

## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

**The Bethlehem Area School District** Health and Safety Plan outlines our school district's instructional and non- instructional school reopening activities for the 2021-2022 school year and was created in consultation with the **City of Bethlehem Health Bureau**. As with all emergency plans, the Health and Safety Plan developed for each school entity should be tailored to the unique needs of each school and should be created in consultation with local health agencies.

The plan has categorized reopening into three broad phases: substantial spread, minimal/moderate spread, or low/no spread. These designations signal how counties and/or regions may begin easing some restrictions on school, work, and social interactions. Depending upon the public health conditions in our county, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) designating our county as being in the substantial spread, minimal/moderate spread, or low/no spread phase. There may be times that our county may not experience a straight path from these designated phases. Instead, cycling back and forth between less restrictive to more restrictive designations may occur as public health indicators improve or worsen in our local area. **The Bethlehem Area School District** Health and Safety Plan accounts for changing conditions to ensure fluid transition from more to less restrictive conditions in each of the phase requirements as needed.

**Initial Effective Date:** September, 1, 2020

**Date of Last Review:** February, 14, 2022

**Date of Last Revision:** February, 28, 2022

# Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

<b>Addressing Community Spread in Pre-K-12 Schools</b> <i>LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (AS DETERMINED BY STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS)</i>		
<b>Substantial Spread Phase</b>	<b>Minimal/Moderate Spread Phase</b>	<b>Low/No Spread Phase</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bethlehem Area School District (BASD) will seek guidance from our community health partners, including the City of Bethlehem Health Bureau (BHB) and St. Luke's University Health Network, to determine if a specific school building or the entire district should close. Several community and school-based metrics will be evaluated when making the decision as to whether or not to close a school building or the entire district.</li> <li><b>Community Measures:</b> Community spread measured by the number of cases per 100,000Community positivity rate</li> <li><b>School Measures:</b> Number of cases per student population for each building</li> <li><b>Absenteeism data</b></li> <li><b>Documentation of school spread</b></li> <li><b>Number of staff/students quarantined</b></li> <li>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations)</li> <li>Schools that are closed, remain closed. Implement distance/remote learning (see Serving School Meals and Supporting Teaching and Learning).</li> <li>Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools may provide in-person instruction only in accordance with Department of Education guidance</li> <li>Schools may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health and Safety Plan, to be approved by the local governing body (e.g. board of directors/trustees) and posted on the school entity's publicly available website.</li> <li>Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH health officials.</li> <li>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible).</li> <li>Implement current CDC social distancing measures.</li> <li>Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread.</li> <li>COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.</li> <li>Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school.</li> <li>Isolate, clean, and disinfect impacted classrooms and spaces</li> <li>Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness.</li> <li>Districts have the authority and flexibility to close school buildings and utilize distance/remote learning as needed.</li> <li>Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools Subject to CDC and Commonwealth Guidance</li> <li>Schools may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health and Safety Plan, to be approved by the local governing body (e.g. board of directors/trustees) and posted on the school entity's publicly available website.</li> <li>Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH health officials.</li> <li>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible).</li> <li>Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread.</li> <li>COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.</li> <li>Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school.</li> <li>Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness. Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.</li> <li>Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.</li> </ul>

For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the [CDC's Consideration for Schools](#)

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### Type of Reopening

Based on your county's current designation and local community needs, which type of reopening has your school entity selected?

- Total reopen for all students and staff (but some students/families opt for distance learning out of safety/health concern).
- Scaffolded reopening: Some students are engaged in in-person learning, while others are distance learning (i.e., some grade levels in-person, other grade levels remote learning).
- Blended reopening that balances in-person learning and remote learning for all students (i.e., alternating days or weeks).
- Total remote learning for all students. (Plan should reflect future action steps to be implemented and conditions that would prompt the decision as to when schools will re-open for in-person learning).

Anticipated launch date for in-person learning (i.e., start of blended, scaffolded, or total reopening): **30 August 2021**

## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

### Pandemic Coordinator/Team

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities
Dr. Kim Zsitek-Brannan	BASD	Pandemic Team Coordinator
Todd Repsher	BASD	Pandemic Team
Mark Stein	BASD	Pandemic Team
Russ Giordano	BASD	Pandemic Team
Jane Fischer	BASD	Pandemic Team
Kristen Wenrich	Bethlehem Health Bureau	Pandemic Team Consultant
Dr. Rajika Reed	St Luke's Community Health	Pandemic Team Consultant
Dr. Anita Shah	BASD Chief School Physician	Pandemic Team Consultant

### Roles and Responsibilities for Health and Safety Preparedness and Response Planning

- Prevent accidents, injuries and work/school-related illnesses in the schools.
- Create and implement health and safety policies in accordance with the latest legislation and to ensure that these policies are implemented by staff.
- Create and implement health and safety procedures/protocols/practices in accordance with the latest guidance and recommendations for the Department of Health (DOH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) and to ensure that these procedures/protocols/practices are implemented by staff.
- Create a Health and Safety Plan and ensure it's regularly updated to reflect any changes to the law and/or guidance from federal, state, and local health officials. It's their responsibility.
- Ensure that each member of staff is aware of and adheres to the Health and Safety Plan.
- Provide regular inspections and risk assessments, and ensure that any hazards or defects are rectified immediately.
- Maintain records and thoroughly investigate any accident, community spread illness, and recommend any improvements in health and safety standards if required.
- Provide training to all staff in health and safety issues, and advise them on protective clothing and equipment where necessary.
- Serve as the key point of contact for any member of staff who has a query or concern regarding the health and safety of the workplace.
- Work closely with management, as well as health and safety inspectors.
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## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

### Prevention Strategies: All Schools

**All schools implement 5 key prevention strategies:**

- Physical distancing
- Universal or optional masking
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

### Prevention Strategies Per Level Of Community Transmission(Physical Distancing)

Substantial Spread	Minimal/Moderate Spread	Low/No Spread
<b>Elementary Schools</b> Physical Distancing: social distancing as appropriate when feasible between students in classrooms Cohorting recommended when possible	<b>Elementary Schools</b> Physical Distancing: social distancing as appropriate when feasible between students in classrooms	<b>Elementary Schools</b> Physical Distancing: social distancing as appropriate when feasible between students in classrooms
<b>Middle and High Schools</b> Physical Distancing: social distancing as appropriate when feasible between students in classrooms Cohorting recommended when possible	<b>Middle and High Schools</b> Physical Distancing: social distancing as appropriate when feasible between students in classrooms	<b>Middle and High Schools</b> Physical Distancing: social distancing as appropriate when feasible between students in classrooms
<b>Sports and Extracurricular Activities</b> Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.	<b>Sports and Extracurricular Activities</b> Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.	<b>Sports and Extracurricular Activities</b> Sports and extracurricular activities according to current CDC guidelines.

### Correct Wearing of Masks

**Use of face coverings by staff and students:**

- The wearing of masks will follow the most current guidelines set forth from the City of Bethlehem Health Department
  - CDC guidelines for cloth face masks: it should have at least two layers of fabric, fit securely against the face, have elastic around the ear or the capability to tie behind the head to allow for clear breathing, and also have the ability to be laundered. Cloth face coverings are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Cloth face coverings are an example of source control. Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected. CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings because of a lack of evidence of their effectiveness for source control. CDC guidelines: face coverings must fully cover the mouth and nose, be secured under your chin and fit snugly against the sides of the face.

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### Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

**Core principle for handwashing and respiratory etiquette: Through ongoing health education units and lessons, teach children proper handwashing and reinforce behaviors, and provide adequate supplies. Ensure that teachers and staff use proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

- Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students, teachers, and staff. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used.
- Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when not wearing a mask and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Some students with disabilities might need assistance with handwashing and respiratory etiquette behaviors.
- Adequate supplies: Support [healthy hygiene](#) behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, a way to dry hands, tissues, face masks (as feasible), and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans. If soap and water are not readily available, schools can provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

### Cleaning and Ventilation

- **Cleaning:** Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces and objects such as door handles, sink handles, toilets and drinking fountains within the school and on school buses. If a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was in a facility within the last 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting, close off areas used by the positive case and do not use those areas until after cleaning and disinfecting. Wait as long as possible (at least several hours) before starting the cleaning process.

**Ventilation:** Improve [ventilation](#) to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.

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### Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine (When a Student, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School)

- Conduct surveillance on absenteeism.
- Educate all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians) before sending children to school and/or reporting to work.
- All parents/guardians/staff will perform a daily symptom monitoring checklist prior to work/school and will remain home if symptomatic.
- Staff must review the BASD Workplace Mitigation which can be found on the district's website.
- If a student or staff starts exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they will immediately mask and go to the nurse. Individuals shall be isolated.
- An area in each health room will be designated as the sick room
- Temperatures to be taken on all symptomatic children and staff by the school nurse.
- Symptomatic individuals who do not receive a COVID test can return if not tested when fever free (without medication) and symptom free for 48 hours.
- Schools must maintain adequate personal protective equipment in the health room for use when individuals become ill.

When a person is diagnosed with COVID-19. The district will notify parents/guardians when an individual in a school and E-classroom is a probable case according to the CDC or a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. We will also post that information on district social media sites for the wider community. For confidentiality reasons, we cannot and will not identify the person who is presumed or confirmed positive.

Investigations and contact tracing will be completed, including the appropriate isolation and quarantining per the most current PA DOH guidelines

### Diagnostic and Screening Testing

In collaboration with the Bethlehem Area School District's Community Health Partners (St. Luke's University Health Network and the City of Bethlehem Health Bureau).

### Vaccination Efforts

The Bethlehem Area School District has been diligent in working with our Community Health Partners to provide access to, and opportunities to receive the three currently accepted COVID 19 vaccines. The vaccine has been made available to the following populations:

- BASD staff members
- Parents/guardians of student body
- The student population 5 years and older

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### Serving meals in the Cafeteria: In this model, meals are served and eaten in the cafeteria.

- Encourage students and staff to remain cognizant of current social distancing guidelines in areas that can easily become crowded (e.g., standing in line, dish return) and while eating by providing physical guidance.
- Ensure the safety of students with allergies and help expedite meal choice by familiarizing students and staff with daily menu offerings, such as providing menu options in advance or clearly labeling food items with simple menu item descriptions (e.g., “turkey and cheese wrap,” “carrot sticks,” “sliced peaches”) and other important indicators for food allergies or dietary restrictions (e.g., top 8 allergens, kosher, vegetarian).
- Ensure food contact surfaces (e.g., lunch table) are washed, rinsed, and sanitized (using an EPA-approved food contact surface disinfectant) before and after meals.
  - To find EPA-approved food contact surface disinfectants, visit EPA’s List N Tool: COVID-19 Disinfectants
  - Select “Surface Types” and filter down options for desired surface.
- Touchless student/staff transactions at checkout (students/staff will use ID cards). Staff will follow all state and local health dept guidance. Staff will follow building specific guidelines.

### Transportation of Students

- Masks are required by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States.
- Secondary students will be seated 2 per seat while elementary students will be seated up to 3 per seat.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus to aid in contact tracing efforts.
- Windows will be opened on buses to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard.

## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

### Protecting Vulnerable Students and Staff at High Risk for Severe Illness

#### Protecting students and staff at higher risk for severe illness

- Staff will have the opportunity to self identify as high risk so accommodation can be made prior to returning to face to face instruction.
- Continuity of education plan should be followed for those students that may not be able to attend due to high risk.
- Remote learning and telework will continue as appropriate.

#### Use of face coverings by all staff

- The wearing of masks will follow the most current guidelines set forth from the City of Bethlehem Health Department.

#### Use of face coverings by students as feasible

- The wearing of masks will follow the most current guidelines set forth from the City of Bethlehem Health Department.

#### Unique safety protocols for students with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals

- Allow vulnerable students to complete their coursework virtually
- Allow an early transition for vulnerable students to go to classes
- Social distance of 6 feet from the rest of the students in class
- Ventilate all classrooms and common areas when available/possible using windows. Recommend air circulation patterns that push inside air towards open windows.

### Behavioral Health Supports

- Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health Supports that may include:
  - EAP Program
  - Behavioral health support through employee benefits plan
  - Community resources
- Students and Families have access to the following Behavioral Health Supports:
  - SAP Program
  - Behavioral health support provided by community partners through telehealth services and in school services at each of the schools in the BASD
  - Community resource

## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

### Teaching and Learning

- **Five Days a Week In-Person Model**

- Additionally the *BASD Cyber Academy* a limited online option for students with health vulnerability will be available. This program requires pre-approval through the school principal.

### Safety Drill Plans and Response

- Maintain social distancing guidelines as delineated by the CDC and Bethlehem Health Bureau when feasible.
- Each school principal or person in charge of a school shall schedule in the Navigate Prepared system a tentative schedule listing each drill for that school year on or before the first day of school.
- Conduct all drills in accordance with public school code of 1949 - 1949 Act 14 - Pa General Assembly, and your schools Emergency Operations Plan
- In order to better practice social distancing, consider utilizing a multi faceted response approach to the BASD Standard Safety Response Protocol ie, *tabletop discussion/modified building and classroom evacuations*

### RESOURCES:

## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

- Superintendent
  - Joseph Roy, Superintendent, Bethlehem Area School District
  - Jack Silva, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
- Teaching and Learning
  - Jack Silva, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
- Special Education and Pupil Services
  - Claire Hogan, Chief Pupil Services Office, Bethlehem Area School District
- Technology
  - Marie E. Bachman, Chief Technology Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
  - Scott Best, Supervisor of IT Support Services, Bethlehem Area School District
- Transportation
  - Jenny Robinson Transportation General Manager, Bethlehem Area School District
  - Sandy McKeon, Transportation Manager, Bethlehem Area School District
- Facilities
  - Mark Stein, Chief Facilities and Operations Officer, Bethlehem
- Safety, Health, Dining and Security: Emergency Preparedness
  - Todd Repsher, Coordinator School Safety / Emerg. Mgmt, Bethlehem ASD
  - Kim Zsitek-Brannan, Supervisor Health Services, Bethlehem Area School District
  - Amy Sura, Dietary, Bethlehem Area School District
- Human Resources
  - Russell Giordano, Chief Human Resources Officer, Bethlehem Area School District
  - Jane Fischer, Human Resources Manager, Bethlehem Area School District
  - Kelly Male, Employee Benefits Specialist, Bethlehem Area School District

## Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

### Resources:

- CDC Considerations for Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- CDC the Schools Decision Tree: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Schools-Decision-Tree.pdf>
- CDC the Interim Guidance for Schools and Day Camps:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf#page=46>
- Process to Reopen Pennsylvania: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>
- CDC People Who Need Extra Precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>
- CDC Print Resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>
- CDC Considerations for Youth Sports: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>
- PA Guidance for Businesses Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees and the Public: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20200504-COVID-19-Business-Guidance.pdf>
- DOH Guidance on Home Isolation or Quarantine and Returning to Work:  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Quarantine-Isolation%20Work%20Guidance.pdf>
- CDC Important Information About Your Cloth Face Coverings:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-coverings-information.pdf>
- Guidance on Homemade Masks During COVID-19:  
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Homemade%20Mask%20Guidance.pdf>
- PA COVID-19 PPE and Supplies Business-2-Business Interchange Directory:  
<https://dced.pa.gov/pa-covid-19-medical-supply-portals/pennsylvania-covid-19-ppe-supplies-business-2-business-b2b-interchange-directory/>
- CDC How to clean and disinfect: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

# Bethlehem Area School District ARP ESSER: Health and Safety Plan

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Bethlehem Area School District reviewed and approved the Revised School Reopening Health and Safety Plan on February 28, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_ No

Affirmed on: February 28, 2022

By:

Michael E. Faccinetto  
President, Board of School Directors

*\*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.*