



2021-22 CASD Health & Safety Plan

Introduction

During the 2020-21 school year, Catasauqua Area School District offered a Parent Choice Educational Model, which included a robust Virtual Option and a 5 Day per Week In-Person Learning Option. The District implemented prevention and mitigation efforts in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education prevention strategies and was able to safely remain open for in-person instruction throughout the school year. Catasauqua Area School District looks forward to serving parents/students and continuing to offer 5 day per week in-person instruction during the 2021-22 school year.

- I. In the 2021-22 school year, Catasauqua Area School District will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies aligned with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in person learning.**

Health & Safety Protocols

Catasauqua Area School District will comply with all CDC, United States Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Health orders and/or mandates. To the greatest extent feasible, Catasauqua Area School District will implement the recommendations outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and the recommendations of the PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health and will implement core essential and mitigation strategies in order to prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff.

Essential Strategies

- Staying home if unwell and going home if an individual becomes unwell at school
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Masking in accordance with CDC/PA Department of Health and PA Department of Education orders/mandates or in response to local data.
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Mitigation Strategies

- Physical distancing to the greatest extent feasible
- Adjusting ventilation systems to introduce additional outside air exchange to introduce fresh air
- Cleaning, disinfecting, sanitizing, and maintaining healthy facilities



Student Wellness Checks

Prior to school each morning, parents/guardians should conduct a wellness check for each of their children. When a child is sick, parents/guardians should contact the school nurse and their healthcare provider to discuss COVID-19 symptoms and possible quarantine and/or isolation. Refer to the [CDC COVID-19 Symptoms webpage](#) for more information related to COVID-19 symptoms.

Employee Wellness Checks

Prior to reporting to work each morning, Catasauqua Area School District employees should conduct a wellness check. CASD employees with COVID-19 symptoms should consult with their supervisor and school nurse to determine the appropriate course of action. Refer to the [CDC COVID-19 Symptoms webpage](#) for more information related to COVID-19 symptoms.

Employees not reporting to work due to COVID-19 must complete the: [CASD COVID-19 SELF REPORTING FORM](#)

Case Reporting and Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine(s)

Catasauqua Area School District will continue to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 is present at the school or a school event while infectious. The District will work collaboratively with the PA Department of Health staff on matters related to risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations.

Targeted School or District Closure and Transition to Online Learning

Catasauqua Area School District will follow PA Department of Education and PA Department of Health guidance related to closure of school buildings due to COVID-19 transmission rates. While the goal is for all schools within the District to remain open for instruction, COVID-19 transmission levels will be monitored regionally and locally on a regular basis to promote the health and safety of staff and students. More specifically, COVID-19 cases in schools,



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evidence of transmission within schools, staffing levels, data related to community spread, etc. will be considered when making decisions related to school or district closure due to spread of COVID-19 within the school(s), district, and/or local community.

2021-22 School Building Information and Procedures

Please refer to the school building webpages and building level handbooks for 2021-22 building-specific information and procedures. This information will be available in August 2021.

2021-22 Athletics




Please refer to the CASD Athletics webpage for more detailed information related to the 2021-22 fall, winter, and spring athletic seasons. Updated information will be posted to the website as it becomes available.

II. Continuity of Services

Academic

2021-22 School Year Learning Options

While Catasauqua Area School District believes the best educational option for most students is attending school in-person, the District will continue to offer the following 3 learning options to parents/guardians and their children: Traditional K-12 In-Person, CASD Online, and Home Education.

2021-22 Catasauqua Area School District Learning Options	
	<p>Option A: Traditional K-12 In-Person Students attend school in their assigned school buildings 5 days a week with appropriate health and safety protocols.</p>
	<p>Option B: CASD Online Program Students participate in a fully online educational program from their homes. The program will be managed by CASD certified teachers, and directly correlated to the Board approved CASD curriculum, and what is simultaneously occurring in the traditional classroom.</p>
	<p>Option C: Home Education Submission of home education documents required and program delivery in compliance with PA School Law and Regulations.</p>



Social, Emotional, Mental Health

Catasauqua Area School District educational staff has been trained on Trauma Informed Practices. As a result of this training, the District recognizes:

- the widespread impact of trauma and pathways to recovery.
- trauma signs and symptoms.
- the need to integrate knowledge about trauma into all facets of the educational program.
- the need to resist re-traumatization of trauma impacted individuals by decreasing the occurrence of unnecessary triggers and by implementing trauma-informed procedures and practices.

(National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2017)

Trauma informed guiding principles and practices (Transforming Education, 2020) will guide the District's design of supportive classroom and school environments by:

- creating predictable routines.
- building strong and supportive relationships.
- empowering students' agency.
- supporting the development of self-regulation skills.
- providing opportunities to explore individual and community identities.

Catasauqua Area School District employees and students have access to a variety of social, emotional, and mental health supports. More specifically, employees have access to supports that may include:

- Employee Assistance Program - Provided in consultation with the Superintendent
- [Mental Health Resources for Staff](#)
- [Highmark Blue Shield \(Behavioral Health\)](#)

Students and families have access to the following supports:

- School Counseling Services
- [Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Behavioral Health Resources](#)

Health Services

School nurses will advise students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they are sick or if they have been exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, school nurses will encourage these individuals to talk to their healthcare provider(s) about getting a COVID-19 test.



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Catasauqua Area School District school nursing staff will continue to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 is present at the school or a school event while infectious. The District will work collaboratively with the PA Department of Health staff on matters related to risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations.

Food Services

The Catasauqua Area School District in collaboration with the Food Service Department will implement the below mitigation strategies to promote the health and safety of all staff and students:

- Require that staff, students, and their families stay home if they are sick, have tested positive for COVID-19, are showing symptoms of COVID-19, or have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Practice frequent handwashing with soap and water before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.
- Clean high-touch surfaces and objects between use or as much as possible.
- When feasible, serve grab-and-go individually packaged items or individually plated meals.
- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes, napkins, tablecloths). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that used or dirty non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed, rinsed, and sanitized to meet food safety requirements.

Transportation

Per the CDC's order, masks are required to be worn by passengers and drivers on school buses. Catasauqua Area School District will physically distance children on buses when possible. If feasible, bus windows will be open to improve ventilation.



III. Maintenance of Health & Safety of Students, Educators, & Other Staff

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;	Universal indoor masking is recommended for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Per the CDC's order, masks are required to be worn on school buses. State orders and/or local data may result in modifications to the District's face covering practices.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	All Catasauqua Area School District employees will be/have been trained on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Teachers will teach and reinforce proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette to their students. Additionally, the District will ensure access to adequate supplies including soap and hand sanitizer.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	Catasauqua Area School District will follow standard practices and appropriate regulations for cleaning and disinfection. Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC and DOH guidelines. Additionally, EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements. Furthermore, the District will routinely clean high touch surfaces and objects. With regard to ventilation, there will be an increase of outside air introduced to the building through the HVAC systems.



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ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	Catasauqua Area School District will continue to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 is present at the school or a school event while infectious. The District will work collaboratively with the PA Department of Health staff on matters related to risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	School nurses will advise students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they are sick or if they have been exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, school nurses will encourage these individuals to talk to their healthcare provider about getting a COVID-19 test.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	Vaccines are an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic. Catasauqua Area School District has facilitated employee vaccination efforts. Additionally, Catasauqua Area School District will continue to work collaboratively with local vaccination providers to share vaccination clinic information and to offer vaccination clinic space when needed.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	With regard to health equity considerations in prevention strategies, Catasauqua Area School District will implement an individualized approach for each student with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 plan. The District will also consider adaptations and alternatives to prevention strategies while maintaining efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff from COVID-19.



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District will work collaboratively with the PA Department of Health staff on matters related to risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations. Additionally, to the greatest extent feasible, Catasauqua Area School District will implement the essential elements of K-12 safe school operations in accordance with CDC/PA Department of Health/PA Department of Education guidance and recommendations.

RESOURCES

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)
- *Health & Safety Plan Icons - Freepik available from www.flaticon.com and www.freepik.com*



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HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN GOVERNING BODY AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Catasauqua Area School District reviewed and approved the revisions of the Health and Safety Plan on **Tuesday, August 10, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes 0 No

Affirmed on: August 10, 2021

By:  _____

Duane Deitrich, Catasauqua Area School District School Board President