Health and Safety Plans in Pennsylvania Schools: What Families Need to Know

The purpose of this document is to provide basic information about the Health and Safety Plans that LEAs are required to develop prior to the reopening of schools.

Note: LEA is referred to throughout this document. A Local Educational Agency (LEA) is a school district, charter school, or other educational entity responsible for providing free, appropriate, public education in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Education statutes, regulations, and policies with or without support from other agencies.

What is a Health and Safety Plan?
A Health and Safety Plan describes local guidelines surrounding the reopening of Pennsylvania’s schools.

Who is required to have a Health and Safety Plan?
Each LEA is required to have a Health and Safety Plan. Charter schools are encouraged to work with their local school district to establish their plans. Private and parochial schools are also encouraged to develop plans.

Where can I find my school’s Health and Safety Plan?
Health and Safety Plans will be posted on the LEA’s website.

What information is in my school’s Health and Safety Plan?
Health and Safety Plans are developed locally and are unique to your LEA. However, all Health and Safety Plans must meet the requirements described below.

Requirements for Health and Safety Plans

- Establish a pandemic coordinator or pandemic team
- Protect high-risk students and staff
- Monitor for symptoms and exposure
- Develop procedures for prevention (masks, hand-washing, signage about the spread of germs)
- Develop procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating
- Address social distancing guidelines
- Arrange for alternative meal distribution
- Follow guidelines for sports and athletics
- Provide training for school staff
- Reduce class size and limit interactions
- Limit sharing of materials between students
- Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers
- Adjust transportation
- Ensure ongoing communication with families

For more information, please refer to PDE’s Health and Safety Plans at this link: