

THE Hillside SCHOOL

Health and Safety Plan 2021 - 2022



The Hillside School Health and Safety Plan

All decision-makers should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to reduce the risks of COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible and safely continue school activities.

The Hillside School will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the state and local governments, CDC, and the PA DOH. Hillside will consider the CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools.

Local data will be used to make informed decisions about possible changes in instructional models. The Hillside School will adhere to the PA DOH recommendations following identification of a case(s) of COVID-19.

The Hillside School realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information becomes available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and community. The Hillside Board of Trustees recognize that minor changes to this plan may need to be made by the Head of School or designee. In addition, the Head of School or designee shall have authority to mandate distance learning based on the following criteria: (1) inability to adequately and safely staff the building, (2) high risk to the health of the school community, (3) significantly increased number of confirmed/quarantined cases, or (4) updated recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Health or state mandated closure.

The Hillside School Learning Models

Traditional Learning: All students attend school five days per week.

Distance Learning: Offered when Traditional Learning is not available; students' instruction will be delivered via *The Hillside School Distance Learning Plan*.

Pandemic Team

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities
Donna Henry	Head of School Pandemic Team Coordinator	Plan Development and Response Team
Sharon Fatzinger	Assistant Head of School	Plan Development and Response Team
Stephanie Kobal	Trustee	Plan Development and Response Team
Marc Breidenbach	Trustee	Plan Development
Thomas Kenyon	Trustee	Plan Development
Donna-Marie Daday	Chair of the Board of Trustees	Plan Development and Response Team
Jane Hottenstein	Office Manager	Plan Development and Response Team
Alyssa Nemeth	Administrative Assistant	Plan Development and Response Team
Danielle Cooper	Data Coordinator	Response Team
Holly Nonnemacher	Director of Development	Response Team
Melinda Behrens	East Penn School Nurse	Plan Development and Response Team
Kris DePaolo	Trustee - Treasurer	Plan Development

Resource Links

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in \(K\)-12 Schools](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[COVID-19 Integrated County View](#) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[COVID-19: When to Quarantine](#)

[Pennsylvania Department of Education's Level of Community Transmission Table](#)

[Pennsylvania Department of Health](#)

[Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab](#)

[Pennsylvania Department of Education](#)

Safety Protocols

Action Steps	
UNIVERSAL WEARING of MASKS (well fitted, covering the nose and mouth)	<p>CDC recommends universal indoor masking by teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Hillside is committed to providing the least disruption to in-person instruction due to quarantine requirements.</p> <p>All Hillside teachers, staff and students will start the school year fully masked indoors and hope to be able to shift as conditions permit. Mask optional times can be when 3 feet of physical distancing is available and outdoors.</p> <p>Beginning February 22, 2022 Hillside will shift from a mask mandatory policy to a mask recommendation policy.</p>
PHYSICAL DISTANCING	<p>School spaces will return to pre-pandemic layouts to prioritize in person instructional experiences. Physical distancing of 3 feet will occur to the greatest extent practical.</p>

HANDWASHING and RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE	Students and staff will be required to wash hands before lunch. Students and staff will have opportunities to wash hands or sanitize throughout the day and will have the option to wash hands or sanitize when requested.
CLEANING and maintaining healthy facilities	<p>High touch areas (i.e. horizontal surfaces, desks, chairs, technology devices, door handles, sink handles, light switches, etc.) will be cleaned daily.</p> <p>Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected nightly.</p> <p>Water fountains will not be utilized and students/staff will bring in water bottles. There is a bottle filling station available.</p> <p>Regarding ventilation, the CDC's recommendation of at least 6 air exchanges per hour will be followed.</p> <p>Appropriate signage to promote everyday protective measures will be placed throughout the building.</p> <p>Students will have personal materials kept at their desks.</p>
DIAGNOSTIC and SCREENING TESTING	<p>Parents will be asked to screen students at home each morning as they did during the 2020/21 school year.</p> <p>All employees will be asked to self-screen at home each morning.</p> <p>Any students or staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to stay home.</p> <p>All visitors will make prior arrangements and self-screen at the school.</p>
CONTACT TRACING in combination with ISOLATION and QUARANTINE in collaboration with the state and local health departments	Hillside will continue to work collaboratively with the EPSD nurse and the PA Department of Health on risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations for symptomatic, exposed and positive individuals, including contact tracing, until otherwise deemed unnecessary by the PA DOH.

	<p>Students developing symptoms or having a temperature of 100.4 during the school day will be quarantined at school until a parent or guardian can pick them up no later than 60 minutes from the time of the call.</p>
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DOH at 1-877-PA Health (1-877-724-3258)

Health and Safety Plan Communication

The Hillside School commits to communicating with our families in a number of ways, including:

- Posting the Health and Safety Plan on The Hillside School website
- Informing families if the Health and Safety Plan has been updated
- Notifying staff and families of a school closure and in-school-year changes to safety protocols
- Sharing local, state, and federal guidance on mitigating the spread of COVID-19
- Posting visible signs in our school that promote personal hygiene, physical distancing, and other safety protocols

Additionally, members of the Pandemic Team will regularly monitor changes regarding the health and safety of our specific community, taking lead from local, state, and federal guidelines. Therefore, the Health and Safety Plan is subject to change as new information is discovered and health authorities update their guidelines.