

# **Bloomsburg Area School District**

## *Health and Safety Plan Update*

August 16, 2021

# Our Goal

In-person learning, five days a week.

- Safely.
- With as much *normalcy* as we can provide.

## ***Key Point Summary: from 08-02-2021 (1)***

- State mandates and regulations are a compliance priority and the foundation of the development of all of our systems and plans, including our Health and Safety Plan.
- Given the lack of a mandate from the Governor or DOH/PDE regarding mask mandates, *we do not believe that requiring daily mask wearing in our buildings is feasibly enforceable for our faculty, staff and administration.*
- When combined with the lack of a mandate as noted, *we believe it is most appropriate to align with our regional peers.*

## ***Key Point Summary: from 08-02-2021 (2)***

- Without federal or state mandates, *should our local conditions change suddenly, we would recommend returning to the core elements of our 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan.*
- Should there be significant outbreaks in Southern State Schools, *we have to believe that our state leaders will provide direction for schools here in Pennsylvania.*
- Faculty, staff and parents of students over 12 might want to pay attention to the national and state level conversation and the impact that vaccination status may have on your ability to access various venues and services.

# ***Our Local Experience: Quarantining***

The Pennsylvania Department of Health continues to have jurisdiction over quarantine requirements. Variations in quarantine requirements for students who are masked v. students who are not masked may influence our ability to remain open and ultimately influence our mask mandate requirements.

- **Unvaccinated Students *with* Masks**
  - Student to student contact between individuals who are correctly masked does not require quarantine and all students, even those within 3-6 feet of exposure, can remain in school as long as they remain asymptotic.
- **Unvaccinated Students *without* Masks**
  - Return to school after a 10-day quarantine without testing or a 7 day quarantine with a negative test on or after day 5 of quarantine.
- **Vaccinated Students *with No* Symptoms and Close Contact**
  - Continue to attend school. Get tested 3-5 days after exposure. Wear a mask for 14 days after exposure or a negative test result is received.
- **Vaccinated Students *with* Symptoms and Close Contact**
  - Return to school after a 10-day quarantine without testing or a 7 day quarantine with a negative test on or after day 5 of quarantine.

**Our primary goal is for our schools to be in-person, five days a week. The most likely impact on our masking expectations will be the impact of quarantine guidance from the Department of Health in the contact tracing process.**

# DOH Quarantine Recommendations

*From: DOH Presentation 08/13/2021*

A maximum 14-day suspension of in-person learning may be recommended by DOH if the following criteria are met:

- 5% of students/staff confirmed cases in 14-day window:
  - Small school (<500 staff & students): 25 case threshold
  - Medium school (500-900 staff & students): 25-45 case threshold
  - Large school (900+ staff & students): 45+ case threshold

OR

- 3 simultaneous classroom and/or core group outbreaks
  - Transmission between 2 or more students or students/staff/teachers without other identified epidemiological links in 3 or more classrooms and/or other core groups (i.e. teams, band)

If either of these criteria are met, schools should reach out to DOH or their local county/municipal health department for guidance

*Epidemiological links here refers to 3 outbreaks occurring that happened in our schools or at a school related event, with no outside events identified as the cause of the Covid positive cases.*

## **Regional Update: 8-16-2021**

- The CSIU region consists of 17 school districts and 3 CTE programs. As of 8-16-2021 only one area school district has a mask mandate. As of our last meeting, the masking mandate is for students under the age of 12.
- Given the increase in local cases in our local and regional area, the majority of school districts in our regional meeting last Wednesday noted that they will be recommending, not requiring, masking while indoors. This is a shift from the majority of Districts taking the neutral stance of voluntary masking.

# Current Recommendations: 08-16-2021 (1)

- All students and unvaccinated adults are encouraged to wear a mask while indoors. Required masking is not in effect at this time.
  - Close contact interactions between two students who are properly masked does not require quarantine.
- Vaccinated adults should remain 3-6 feet away from students when possible while indoors. If close contact for more than 15 minutes is necessary, vaccinated adults are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Families with students over the age of 12 are encouraged to talk with their health provider regarding the appropriateness of the vaccine.
  - Participation in extra-curricular activities may be adversely impacted without a vaccine.

## Current Recommendations: 08-16-2021 (2)

- The District will track and report positive cases on our Covid Tracker and update positive cases daily. We do not plan to make daily One Call announcements, reserving the One Call option for priority updates.
  - *The Covid Tracker is available on our website at [www.bloomsd.org](http://www.bloomsd.org).*
- The superintendent will update the board at each meeting regarding the number of positive cases and the number of quarantines between each meeting.
- Barring mandate or directive from DOH/PDE or from the school board, **recommended modifications to our Health and Safety Plan will be provided based on our local data and our ability to operate our schools in-person, five days a week.**

# ***Looking Ahead: Updated 08-16-2021***

## ***Vaccination Status:***

- Currently, we have no plans to begin collecting or verifying vaccination status for faculty, staff and/or students.
- For vaccinated faculty, staff and students to avoid quarantine, proof of vaccination will be necessary.
- As extra-curricular activities begin in earnest, students who are not vaccinated may have their ability to participate adversely impacted. We have not yet received guidance from PIAA regarding Covid Status-Eligibility.

## ***Masking:***

- Prioritizing in-person learning may necessitate required masking if quarantine numbers become untenable.