

# Clearfield Area School District

## Health and Safety Plan Updates

2831 Washington Avenue, Clearfield, PA 16830

[www.clearfield.org](http://www.clearfield.org)

July 24, 2023

The Board voted to continue the H+S Plan as it has been operating without changes to the plan

January 23, 2023

The Board voted to continue the H+S Plan as it has been operating without changes to the plan.

### Health and Safety Plan Committee Review

July 25, 2022

Feedback was requested from all participants through an e-mail request. Follow up conversations were also held with the school nurses.

At this time there has not been new directives or guidelines presented by PDE or the PA DOH. As a result, this review of the plan was based on how things proceeded and operated at the end of the school year with the changes in place from the review in January 2022.

If, or when, new guidance is received from PDE or the PA DOH, the school will comply with any additional steps or requirements as proposed.

The conclusion reached was that our efforts and expectations with what was occurring at that time were meeting the needs. We will continue to be responsive to the needs based on the progress of the school and the impacts of the ongoing global pandemic.

Highlights of the ongoing plan would be:

1. Exclusion of any person from the schools for a period of five days after testing positive. The day of the test would be considered day zero. Return to the school setting would be that one's health allows them to return and that they agree to wear a face mask for the next five days. (Days 6-10 after the test date.)
2. Close contacts at school would be determined on a case-by-case basis. If the school determines that someone was a close contact, they may be asked to take several steps from as simply as wearing a face mask to exclusion based on the individual circumstances of each case.
3. As case counts would climb within the school community, requiring more intervention, steps we will employ would be greater encouragement to be masked and steps to create more social distancing as needed and appropriate to the circumstances.
4. At all times, based on needs the previous steps of the plan could be implemented by the committee with a targeted goal to keep students in school.

Board Reviewed and Approved on July 25, 2022

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#### Health and Safety Plan Committee Review

January 11, 2022 at 3:45 PM, Elementary Library (Agenda Attachment A)

Members Present: Terry Struble, Sam Maney, Jeff Kavelak, Kate Wood, Jackie Seger, Mark Bender, Mary Mike Sayers, Gail Ralston, Andy Brickley, Stefanie Yingling, Stefanie Sattesahn, Dave Wright, Jenna Gaston, Eric Scaife (Signature Page Attachment B)

A review of data as collected from July 1 on Pennsylvania's reporting of cases in Clearfield County occurred first. The data showed the number of cases by week, the cases per 100,000, and the positivity rate. This data is then compared to the school population of 2500 people and the impacts within the school community. In most cases the school case counts were consistent with what was occurring in the county as well. (Handout Attachment C)

In reviewing the current Health and Safety plan (Attachment D), the majority of the plan is meeting the needs of the school. More encouragement to be masked in the school settings will occur in letters to parents and announcements at schools and events.

A discussion as to whether there would be a benefit to reinstating the temperature screening as a daily routine was discussed. The nurses did not feel that a fever was the primary concern that was creating the need for students to be sent to the nurse's office, or necessarily resulting in COVID, so to do large mass screening would not be seen as a benefit.

The continued use of other spaces when available to help spread students out when possible is considered a practice to continue with social distancing.

Water fountains could be turned back on in the HS setting where students may be better using them, but at the elementary school setting, there is a need to keep the fountains off. Bottle filling changes on the last several fountains is planned as they are available for purchase. The district will pursue avenues to source water bottles in the classroom so that they are available as a student would need them.

A review of extracurricular activities have not seen anything disproportionate occurring within them. There have been individuals that have been impacted as a positive case or a close contact, but overall, the teams and activities have not been impacted by full team shutdowns at this point in time.

The major concern raised is the number of students and staff being impacted by the individual contact tracing at school and the amount of time and effort to complete this task is impacting the essential duties of key staff and having an adverse impact on the learning process. In reviewing the data there is significant evidence that the majority of the positive cases we have seen in the last year and a half of school have resulted from outside of the school setting. There has been in comparison very few cases that appear to be due to transmission in the school setting. Additionally, the PA DOH was completing contact tracing at one point in time and this has now become the sole responsibility of the schools.

Contact tracing requires once contacts have been identified a determination of vaccination status is appropriate, was the contact previously positive themselves in the last 90 days, and then determining from the date of contact when the person's time out of school starts and ends. At times this process is completed and with the time lapses of when things get reported, the close contact may only need out of school for a day or two, and often are not showing any signs or symptoms at all.

Recognizing the need to still complete contact tracing and keeping families and staff informed of the potential of close contacts, the committee would like to recommend the following.

- Whenever a positive case is identified they must follow all of the recommended guidelines for quarantine/isolation before returning to the school setting.
- Whenever a person is identified as a close contact due to a positive case within their home they must follow all of the recommended guidelines for quarantine/isolation before returning to the school setting.
- The school would do whole school contact tracing by posting daily on the school's website any new cases that have occurred in the school setting and asking families to monitor for signs and symptoms that would indicate they should stay home.
- Determinations on a case-by-case basis could require individuals to be quarantined/isolated due to a close contact of a positive case. These would be limited to very close contacts that exceed normal school contacts.

### **Board Meeting, January 24, 2022**

Review of meeting notes from the Health and Safety committee was completed with the Board with a request to modify the identification of close contacts. After some discussion with questions and answers, the Board voted 8-1 to approve the change in the process that identifies the close contacts within the school setting.

Attached is the revised guidelines for "Student Exposures to COVID-19"

Next review would be no later than the end of July 2022.

