

**DRAFT**

North Hills School District  
Health and Safety Plan  
2021-22

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Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

**Health and Safety Plan Summary: North Hills School District**

**Initial Effective Date: August 24, 2021 – First Student School Day**

**Date of Last Review: August 5, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: August 5, 2021**

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?

COVID-19 precautions and practices implemented by NHSD for the 2020-21 school year have been modified for the 2021-22 school year in accordance with the [most recent guidance from the CDC](#).

Cleaning and sanitizing procedures remain largely unchanged. All district buildings will be cleaned thoroughly by trained custodial staff at least once daily. High-touch surfaces including desks, tables, chairs and doorknobs will be cleaned more frequently throughout the day, and teachers and staff will have disinfectant wipes on hand for use as needed.

Custodial training and quality control programs were implemented prior to the 2020-21 school year and will continue to ensure all areas are cleaned and disinfected to the standard necessary to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

NHSD will keep students and staff socially distant to the extent possible. Unnecessary classroom furniture removed last school year will not be brought back into spaces where adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained. Student desks and seats will remain separated no less than three feet to the extent possible and facing the same direction. Outdoor spaces will be utilized whenever possible.

Handwashing and good hygiene will continue to be reinforced. Resources developed by school nurses during the summer of 2020 will be shared with students as they return this school year and then periodically as the year progresses. Signage remains in all buildings as do additional hand washing and sanitizing stations added to classrooms and common spaces prior to the 2020-21 school year.

The health and safety of our students and staff is an ongoing responsibility shared by all. The NHSD community will be continuously reminded to be diligent about their health and the health of those around them, i.e. if you are sick, please stay home. Continuing a community-wide effort will ensure our schools can safely reopen for in-person instruction and remain open during the 2021-22 school year.

Should COVID-19 occur in one of our schools, NHSD will work directly with the Allegheny County Health Department and follow their guidance regarding contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, as necessary

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff members’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

All students (K-12) receive a district-issued iPad for use at school and at home. All students have an NHSD email address and Google account which they use to access Google Classrooms created and run by all NHSD teachers.

NHSD hired two new school psychologists for the 2021-22 school year, one of whom will focus exclusively on student mental health needs. NHSD now has four school psychologists supporting the social, emotional and mental health needs of our 4,700 students.

Our counseling department will continue the development of groups formed during the pandemic focusing on student mental health needs. Our student-led Stand Together club will continue its work to stop the stigma that often surrounds mental health issues through education and awareness.

NHSD will also continue its participation in suicide prevention programs and host mental health events, forums and webinars. Our partnerships with outside counseling agencies including Glade Run Lutheran Services and Holy Family Institute will continue.

NHSD will once again offer free meals to students in 2021-22 with COVID-19 relief funding extended by the USDA.

3. 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	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	<p>North Hills School District recommends that masks be worn indoors by all individuals who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 but masks are not state- or federally-mandated and therefore are a parental choice. Unless mandated by the state or federal government, masks will not be required in NHSD buildings. Masks will be required on district transportation in accordance with the <a href="#">federal public transportation mask mandate</a>.</p> <p>NHSD reserves the right to adjust and alter this policy at any time in accordance with local, state or federal mandates.</p>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	All unnecessary items and furniture have been removed from classrooms and instructional spaces to accommodate physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Student desks and seats will be separated and facing the same

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>direction allowing for a minimum distance of no less than three feet to the extent possible. Outdoor spaces will be utilized whenever possible.</p>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p>School nurses will reinforce resources regarding good hygiene practices and handwashing techniques with staff, students and parents. Additionally, CDC recommended signage will remain throughout our buildings. These best practices include but are not limited to washing hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; covering coughs or sneezes with your elbow or using a tissue; avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; encouraging fist and elbow pumps over handshakes and high-fives, not sharing food or drink; and staying home if you are sick and for at least 24 hours after a fever.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations added for the 2020-21 school year remain in every classroom as do additional hand washing and sanitizing stations added in hallways, stairwells, cafeterias and other common areas.</p> <p>Water fountains were replaced with water bottle filling stations prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year.</p>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>All North Hills School District buildings will continue to be cleaned at least once daily by trained custodial staff using hospital grade disinfectant chemicals that are classified as such by the Environmental Protection Agency. The custodial supervisor in each building operates a quality control program to ensure areas are cleaned and disinfected to a standard necessary to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.</p> <p>In all of our buildings, ventilation rates are set at the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers’ design standard and these rates are increased when students are in attendance. Additionally, in 2020-21, NHSD installed needlepoint ionization in all ventilation units to combat viruses and bacteria in air circulation.</p> <p>School buses will be cleaned and sanitized twice daily after both morning and afternoon routes.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>NHSD will work in collaboration with the Allegheny County Health Department and follow their direct guidance when a COVID-19-related case occurs in one of our buildings. Staff members and families of students identified as close contact in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines will be notified by phone and/or email with instructions from ACHD to quarantine or isolate themselves, as necessary, just as they were during the 2020-21 school year.</p> <p>Currently, the close contact definition <i>excludes</i> students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and <a href="#">correct</a> use of <a href="#">well-fitting masks</a> while in the K-12 school setting.</p> <p>People who have been <a href="#">fully vaccinated</a> or were <a href="#">previously diagnosed</a> with COVID-19 within the last three months will not be considered as a close contact and will not be required to quarantine.</p>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>North Hills School District will participate in a diagnostic and screening testing program provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health if free and noninvasive.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>North Hills School District partnered with local pharmacy Giant Eagle to provide vaccinations to students as well as community members. As of Aug. 1, 2021, we will have offered three clinics as a school district. We will continue to offer vaccines through Giant Eagle as the eligibility continues to include school-aged children.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>NHSD continues to follow all policies for all students and will develop appropriate individualized health and safety plans for any student who requires special accommodations as documented in their IEP/504.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>As in the 2020-21 school year, NHSD administrators and school nursing staff will continue to work with Allegheny County Health Department officials when COVID-19-related cases arise. The district will follow the guidance provided by the health department.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **North Hills School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 5, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes  
 No

Affirmed on: **August 5, 2021**

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.