



## Cornwall-Lebanon School District 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan Parent/Community Frequently Asked Questions

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The Cornwall-Lebanon School District 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan, as approved at the August 16, 2021, meeting of the Board of School Directors, is posted on the CLSD website. Over the course of the past year, CLSD had tremendous cooperation from our students, families, and staff that allowed us to provide as many in-person educational and learning opportunities as possible.

As we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year, the District will make every effort to return to prepandemic operations to the greatest extent feasible.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the District has added personnel so that we can return our normal programs while also maintaining our virtual learning program for families who need that option. In addition, we are expanding our tutoring, summer school, after-school, and mental health supports for students.

Below are answers to the frequently asked health and safety questions we are receiving regarding the upcoming school year.

### **Will this Health and Safety Plan change?**

**The CLSD Health and Safety Plan is dynamic and will be updated throughout the 2021-22 school year whenever needed to allow schools to remain open for in-person instruction, or to adhere to any PDoH or PDE orders.** CLSD will communicate any updated mitigation strategies with all stakeholders to ensure the health and safety of its community. We will consider real time data within our school community and review the Health and Safety Plan at each monthly Board meeting. Any mitigation efforts will be informed and coordinated by the District Pandemic Team.

### **How will the District mitigate?**

Cooperation and communication from our families is our central mitigation strategy. Please monitor your child's health each day and do not send sick children or children with COVID-19 symptoms to school. Other mitigation strategies, as outlined in the CLSD Health and Safety Plan, include encouraging frequent hand washing and sanitizing of surfaces, and maintaining social distancing of 3 feet, whenever possible. Air filtration and fresh air exchanges will be maintained at the same increased levels as last year in all buildings. Large group activities will take place outdoors, as feasible. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently, especially before and after lunch. In the cafeterias, students will be spread out as much as possible. Tables will be cleaned between student groups to the greatest extent possible.

**What can the CLSD community do to support the Health and Safety Plan?**

Parents can help by monitoring their children’s health on a daily basis using the symptom checker that will be shared with them. Employees are expected to use the same symptom checker on a daily basis before coming to work. Anyone who is sick should not attend school that day.

**Will face coverings be required for the 2021-2022 school year?**

On August 31, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DoH) issued a new indoor mask mandate for schools. This Order, that applies to all schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including the Cornwall-Lebanon School District, is effective Sept. 7, 2021. As we are a public school district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are required to comply with governmental Orders.

All staff, visitors and children ages two years or older, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face coverings indoors in all CLSD buildings, unless they meet one of the exceptions in Section 3 of the Order. To request a student exception to the face covering order, please contact Diane Krissingner at (717) 272-2301, ext. 1702, to set up a personal meeting with Dr. Robinson, CLSD Pandemic Coordinator. Such a request will be addressed following our established procedures for determining student eligibility for exemption from a law.

**How will the District ensure that students and staff members who are not wearing face coverings will be respected?**

Respecting everyone’s personal, private healthcare needs will be key to ensuring this is not a divisive issue in our schools and community.

Any type of harassment or ridicule of students or staff based on their personal, private healthcare needs is unacceptable and the administration will follow established procedures.

**Are face coverings required to be worn on school transportation?**

Yes. Currently, a federal order remains in effect that face coverings must be worn on all public transportation, including public school buses and vans. Face coverings will be available for students who enter the bus or van without one. Drivers will not be engaging in discussions about this order. The District strongly encourages adherence to transportation guidelines and compliance with this federal order. This applies to all students travelling to and from school and to athletic/extra-curricular activities and field trips.

**Are there other situations in which my child who has been granted an official exception to the face covering order by a CLSD Administrator will be asked to wear a mask?**

Yes. Face coverings still are required to be worn:

- In District Health rooms and Training Facilities. Students seeking or receiving treatment from Health Room nurses or Training Room staff members will be asked to wear a face covering before entering those areas. Face coverings will be available for those who need one;
- by individuals experiencing upper respiratory or COVID-19 symptoms, as determined by the building nurse, until the child is picked up by a parent/guardian.

**Should I notify the District if my child or someone in my family tests positive for COVID-19?**

Yes. We depend upon parents communicating this information with us in order for the District to make sound operational decisions and to conduct contact tracing, as needed. Please contact your child’s school nurse or the Pandemic Coordinator, Dr. Mike Robinson at (717) 272-2031.

The District may require a doctor’s note if a student is absent for more than three days. The note should state when the student may return to school. Accommodations will be made for parents/guardians to pick up school work for their student while he or she is recuperating.

**What are the procedures for students who are ill, symptomatic, or test positive with COVID 19?**

All positive cases will be reported to PDoH. Students who are ill, symptomatic, or have tested positive will be sent home and need to remain home until a PDoH issued quarantine period expires or a note from medical provider permits them to return to school. This is subject to change based on requirements and direction from PDE and PDoH.

**\*How will I be notified if my child is a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?**

Parents/guardians of any student who is determined to be a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will receive personal notification from the District and may be permitted to continue attending school, depending on the individual situation. The recommendation will be to monitor your child closely for symptoms and consult your child’s healthcare professional. The District will notify parents that the PA Department of Health (PDoH) may contact them and that PDoH may advise quarantining their child. If a student is absent due to a quarantine order from PDoH or from a medical provider, he or she will be able to make up any work missed while absent.

Based on the updated reporting process from PA DoH, effective October 25, 2021, CLSD will no longer be reporting an individual as a close contact to an individual with a positive case of COVID-19 if both individuals were wearing a face covering at the time. This change will reduce the number of parent notifications that many of our parents are used to receiving over the past two years.

**Will CLSD be verifying the vaccination status of age-eligible students?**

No. Parents/guardians are not required to verify that they have been vaccinated at this time.

**What is CLSD doing with regards to vaccinations and testing for staff members and eligible students?**

Last year, CLSD in cooperation with Intermediate Unit 13, was a host vaccination site for education employees who resided in Lebanon County. Additionally, CLSD will continue to provide information to parents and employees about the availability of vaccinations through local healthcare providers. If there are questions about vaccinations, we strongly encourage our families to discuss these important questions with their family physician and health care providers.

The District is investigating partnering options with local health care providers to provide on-site testing for COVID-19.

**Will the District continue to operate the Blue/Gray option at CCMS and CCHS?**

No. There will not be a hybrid option for the 2021-2022 school year. Students will attend school inperson or they will attend school through one of the Virtual Solutions options.

**Will there be a virtual learning option for my student(s)?**

Yes. The District will continue to operate our CLSD Virtual Solutions program in all grades K-12. Parents who are interested in enrolling their student(s) in this learning option should contact Mr. Joe Burton, CLSD Virtual Solutions Administrator, at [jburton@clsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jburton@clsd.k12.pa.us). To maintain continuity of education, the District strongly recommends that families consider changing their child’s enrollment option only at the start of a new marking period (grades K-8) or semester (grades 9-12).

**Could there be any shifts to virtual instruction such as those we had a few times last year at CCMS and CCHS?**

While we think this is unlikely, it is a possibility. Changes in orders from PDE and PDoH could require an instructional shift. It also is possible that the District will need to have a shift to virtual instruction for a classroom or a grade level if we experience a significant outbreak of COVID 19 cases within the school community. The District Pandemic Team will be actively monitoring cases and attendance data to assist in decision-making regarding implementing such targeted mitigations.

**What are targeted mitigations?**

Targeted mitigations are steps that will be taken as necessary to keep our classrooms and schools open for learning. These measures are additional, immediate responses to specific classrooms, grades, schools, or school environments based on the daily collection of school and community data. All targeted mitigations will be coordinated through the District Pandemic Team. These could include:

- Increased notifications to families as appropriate;
- Increased social distancing in classes;
- Recommended use of face coverings for specific groups of students and/or specific situations;
- Enhanced cleaning protocols in targeted areas;
- Increased use of cohorting for classrooms;
- Potential virtual shifts of specific classes for short durations;
- Other mitigations, as recommended by the District Pandemic Team.

**Will student lunches, recess, and other activities in school return to normal?**

Yes, to the greatest extent feasible. If necessary, additional lunch areas will be provided and increased limitations will be imposed on group gatherings and field trips.

**Will I be able to attend open house and parent teacher conferences in person?**

Yes. The District likely will offer a virtual option for parent-teacher conferences in November, but in-person conferences also will be available.

**Will parents and volunteers be able to enter our buildings and classrooms this year?**

Yes, healthy parents and volunteers with the required clearances are welcome.

**Will the District be participating in the federal free meals program during the 2021-2022 school year?**

Yes. All children in the CLSD are eligible for free breakfast and free lunch at school. Weekly meals distribution will continue for students enrolled in CLSD Virtual Solutions learning options.