

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: Wissahickon School District

**Initial Approval: July 19, 2021**—original plan document.

**First Revision: August 23, 2021**—revision to the original plan document approved via Board vote (no new document) per the following motion:

**Agenda Item 7.b(1):** *“Approval to amend the district’s Health & Safety Plan for the 2021-22 school year, dated 7/19/21, to reflect universal masking required for all indoor activities in Grades K-12, with modification to this requirement to be considered by the Board of School Directors if/when the Montco OPH changes its recommendation for masking in these grades (in the case of Grades K-6, the requirement will only be revisited if the Montco OPH recommendation is changed AND the COVID-19 vaccine is also made available to students under the age of 12). All other provisions of the plan’s masking requirements (e.g., required on buses, not required for outdoor activities, etc.) remain as originally approved.”*

**Second Revision: December 13, 2021**—revised document w/ multiple changes in response to evolving COVID-19 circumstances and new mitigation recommendations from various governing agencies.

**Third Revision: March 7, 2022**—revised document w/ changes in response to new guidelines from CDC on masking protocols and changes from the Montgomery Office of Public Health regarding distancing, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation protocols.

**Board Review: August 22, 2022**—required six-month review (no changes made to the Plan).

**Fourth Revision: December 12, 2022**—required six-month review, with the following changes approved by formal Board vote (no new Plan document):

- The district strongly recommends people test at home for COVID-19 when they have symptoms that are consistent with it.
- The district strongly recommends staff members and parents/guardians notify the school when a staff member or student in that school tests positive for COVID-19.
- When made aware that a staff member or student has tested positive, the school will send out a message to that effect (with no names included) to all staff and families in that school (and, in K-5 settings, to all families in a given classroom, if applicable).
- On all other matters related to COVID-19, the district will continue to follow the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MONTCO OPH) recommendations, which are aligned with the federal government’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

**Fifth Revision: June 5, 2023**—required six-month review, with the following changes approved by formal Board vote (no new Plan document): The first three itemized changes approved in the 12/22/22 revision (see above) were rescinded, per revised CDC guidance dated 5/5/23.

**Part I: Guiding Questions**

**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 District’s Health and Safety Plan (HSP) will take into account recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (Montco OPH). As such, the plan is a “living document” which may need to be revised as recommendations change. Such changes will be communicated to the Wissahickon School District community via all normal channels. The following pages outline the actions the District will engage in to promote the health and safety of students, staff, and community members.

**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?** The District will provide in-person instruction 5 days per week unless an emergency declaration prevents in-person learning. Throughout the upcoming school year, the District will contract with the Aldersgate Youth Service Bureau for the provision of mental health services, in both individual and small group settings. Additionally, our school counselors and other Student Services Department personnel will provide support for students and families as necessary. Our Employee Assistance Program will also be available for staff needing assistance. Finally, meals served by the District are being provided at no charge to families for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year.

**How will the public be able to access the plan?** The LEA’s Health and Safety Plan will be made publicly available on the district website and will be written in a language that parents/caregivers can understand or be orally translated for parent/caregivers. It will also be provided in alternate format upon request by a parent/caregiver who is an individual with a disability.

**Part II: ARP ESSER Plan Elements and District Response Protocols**

<b>Plan Element</b>	<b>District Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</b>
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Effective 3/2/22 (per Board vote at the 2/28/22 public Board meeting), the following <b><u>masking protocols for indoor and outdoor activities</u></b> on all school properties will be in effect:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The district shall follow the recommendations of the CDC, dated 2/25/22 and as amended thereafter, regarding masking protocols.</li><li>○ The levels of transmission, how they are defined, and how the district is to respond to each in terms of masking requirements, are outlined in detail on the CDC’s website (<a href="http://www.CDC.gov">www.CDC.gov</a>).</li><li>○ The district will purchase KN95 masks for staff members and students who request them during masking optional periods.</li></ul></li><li>● District masking protocols will <u>not</u> distinguish between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, except in cases of the <u>optional</u> mask/test to stay programs related to the need to quarantine (per Montco OPH guidelines—see below).</li><li>● <b><u>Masking on buses</u></b> will be governed by the guidelines of the CDC (see CDC website for details).</li><li>● The District will continue to consider any adjustments to the recommendations (and follow any mandates) of the CDC, the PADOH, the PDE and the Montco OPH.</li></ul>

<p>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classrooms - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintain class size guidelines to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>○ Maintain as much physical distancing as reasonably possible, with the pace of progression back to “normal” distancing dependent on space or building specific circumstances. When not disruptive or detrimental to the activity at hand, distancing will be maintained for the balance of the 2021-22 school year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Cafeterias - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide for distancing while eating to the greatest extent possible (same as above—will depend on building-specific circumstances).</li> <li>○ Individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Transportation - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Limit seating to two (2) students per seat to the maximum extent feasible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide direct, explicit instruction on proper hygiene, including but not necessarily limited to: handwashing, coughing/sneezing, etc. for students and staff.</li> <li>○ Provide access to soap/water and/or hand sanitizer throughout the day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Visual Reminders - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Post signs in visible places throughout each building including, but not necessarily limited to: classrooms, restrooms, hallways, gymnasiums, cafeterias, offices, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cleaning - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Procure products appropriate for effective cleaning and sanitizing buildings.</li> <li>○ Provide training for all custodial and maintenance staff on proper cleaning and sanitation procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>○ Clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces (desks, tables, water fountains, door handles, light switches, etc.) daily, following posted EPA/CDC/manufacture guidelines.</li> <li>○ Make available to all individuals the ability to sanitize or wash hands on a frequent basis. Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas, hallways, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ventilation - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure each building has appropriate air circulation and ventilation.</li> <li>○ Require air dampers to be open to promote airflow in all buildings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contact Tracing - The District shall implement the recommendations and requirements of the Montco OPH with regard to contact tracing, as disseminated on 3/1/22 to county districts and as amended thereafter. As of 3/1/22 (and subject to future amendments): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Single cases of COVID-19 will not be subject to contact tracing (<u>broad based</u> school/classroom notice communications will continue, as will targeted communications for known immune-compromised/high risk individuals in the setting).</li> <li>○ “Outbreaks” (defined as three or more cases in a setting) <u>will</u> be subject to contact tracing, in order to identify “close contacts” for purposes of applying the “School Exclusion Chart” published by the Montco OPH. Same notifications as above will apply as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Isolation and Quarantine - The District shall adopt the recommendations and requirements of the Montco OPH with regard to both isolation and quarantine protocols, including the <u>optional</u> Mask to Stay and Test to Stay protocols. The district shall also continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintain a quarantine area in each building. The quarantine area will have proper ventilation.</li> <li>○ Require individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while in one of the District’s buildings to report immediately to the designated quarantine location in that building.</li> <li>○ Provide appropriate PPE to staff and students in the quarantine location and to those interacting directly with such an individual (one who becomes sick in school or demonstrates a history of exposure) who reports to the quarantine area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Collaboration with State and Local Health Departments: The district will continue to communicate with the Montco OPH about all possible and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19. COVID-19 is a reportable disease. As such, the District is required to communicate with the MCO PH to report all cases of COVID-19.</li> </ul>

<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diagnostic and Screening Testing - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work collaboratively with the Montco OPH on potential options for diagnostic and screening testing. Should the District engage in this testing, the community will be notified of such as soon as practicable.</li> <li>○ Have available screening tests on a small scale via the ACE-IT testing program, as approved by the Montco OPH, for purposes such as the Test to Stay (TTS) program (see above).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vaccinations - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partner with pharmacies and/or Montco OPH to provide opportunities for eligible individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccination (including boosters).</li> <li>○ Encourage, but NOT require, vaccines (unless directed otherwise by the PADOH, the PDE or the Montco OPH).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Accommodations for Students with Disabilities - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Document individual student needs in students' IEPs or 504s. Individual student needs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and accommodations will be made accordingly, as determined by the IEP/504 team.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Coordination with state and local health officials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coordination with State and Local Health Officials - The District shall continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Communicate with Montco OPH on each case of COVID-19.</li> <li>○ Review this Health &amp; Safety Plan every six months, or more frequently as needed, or whenever there is a significant change to the recommendations for K-12 schools from relevant federal, state or local agencies. Public input will be sought and taken into account before any changes are made.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for the **Wissahickon School District** reviewed and approved this revised Health and Safety Plan on **June 5, 2023**.

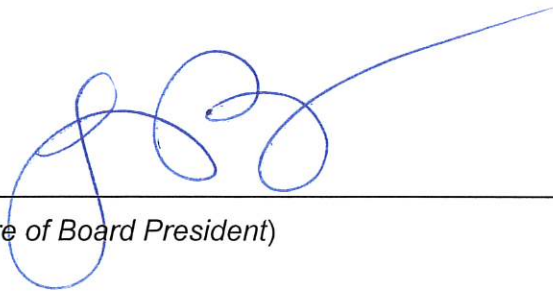
The above outlined modifications to the Plan was approved by a vote of:

4 Yes

2 No

Affirmed on: **June 5, 2023**

By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

---

*(Signature of Board President)*

**Amy L.B. Ginsburg**

---

*(Printed Name of Board President)*