



## **Penn Cambria School District COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan**

**Initial Effective Date: July 29, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: Committee September 14, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: Board Revision 9/21/21**

*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?*

**Penn Cambria School District will continue to take steps to both prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on staff and students. The district leadership team remains committed to continuous monitoring of information and recommendations from the PA Department of Education (PDE), the PA Department of Health (DOH), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).**

**A layered system of mitigation strategies will be used to help prevent COVID spread in schools. Strategies will include the following:**

- ***Communication of COVID-19 symptoms and protocols for responding when symptoms are present***
- ***Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms***
- ***Continued emphasis on hand-washing and cough etiquette***
- ***Continued maintenance of a supply of face coverings for optional use***
- ***Continued emphasis on physical distance when possible***
- ***Continued use of enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols***
- ***Continued emphasis on improved ventilation***
- ***Continued reporting of COVID-19 cases in schools to the PA Department of Health as required, including continued identification of close contacts and quarantine as required by DOH in the PA Health Alert Network (HAN) system.***

**Mitigation protocols are subject to change based on orders or requirements from PDE, DOH and/or the CDC.**

*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.*

**Penn Cambria School District will offer the following academic options for students in the 2021-2022 school year.**

**1) Full in-person instruction with the possibility of temporary or short-term remote learning only as necessary in response to COVID related issues.**

- a. Academic Support is provided by classroom teachers, Title 1 teachers, special education teachers, paraeducators, after-school programs and summer school.
- b. Social Emotional Support is provided through school counselors, on-site mental health therapy services, school psychologist, SAP teams, implementation of K-8 Second Step SEL curriculum, and PC Intermediate Trauma-Skilled Schools Model.
- c. Health Support is provided through continued support from school nursing staff located in each building.
- d. Food Service Support is provided through the breakfast and lunch meal program in each building. All students will be eligible for free breakfast and lunch each school day in the 2021-2022 school year.

**2) Fully online learning through the PC Cyber Academy**

- a. Academic Support is provided by course teachers and PC Cyber Mentors. Additional academic support is available through Penn Cambria's on-site after school tutoring opportunities.
- b. Social Emotional Support is provided through school counselors, remote mental health therapy services, school psychologist, and referrals through SAP teams.
- c. Health Support is provided through continued remote support from school nursing staff.
- d. Food Service Support will be provided pending authorization of remote meal bundles from the National School Lunch Program.

*Penn Cambria School District will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff by using the practices noted in the table below.*

| ARP ESSER Requirement                      | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures  |
|--|---|
| a. Universal and correct wearing of masks; | <p>If the state of federal government issues updated mask mandates or edicts the district will be required to follow those orders and will update masking requirements on-site to comply.</p> <p style="color: red;">The PA Department of Health issued a mask mandate effective 9/7/2021 for Pennsylvania schools.</p> |

| ARP ESSER Requirement  | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures  |
|--|---|
|  | <p><i>9/21/22 - The Penn Cambria School District Board of Directors directs that parent written notification/attestation of legitimate medical or mental health condition or disability will be accepted as documentation of an exception under Section 3 of the current Department of Health order.</i></p> <p>With the expiration of the mandated face covering order in Pennsylvania, face coverings will be optional for individuals at PCSD facilities.</p> <p>However, as per CDC recommendations for schools when masking is optional, the district will continue to encourage masking for all individuals within our buildings and will maintain a supply of masks and face coverings for staff, students, or visitors who wish to mask onsite.</p> <p>Under a federal order, masks are currently still required on all public transportation. This mandate specifically includes school buses as public transportation. Therefore, under this order, Penn Cambria School District and Mcllwain School Bus Lines must require mask wearing while on school buses.</p> |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding) ;</p> | <p>Physical distancing will continue to be encouraged to the extent feasible within classrooms and other building spaces.</p> <p>While the CDC has indicated that 3 feet of distance will help mitigate the spread of COVID, quarantine guidelines continue for unvaccinated close contacts within 6 feet and therefore, physical distancing when it does not interfere with educational goals is prudent.</p> <p>Teachers and staff will be encouraged to consider each situation to determine how to maximize distancing without sacrificing educational benefit.</p> <p>Bus seating will continue to be assigned to maximize distancing to the extent possible.</p>  |

| ARP ESSER Requirement   | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures   |
|---|--|
|   | <p>Staff will continue to be encouraged to use larger rooms for meetings when possible.</p>  |
| <p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>  | <p>Frequent handwashing will continue to be encouraged with opportunities for handwashing provided throughout the day.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available for staff and student use.</p> <p>Cough etiquette will continue to be promoted through signage, classroom mini-lessons and reminders from the school health offices. Tissues, trash receptacles, and hand sanitizer will be made easily accessible to encourage prompt and proper response to coughs, runny noses, and sneezes.</p>  |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>   | <p>A continued emphasis on daily cleaning protocols will continue. As per CDC guidance, cleaning daily is generally enough to sufficiently remove potential virus on surfaces, especially when combined with regular disinfecting. Disinfectant fogging will continue.</p> <p>Attention to reasonable practices to improve ventilation both on buses and in buildings will continue based on CDC guidance. As feasible, classroom windows and bus windows may be opened to allow for increased ventilation.</p> <p>Air purifiers with HEPA filters have been installed and will remain in use in high risk/low-ventilation rooms.</p> <p>Custodial staff will be notified of the need for additional cleaning in areas impacted by positive COVID cases and encouraged to wait 24 hours when feasible to clean in that area.</p> |
| <p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <p>Individuals who are identified as symptomatic while in the building will be isolated using designated areas in each building and sent home as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Return to school protocols for symptomatic individuals will follow PDE guidance for responding to symptomatic individuals.</p> <p>All persons with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be required to isolate according to guidance from DOH.</p>  |



| ARP ESSER Requirement   | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures  |
|---|---|
|   | <p>Building principals, school nurses, and the Assistant to the Superintendent will continue to serve as COVID response teams and will identify and report close contacts and follow quarantine guidance as mandated by the DOH. To assist, assigned seating with updated seating charts in classrooms, at lunch, and on buses will continue to be required. Teachers, paraeducators, and coaches will continue to be required to note activities and seating in order to identify close contacts if necessary.</p> |
| <p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>   | <p>Information about local providers offering free or low-cost diagnostic testing will be shared both on an as-needed basis for symptomatic individuals and in general with the entire school community.</p> <p>Penn Cambria will consider free optional screening testing opportunities on-site that may become available.</p>   |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>  | <p>Information about local vaccination opportunities will continue to be shared with our school community. Penn Cambria will serve as a host site if requested by local health care providers as feasible.</p>  |
| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <p>The Director of Special Education, special education teachers, school nurses and school counselors will work with families to develop specific accommodations related to health and safety policies in accordance with any mandates for DOH or CDC.</p>  |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>   | <p>Penn Cambria will continue to work with the DOH/PDE Rapid Response Team and review the PA Health Alert Network bulletins. In addition, the district will continue to collaborate with Cambria County Emergency Management and local community health agencies and providers to improve COVID response.</p>   |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

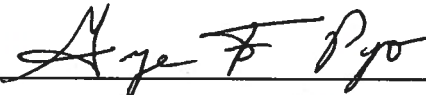
The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Penn Cambria School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on 9/21/22. The plan was approved by a vote of:

  8   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **September 21, 2021**

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name of Board President)

\*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.