



# REVISED COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Prepared for the 2021-2022 Academic Year



INITIAL ADOPTION: AUGUST 2021

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# INTRODUCTION

The following Health and Safety Plan for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) was prepared in accordance with guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

The plan reflects guidance through July 27, 2021. The plan is subject to change as more information about the COVID-19 virus and its variants becomes available, as vaccination levels increase and as the vaccine is approved for younger segments of the population, among other evolving circumstances. In all cases, the most recent guidance of the relevant public health agencies and the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be followed. Any changes will be reflected in plan revisions by the AIU administration, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

The plan applies to all AIU divisions. The universality of protocols and the streamlined processes developed and refined throughout the pandemic allow for a concise document that outlines the procedures the AIU will follow, while providing the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

This plan replaces the COVID-19 School Reopening Health and Safety Plan adopted on July 27, 2020.

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: Allegheny Intermediate Unit

**Initial Effective Date: July 30, 2021 (tentative board approval on August 23, 2021)**

**Date of Last Review:**

**Date of Last Revision:**

1. How will the local education agency (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?
  - a. The AIU supports prevention and mitigation policies in a number of ways:
    - i. Through a continued partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), the AIU will regularly consult with public health officials on positive cases, exposures, mitigation strategies and interpretation of the most up-to-date CDC guidance.
    - ii. The AIU will communicate this plan as well as specific details of the mitigation strategies contained herein in several ways:
      1. Posting on the AIU website and employee intranet (Insite)
      2. Summarization and review of the plan at employee in-service workshops at the start of the 2021-2022 school year
      3. Communication to parents from AIU programs outlining expectations for students and the mitigation plans adopted in each facility operated by the AIU



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <b>masks</b>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the pandemic, students, where medically and developmentally appropriate, are required to wear masks.</li> <li>• All student-facing/public-facing program field staff are required to wear masks while working with students inside.</li> <li>• Students and staff are not required to wear masks when outside.</li> <li>• Guests at all AIU-operated educational facilities are required to wear masks.</li> <li>• All unvaccinated staff are required to wear masks at all AIU facilities.</li> <li>• When Allegheny County is in high or substantial spread, universal masking is required of all AIU employees and students regardless of vaccination status</li> <li>• Signage is required at all AIU student-facing/public-facing facilities stating the masking requirements for students, staff, and guests.</li> <li>• At the AIU Central Office, the signage indicates that masks are required for non-vaccinated individuals.</li> <li>• Students are instructed and reminded of the proper way to wear a mask.</li> </ul>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <b>physical distancing</b> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student and family programs are modified, to the extent possible, given the specific academic and physical needs of students to account for three feet of physical distancing.</li> <li>• Cafeteria, playground and other common area use is staggered and students are physically distanced to the extent possible when using these areas.</li> <li>• The AIU-operated special education and alternative education schools will serve meals in the classroom for students younger than 12 years old. Students aged 12 years and older may be served meals in the cafeterias if physical distancing can be assured.</li> <li>• Early Childhood, Family and Community Services (ECFCS) sites serve meals in the classroom and physically distance to the extent possible.</li> <li>• The special education student-run “Alle-C” Bistro remains closed for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.</li> </ul>

<p><b>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handwashing is taught in classrooms and reinforced by signage in AIU schools and program locations.</li> <li>• Signs are posted in the AIU Central Office restrooms reminding staff of proper handwashing techniques.</li> <li>• Students are taught to cover their mouths when they cough and/or to cough into their arms.</li> <li>• Water fountains in all schools, program locations and Central Office are shut off. Students and staff may bring water bottles. Where equipped, bottle filling stations are available.</li> </ul>
<p><b>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIU-operated special education schools and the AIU Central Office are cleaned daily and are treated weekly with Bactronix Electrostatic Sprayer.</li> <li>• ECFCS program sites are cleaned nightly. Sites are treated with Bactronix by the AIU when exposures or cases are reported.</li> <li>• High-contact surfaces in family and student learning spaces are wiped down and cleaned daily.</li> </ul>
<p><b>e. Contact tracing</b> in combination with <b>isolation</b> and <b>quarantine</b>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>A contact tracing protocol is in place to manage all close contacts and exposures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employees who test positive for COVID must inform their immediate supervisor, who will then notify the Human Resources Department (HR).</li> <li>• Parents/guardians of students who test positive for COVID are requested to inform their child’s teacher, who will then notify the immediate supervisor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Close contacts among staff will be contacted by Human Resources, in consultation and cooperation with program administrators and the Pandemic Response Coordinator</li> <li>– Close contacts among students will be notified by program staff</li> <li>– School districts and/or building owners will be notified of positive cases in their facilities by both program staff and the Pandemic Response Coordinator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program staff will notify building administrators or owners</li> <li>• The Pandemic Response Coordinator will notify the school district Pandemic Response Coordinator.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program staff will notify transportation providers of positive cases or a reported exposure on their vehicle</li> <li>• Positive cases and exposures in special education schools are reported to Human Resources, the Pandemic Response Coordinator, home-school personnel and relevant transportation providers by special education staff</li> </ul> <p>Positive cases of COVID-19 among AIU employees and students are reported to the ACHD <i>by the Pandemic Response Coordinator</i></p>
<p>f. <b>Diagnostic</b> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage is present in AIU central office encouraging sick individuals to remain home.</li> <li>• All AIU leadership encourages employees to remain home when ill.</li> <li>• All AIU student-facing/public-facing programs regularly remind parents/guardians to keep children and students home when ill. Children and youth that are found to be ill while attending an AIU-operated program are isolated until sent home.</li> </ul>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <b>vaccinations to school communities</b>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AIU has ongoing dialogue with local health care providers and the ACHD regarding efforts to vaccinate school communities.</li> <li>• To date, the AIU, in partnership with the Pennsylvania DOH, facilitated vaccination of more than 9,000 school personnel.</li> <li>• Opportunities to vaccinate those eligible for the vaccine were offered to local school entities. Most have established vaccination clinics within their local community.</li> <li>• Most students served by the AIU are not currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine due to age restrictions.</li> </ul>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the AIU-operated schools and many of our programs are specifically designed to serve students with special needs, accommodations for these students are built into each program.</li> </ul>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AIU has a well-established partnership and standing meetings with the ACHD.</li> <li>• The AIU has established relationships with local healthcare providers: Allegheny Health Network, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.</li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Allegheny Intermediate Unit** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on \_\_\_\_\_ . (dd/mm/year)

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: \_\_\_\_\_ . (dd/mm/year)

By:

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*Signature\* of Board President*

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*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.



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