

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Wissahickon Charter School

Initial Effective Date: 7/1/2021

Date of Last Review: 6/16/2021

Date of Last Revision: 6/16/2021

1. 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 risk from COVID-19 cannot be eliminated while community spread exists. However, there is a strong body of science that points to a set of strategies to most effectively mitigate this risk while allowing for the benefits of wellness, academic growth, social-emotional growth, and physical safety that come with in-person schooling. Each of these strategies – listed below – is addressed in this plan, because science tells us it is the accumulated impact of these distinct strategies that determines the degree of risk mitigation. This health and safety plan includes the approach WCS is taking to the following:

- Cohorting
- Spacing/distancing
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Masking
- Hygiene
- Ventilation
- Isolation/quarantining and tracing
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic Screening and Testing
- Coordination with local public health entities

Our leadership team will continue to consult with public health guidance and share best practices with education and health leaders to ensure our policies and practice are in line with the most up-to-date guidance for the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities.

2. 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?

To address students' academic needs, we have created a number of new positions, including literacy and math interventionists and a literacy coordinator. In addition, we are hiring one additional counselor at each site in anticipation of additional students exhibiting socioemotional needs. In addition, we are reorienting our schedule and academic approach to reflect the increased need for differentiation and intervention that we expect to see as we return to full in-person learning in the Fall. As a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school, we have and will continue to offer free breakfast and lunch to all of our students. To meet our students' health needs, we will continue to contract with MACCS Health Services to have certified school nurses serving full-time at each of our campuses. In addition to their typical services, they are also responsible for administering our COVID-19 testing program, and we have also allotted additional building space to isolate individuals exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID 19.

3. 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 Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>All students and staff will receive training on proper mask use, including ensuring one’s mask has a tight fit and provides appropriate coverage on the mouth and nose. Student-facing posters on the proper wearing of face masks and how to social distance will also be posted throughout the building.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Classrooms will be emptied except for desks and essential learning materials. Each classroom will be home to one cohort of students to the extent possible. Students will be spaced at least 3 feet apart in all classrooms with desks facing in the same direction.</p> <p>Spacing will be maintained on buses and at arrival and dismissal through carefully choreographed drop-off and pick-up routines.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>All staff will wash their hands with soap and water upon entering the building. Students will wash hands or apply hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol solution) upon entering. Staff and students will sanitize or wash hands at minimum 3 additional times during the school day, including before lunch, after lunch, and before dismissal, as well as after any coughs or sneezes. All classrooms will have a sanitizing station that will be constantly monitored and restocked as needed. While students and staff will be in masks at all times indoors with other individuals, they will still be trained and reminded of the importance of covering all of one’s coughs and sneezes.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u></u>;</p>	<p>High-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly. Custodial staff will be trained on how to fully and safely clean these</p>

	<p>surfaces; checklists will be used to ensure all necessary surfaces are cleaned at the proper frequency; the WCS Operations team will continue to ensure campuses have the cleaning supplies they need, and the Director of Operations will conduct weekly reviews of the procedures and checklists to ensure all cleaning protocols are being implemented with fidelity. On a daily basis, School Leaders will complete building walkthroughs to ensure all checklists are completed around the building.</p> <p>Ventilation practices – We will review the existing systems and provide any remediation if needed. They are currently equipped with the highest filters recommended for the models. We will also employ basic practices like keeping doors and windows open. Finally, every room will contain a HEPA Air filter.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Our cohort-based model limits each individual’s context by design and facilitates efficient contact tracing in the event of a positive case arising in the building. Any individual suspected of having COVID-19 will be placed in an isolation area until a test can be performed to confirm a diagnosis. In the event of a positive test, the individual will remain in the isolation area until a parent or guardian is able to pick them up. Once an individual is confirmed positive for COVID-19, we will notify the Philadelphia Department of Public Health so they may provide guidance to the COVID-19 positive individual regarding isolation requirements. In addition, we will work with PDPH to facilitate the identification of close contacts and cohort members on campus who will be subject to quarantine requirements based on current public health guidance.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>All staff working in-person receive weekly COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, with PCR tests available in the event of a positive antigen</p>

	<p>result. Any student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 on campus will be required to take a COVID-19 test (with parental consent) with a negative result before returning to the classroom. In the event of a positive test (or a refusal to take a test), an individual exhibiting symptoms will be required to isolate for at least 10 days while having been fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours and with all other symptoms improving.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>Wissahickon Charter School has already participated in a vaccination program for school staff administered as a partnership with the School District of Philadelphia and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. We have continued to provide information on vaccine availability to all staff, providing paid time off to individuals needing to miss part of their workday due to vaccination appointments. In addition, we have encouraged students’ families to seek out more information about the vaccine for adults and children in their households as it becomes available to the wider public.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Appropriate accommodations for every student with a disability are listed in the Individualized Education Plans or section 504 plans. Health and Safety concerns are addressed individually for each child's specific circumstances. Teams look at all the needs of the student including medical or behavioral circumstances and devise plans to ensure safety and well being of all of our students.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Throughout the pandemic, we have collaborated with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, our local authority, in developing our Health and Safety Plan and in responding to instances of COVID-19 positive individuals being in our buildings. We will continue to be in contact with them in the event of suspected COVID-19 exposures in our buildings and for clarification of current guidelines and best practices in COVID-19 mitigation.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Wissahickon Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 16, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes
 No

Affirmed on: **June 16, 2021**

By:

Justin DiBerardinis

Justin DiBerardinis (Jul 23, 2021 12:26 EDT)

Justin DiBerardinis, Board President

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Final Audit Report

2021-07-23

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