



Health and Safety Plan

Big Spring School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

July 2021

Initial Effective Date: July 20, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 7, 2023

The Big Spring School District's Health and Safety Plan provides a set of strategies, policies and procedures for instructional and non-instructional school programs. These strategies outline a variety of standards that address considerations related to health and safety. The District acknowledges that there are no strategies that will completely eliminate the risks associated with COVID-19; rather, the District's goal is to develop plans that will minimize risk, while also allowing the District to maintain school activities. The plan is intended to provide the District flexibility to transition, depending on changing public health conditions.

As with all emergency plans, the Health and Safety Plan has been tailored to the unique needs of the District and has been created in consultation with a variety of stakeholders and local health agencies. Additionally, in developing the plan, the District has reviewed applicable guidance and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The Health and Safety Plan will be adopted by the District's School Board of Directors and will be posted to the District's website.

This plan shall be monitored throughout the year and is subject to revision based on changing public health conditions.

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 District will continuously monitor guidance, recommendations, and requirements at Federal and State levels. This includes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). With the guidance provided by each of these organizations, the District will define appropriate protocols and support prevention and mitigation strategies through a Health and Safety Task Force comprised of school staff working in areas of administration, health, safety, and human resources. This task force will support the prevention strategies and communication throughout the District.

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?
 - The District will establish alternative delivery models consistent with the requirements of the PDE to ensure a continuity of academic services to students impacted by health conditions. District support services including, but not limited to, counseling, special education, ESL, and gifted support, will establish plans for providing services in any alternative delivery model. Non-Instructional support services including transportation, technology, and food services, will also create plans for delivering service to students and families impacted by health conditions.

3. 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:

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by staff, students, and campus guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which face coverings will be utilized will be informed by requirements and guidance from the CDC, PADOH, PDE, and local health officials.

Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Classroom/ learning space occupancy that allows for recommended separation among students and staff throughout the day, to the maximum extent feasible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which physical distancing strategies will be utilized will be based on requirements and guidance from the CDC, DOH, PDE, and local health officials.
Plexiglass shielding will be utilized where appropriate physical distancing is either not possible or is challenging.	
Identifying and restricting non-essential visitors and volunteers	
Handling sporting activities for recess and physical education classes utilizing guidance included in CDC's Considerations for Youth Sports	
Staggering the use of communal spaces and hallways	

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggering bus arrival and dismissal • Modifying transportation schedules to reduce roster sizes • Physical distancing at bus stops • Adjusting loading and unloading procedures 	
Limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students	
Utilizing appropriate distancing in congregate areas to include the cafeteria, auditorium, and gymnasium. In addition to adequate spacing, appropriate barriers will be utilized where practical	

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue use of handwashing routines.
Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage shall include notices addressing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sanitizing & PPE expectations for building entry (as applicable) ○ Expectation of self-screening ○ Notices in restrooms providing a reminder about proper handwashing techniques ○ Reminders about strategies to stay healthy

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities (including Ventilation)

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Cleaning, sanitizing, & disinfecting learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, hallways, and transportation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard cleaning efforts implemented with additional attention to sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (i.e. door handles, water fountains, etc.) • Regular monitoring of health and safety guidelines to determine cleaning frequency. • Update cleaning schedules and provide additional training for custodial staff, as needed.
Other cleaning, sanitizing & disinfecting, practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District's Transportation Department will work with the bus contractor (Deitch) to ensure a regular cleaning schedule is utilized for all school vans and school buses. • The District's Custodial Services Department and Food Service Department will work collaboratively to implement additional cleaning protocols, as needed. • In-person activities and programs shall adhere to cleaning and sanitizing protocols employed by the District.
Enhanced ventilation within all buildings within the school district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive air quality assessment was completed, and system thresholds are closely monitored to ensure optimal efficiency and efficacy.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation & Quarantine

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Completing health monitoring process for individuals positive with COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification to the building principal and superintendent (or designee) • Tracking of individuals considered exposed and requiring quarantine based on current Federal, State, and Local guidance • Notification to families of individuals considered exposed and requiring quarantine based on current Federal, State, and Local guidance
Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create isolation rooms – limit exposure of others • Triage procedures for individuals experiencing illness • Prompt dismissal of ill students and staff.
Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated or quarantined individuals must obtain clearance to return to school.
Notifying staff, families, and the public of school closures and within-school-year changes in safety protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication will be provided via phone, email, and a notice posted to the website.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Monitoring students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent communication on criteria for sending students to school and monitoring of illness. • Self-screening guidance provided to families and staff to limit the spread of COVID-19. • Monitoring of student behavior to determine if symptoms become apparent during the school day.
Other diagnostic and screening practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued training and collaboration of certified school nurses to follow diagnostic and screening practices • Other considerations as provided by the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Efforts to Provide COVID-19 Vaccinations to School Communities

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Advertising area vaccination clinics through district communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updates regarding vaccination eligibility and availability

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health & Safety Policies

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Protecting students and staff at higher risk for severe illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special arrangements will be made for students and staff deemed to be high-risk. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the underlying or pre-existing conditions.
Social and Emotional Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of resources for students, staff, and families. • Provision of in-school supports for students.

Coordination with State & Local Health Officials

Strategies	Policies & Procedures
Ensure open communication through the Cumberland County Consortium for Safe Schools, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult with state and local health officials on practices, protocols, and changes in the level of virus transmission.