be updated regularly to include up to date information including infections reported at each building.</p> <p>When critical information must be shared with our families and staff, the District will utilize the combination of eBlasts, phone calls, media outlets, and social media to communicate important information.</p> <p>Individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 will be readmitted to school/work with a note from a physician or by following the guidance from the ACHD. Students returning from isolation as a result of being infected with COVID-19 will be recommended to wear a mask for five calendar days.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>Vaccine clinics will be available when there is substantial interest from the community.</p>

<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The Carlynton School District is required to ensure students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education at all times. All students with disabilities will be required to follow all health and safety procedures and expectations outlined in this plan; however, safe alternative accommodations can be provided through the child's individualized education plan. Special education teams will continue to collect baseline data, monitor students' current educational levels, and determine if additional accommodations or services are necessary.</p> <p>School counselors, school psychologists, building administrators, and other district resources will be available to assist students if challenges present themselves with the implementation of this plan.</p> <p>Enrollment in the Carlynton Cyber Academy will be available to students as an additional accommodation.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Carlynton School District is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and families and will continue to collaborate and review the recommendations and mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Allegheny County Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This will be achieved through regular communication with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and the Allegheny County Health Department.</p> <p>This plan will be reviewed on a regular basis at a minimum of six month intervals. As new information and guidance becomes available, the District will determine if alterations to the Health and Safety Plan are warranted.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Carlynton School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on June 20, 2023.

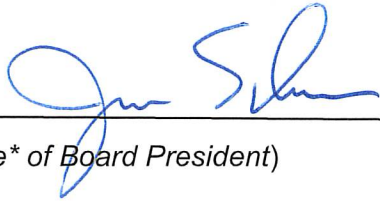
The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: June 20, 2023

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Jim Schriver

(Print Name of Board President)