



Southern Lehigh School District

2021 - 2022 Health and Safety Plan

This plan was developed in collaboration
with the St. Luke's University Health Network



Health and Safety Plan Summary

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Southern Lehigh School District Health and Safety Plan Review Team

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American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief ESSER Requirements

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 Southern Lehigh School District will continue to utilize the up-to-date guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) in the development and maintenance of the SLSD Health and Safety Plan. From a community perspective, the Southern Lehigh School District will also continue to engage in active consultation with medical staff and public health officials from the St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) in an effort to ensure that the information within the SLSD Health and Safety Plan is relevant as it relates to the community spread of COVID-19 in the SLSD community and the surrounding region.
- The Southern Lehigh School District continues to focus on the maximization of in-person instructional opportunities for all SLSD students in an environment where they can succeed socially, emotionally, and academically in a safe and consequential manner alongside caring and supportive staff. The SLSD will continue to progress toward this goal while implementing COVID-19 prevention and mitigation protocols that directly correlate to an appropriate and feasible set of procedures that are consistent with the existing level of community spread in the SLSD community and the surrounding region.
- The Southern Lehigh School District Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year has been developed in consultation with medical staff and local public health officials from the St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN), and using timely information from Federal and State Health and Safety Agencies. Further, the information outlined within this document is unique to the needs of the students and staff of the Southern Lehigh School District. As per the requirements set forth in the American Rescue Plan, the SLSD Health and Safety Plan will be monitored, reviewed, and updated as additional information from the Federal and State health and safety agencies is updated.

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 Southern Lehigh School District will provide the following focused summer instructional and enrichment programs (financed through a combination of District funds and ESSER funds) starting in June of 2021;
 - ◆ A combination of In-person and Remote Secondary Summer School
 - ◆ Elementary Summer Remediation
 - ◆ Extended School Year (ESY) for qualified with special education students
 - ◆ Summer Ramp-Up Offerings
 - ◆ [Digital Instructional Enrichment Resources](#)
- For the 2021-2022 School Year, the Southern Lehigh School District will provide the following instructional opportunities which will be available to all students starting on August 28, 2021;
 - ◆ In-Person Face-to-Face Instruction
 - ◆ Spartan Academy Remote Learning

- Spartan Academy is a contracted remote learning program taught by instructors from the EdOptions Academy by Edmentum. Students will utilize SLSD instructional technology, be eligible for SLSD remote IT support, maintain access to their SLSD School Counselor, maintain access to SLSD extracurricular and athletic activities, and additional support on an as needed basis.
- The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to operate a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2021-2022 School Year. Through the continued use of the MTSS system, the SLSD will complete interventions in English/Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The Southern Lehigh School District will provide the following behavioral health supports and social emotional learning opportunities for students and staff during the 2021-2022 school year;
 - ◆ **Students** - Students in the SLSD will continue to have access to the following behavioral health supports and social emotional learning opportunities;
 - Access to School Counselors in each School Building
 - SLSD School Counseling [Request for Support](#) Tool
 - Access to School Psychologists in each School Building
 - Positive Behavior Support Programs
 - The Caron Foundation Programing (PATHS Program and Group Counseling)
 - Lehigh Valley Health Network School Based Behavioral Health (Individual Counseling)
 - K-12 Student Assistance Program
 - K-12 Child Study Team
 - [Safe2Say Something](#)
 - [Mental Health Resources and Behavioral Health Supports](#)
 - ◆ **Staff** - Employees of the Southern Lehigh School District continue to have access to the following Behavioral Health Supports through the Southern Lehigh School District;
 - [SLSD Employee Assistance Program: Preferred EAP](#)
 - [SLSD Employee Benefit Plan Behavioral Health Supports: Highmark](#)
 - Regional Crisis Intervention Resources
- The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to offer free lunch to the students in the SLSD community via the Federal feeding programs in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Depending on the time of the school year, free lunch programing will be offered in the following formats;
 - ◆ In-Person in SLSD Cafeterias
 - ◆ Grab-And-Go Curbside Pick Up

Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Component	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Universal Masking Order expired on June 28, 2021.</p> <p>Effective August 24, 2021, masks are required in all indoor spaces and on buses to be reevaluated and voted upon at the second Board of School Directors Meeting in September.</p> <p>Effective August 24, 2021, masks are required for a period of five weeks in all indoor spaces and on buses. This requirement may be reauthorized at any time by the Board of School Directors.</p> <p>Effective November 22, 2021, All persons shall remain masked in all instructional buildings from entry into the buildings in the morning until thirty (30) minutes after the last bell until January 11, 2022. However the District will continue to follow mandates in effect. Any indoor event that includes an audience will require audience members to wear masks.</p> <p>Effective January 11, 2022, masks are required from the start of the school day until the end of the school day through January 21, 2022. The District will comply with all mandates.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations from the CDC, PADOH, & PDE for Universal Indoor Masking in K-12 school buildings. - Recommendation from the St. Luke's University Health Network for Universal Indoor Masking in K-12 school buildings. - Current Level of Community COVID-19 Transmission for Lehigh County. - CDC/PADOH Student Exception to Close Contact Quarantine which requires students to be masked to avoid being identified as a close contact. <p>The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to review masking requirements based on a variety of factors including but not limited to the information listed in the</p>

	<p>rationale section above. Updates made to the CDC, PADOH, and PDE recommendations, state orders and/or local data may result in modifications or updates to the SLSD face mask practices. Modifications will continue to be made in coordination with community health partners.</p>
<p>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District will complete the configuration of classroom furniture in a manner that appropriately promotes in-person instruction and maintains physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary classes will continue to remain self contained to the maximum extent feasible. <p>Updated CDC recommendations, state orders and/or local data may result in modifications or updates to the SLSD’s physical distancing practices. Modifications will be made in coordination with community health partners.</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Under the Federal Order issued in January 2021, the CDC requires the use of masks, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation which includes school buses operated by public or private school systems. A bus driver, if he/she is the only person on the bus, does not need to wear a mask.</p>
<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>The SLSD will encourage frequent hand washing with students and employees in all school district buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Handwashing In Community Settings • CDC Handwashing Poster • CDC Stop the Spread of COVID-19 Poster <p>The SLSD will continue to provide hand sanitizer in all District classrooms and strategically placed in high traffic areas throughout school buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Hand Sanitizer Use • FDA Hand Sanitizer Guidelines <p>The SLSD will continue ongoing communication with District stakeholders regarding ways that students, families, and staff can practice safe hygiene at home.</p>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sanitization</p> <p>The Southern Lehigh School District Support Services Staff will clean, disinfect, and/or sanitize each classroom, restroom, hallway, and touch points per existing CDC Recommendations on Cleaning Public Facilities.</p>

Ventilation

All Southern Lehigh school buildings have been designed to meet ASHRAE standards for continuous air filtration and the introduction of filtered outside air.

- School building ventilation and filtration should continuously operate during occupied times.
- MERV 13 filters will be used during the pandemic. Filtration of no less than MERV 8 will be used if MERV 13 filters are not compatible.
- Outdoor air circulation should exchange indoor air multiple times per day. At no time should it fall below ASHRAE levels for occupied buildings.

[Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), modified quarantine in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to follow the established case investigation/contact tracing, isolation, and ~~quarantine~~ modified quarantine procedures for COVID-19 positive cases as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health until otherwise deemed unnecessary by either the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the CDC, or another local health authority. This information is outlined with the related PA Health Alert Network (PA-HAN).

Effective December 22, 2021: Individuals identified as close contacts of a positive case of Covid-19 will enter into a Modified Quarantine. The student or staff member may attend school and participate in activities but must wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking for 7 days from exposure. Individuals in modified quarantine must maintain a distance of at least six feet away from others while eating or drinking. Individuals in modified quarantine must continually monitor their symptoms and remain home if COVID symptoms occur and report this information to administration. Modified quarantine may not apply to all contacts to positive cases of COVID-19 and may apply only to those who experience a “low-level” exposure. “High level exposure” cases, such as exposure within a household with the inability to isolate from a positive family member or those who have ongoing exposures may be required to participate in a traditional quarantine in accordance with CDC/DOH guidelines. Determination of “low-level” or “high-level” exposures will be based on case-by-case investigation of exposure.

	<p>Modified quarantine may be suspended in facilities that are experiencing multiple clusters of disease resulting from suspected school-based transmission.</p> <p>The Southern Lehigh School District will provide targeted communications directly to individuals who are involved in case investigation. The SLSD will continue to update the digital reference tool that will denote positive cases on the SLSD COVID-19 Resources Website.</p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District does not intend to offer onsite COVID-19 diagnostic testing for either students and or staff.</p> <p>Community availability of COVID-19 diagnostic testing in the region is high and the turnaround time across the region for COVID-19 diagnostic testing remains timely. The SLSD will provide information to individuals on an as needed basis through interactions completed by the SLSD School Nursing Team, via resources present on the SLSD COVID-19 Website, and through routine community communications.</p> <p>The SLSD will continue to educate SLSD families on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while encouraging families that they should refrain from sending their student(s) to school if he/she is displaying symptoms related to COVID-19.</p> <p>The SLSD will continue to educate SLSD staff on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while encouraging staff that they should stay home if they are displaying symptoms related to COVID-19.</p> <p>The SLSD will continue to encourage families and staff to complete a Daily COVID-19 Health Screener prior to arrival for both students and staff each school day.</p> <p>Parents are required to report a positive diagnosis of a student case of COVID-19 to the appropriate SLSD School Nurse. Employees are required to report a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to the Director of Human Resources.</p>

<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District previously completed a community vaccination clinic at Southern Lehigh Middle School following the expansion of vaccine eligibility for individuals 12+.</p> <p>The SLSD maintains a COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page on the SLSD website to provide information about COVID-19 vaccine opportunities in the region.</p> <p>The SLSD will continue to collaborate with regional healthcare partners and or other regional providers to advertise additional COVID-19 vaccination opportunities available in the school community.</p>
<p>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Southern Lehigh School District students with disabilities will receive accommodations as written in their IEP or 504 plans.</p>
<p>Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District will continue to complete regular communication and collaboration with state, local, and community health partners via the following methods;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct contact with state and local health officials on an as needed basis. ● Participation in the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Emergency Preparedness Council. ● Routine and periodic meetings as it relates to the maintenance of this plan and other health and safety concerns with community health partners.
<p>Volunteers and Visitors to the Southern Lehigh School District</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District will limit, to the extent practical and feasible visitors in the school buildings during the instructional day.</p> <p>Volunteers or visitors to the Southern Lehigh School District for activities occurring either indoors or outdoors must follow the established Health and Safety Plan procedures.</p>
<p>Community Facility Use</p>	<p>The Southern Lehigh School District will permit the school district facilities use per Policy 707 Use of School Facilities.</p>
<p>Sports and Extracurricular Activities</p>	<p>Under the current Federal Order issued in January 2021, the CDC requires the use of masks, regardless of</p>

vaccination status, when on public transportation which includes school buses operated by public or private school systems. As a result, all individuals associated with Southern Lehigh School District athletics or extracurricular activities must wear a mask in accordance with the current Federal Order during associated travel on SLSD transportation. (bus or van)

All individuals accessing the SLUHN Athletic Trainer(s) must wear a mask when inside the Athletic Training Room(s) per [CDC Guidelines](#).

The following mitigation strategies should continue in an effort to avoid potential outbreaks and the suspension of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities;

- All student-athletes should bring at least 64 oz of water to all practices and games. The SLSD Athletic Department will provide water refill stations at each practice and game facility.
- Student-athletes should continue to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent feasible and practical during water breaks and on sidelines.
- All individuals participating in athletics and extracurricular activities should continue to self-screen before arriving to campus, and any individual who is not feeling well should stay home and call their healthcare provider.
- Accurate attendance should continue to be taken for every practice, meeting, or associated activities to ensure that contact tracing can be completed in the event of a positive case and/or exposure.

A Southern Lehigh School District student athlete returning from a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will require clearance documentation from a physician/healthcare provider. If directed by the treating physician/healthcare provider, the Southern Lehigh School District student-athlete will begin the [St. Luke's University Health Network Gradual Return-to-Play Protocol](#) following a positive (or presumed positive) COVID-19 case. The [St. Luke's University Health Network Gradual Return-to-Play Protocol](#) takes approximately (7) days to complete and an athlete to be cleared for resumption of full, unrestricted activity.

Resources

- [PADOH Plans and Processes for K-12 Schools During COVID-19 2021-22 Academic Year](#)

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health COVID-19 Website](#)