

# **ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan**

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## **Health and Safety Plan Summary: Bristol Township School District**

**Initial Effective Date: June 30, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: June 30, July 30, August 12, August 17, August 24, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 13, 2021, January 18, 2022, February 22, 2022, September 18, 2023, April 22, 2024.**

**Date of Last Revision: June 30, 2021, August 20, 2021, August 24, 2021, February 22, 2022, Mar 21, 2022, June 15, 2022, September 18, 2023, April 22, 2024.**

Introduction: Bristol Township School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic, unless directed by the CDC, PA Department of Health, or the Bucks County Health Department. Bristol Township School District will be open for in-person instruction, five days a week. This plan reflects those components we will keep in place to promote general health and safety for all students, employees, and visitors as well as remaining compliant with national, state, and local health guidance.

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 school district implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020- 2024 school years using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and the Bucks County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Further, our district supported and/or facilitated vaccination clinics for our teachers, staff, and students.

Our district will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and the Bucks County Health Department. This information will assist the district when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan, as necessary. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to

services to address the student's academic needs, and students and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

Academically, the district returned to a full in-person, face-to-face learning for the 2021-22. A Cyber Academy is still an option for those who wish to remain in a cyber program (as per the MOU between Bristol Township School District and Bristol Township Education Association).

A focus on social, emotional, and mental health interventions will continue in the district across all grade levels. Students will continue to have access to their school counselors as part of their school day at all grade levels. In our elementary schools, guidance lessons will continue to be a part of our students' programming. The district will continue to monitor students' needs when the school year begins and throughout the school year.

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**

**Universal and correct wearing of masks;**

- **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);**

#### **Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

- Masking will remain optional unless otherwise required.
- Anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so.
- Masking procedures may be modified based on CDC recommendations, and/or federal, state, or local laws and policies.
- Physical distancing is no longer recommended but may be modified as circumstances change.
- BTSD will rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high-quality, student-centered instructional environments. Specifically, BTSD will continue to rely on the Bucks County Health Department's (BCHD) guidance to design safe instructional and workspaces for all individuals.

- **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;**
  - **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;**
  - **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;**
- All individuals will continue to be encouraged and reminded to sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis.
  - Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available in areas where sinks for handwashing are not available.
  - BTSD will continue to post signs that promote everyday protective measures/hygiene and how to stop the spread of germs.
  - BTSD will continue to promote personal hygiene.
  - BTSD will continue to follow proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols following CDC, EPA, and manufacturer guidelines.
  - The district will ensure ventilation systems operate properly. The district will change filters regularly for these systems.
  - Cleaning will continue on a nightly basis with an increased focus on high-touch items, including cleaning of restrooms and work areas.

Following receipt of guidance issued by the Bucks County Health Department on May 12, 2022:

- COVID infections will be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies.
- Once a student or staff member has resolving symptoms and has been fever-free for 24 hours without medication, they are able to return to school.
- Students or staff without symptoms, regardless of exposure, will not be sent home from school to quarantine.
- BTSD will continue to allow the option for students and staff to wear masks.
- In most situations, school and

classroom notification will not be necessary.

Contact tracing:

- Notifications of positive cases to the Bucks County Health Department are no longer necessary.
- Because reporting is no longer required and contact tracing is no longer occurring in BTSD, we will not collect close contact information from any individual who tests positive for COVID-19, nor will we send a notification of a positive case to our school community.
- COVID infections should be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies.

Isolation and Quarantine:

- Notifications of positive cases to the Bucks County Health Department is no longer necessary.
- The predetermined period of isolation and quarantine is no longer required.
- COVID infections should be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies.
  - An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 should not report to school/work until they have resolving symptoms and have been fever-free for 24-hours without medication.

- **Diagnostic and screening testing;**

- The BTSD will regularly communicate best practices for health and personal hygiene to all stakeholders in an effort to reinforce healthy instructional and work environments. For example, individuals will be reminded to not report to school/work if they are not

well or are experiencing symptoms that would otherwise cause them to seek medical attention.

- BTSD refers any individual in need of COVID-19 testing to a medical health provider.
- Each day, before reporting to work or school, all staff are expected to self-affirm that they feel well enough to report to work and are symptom-free and fever-free without medication. Parents/Guardians are expected to conduct a similar daily assessment for students.
- Individuals should stay home when they are ill and consult with their health care provider for further guidance.

#### COVID testing:

- **Efforts to provide [vaccinations to school communities](#);**
  - **Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and**
- Following guidelines provided by the BCHD, individuals do not need to get tested if they are not having symptoms.
  - Local vaccination sites can be found at [https://www.buckscounty.gov/1251/GOV\\_ID-19-TestingVaccination-Information](https://www.buckscounty.gov/1251/GOV_ID-19-TestingVaccination-Information)
  - Vaccines are recommended for all individuals 5 years of age and older.
  - BTSD is a high-quality provider of services for individuals with disabilities. BTSD will continue to meet those needs through the IEP/504 process and the multi-tiered, multi-domain system of support model. BTSD will continue to design and follow any individualized health and safety plan for the students we serve.
  - BTSD will continue to train staff and contractors on Universal Precautions.
  - BTSD will regularly communicate best practices for health and personal hygiene to all stakeholders.

For example, individuals will be reminded to not report to school or to work if they are not well or are experiencing symptoms that would cause them to seek medical attention.

- **Coordination with state and local health officials.**

- BTSD will rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high-quality, student-centered instructional environments.
- Specifically, BTSD will rely on local health authority guidance to design safe instructional and workspace recommendations for all individuals.
- BTSD will continue to facilitate ongoing forums for discussion and planning with federal, state, and local health authorities, and among local school entities.

**Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement**

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Bristol Township School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes 9

No 0



*(Signature of board president)*

*(James P. Morgan III)*