



Health and Safety Plan Summary: The Pathway School

Initial Effective Date: August 17, 2020

Date of Last Review: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 23, 2021

The Pathway School is committed to operate on-campus and in-person for the 2021-22 school year. To this end, we have created a Health and Safety Plan that includes up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education. Given the unique educational needs of our students, Pathway School leadership has created an operating plan that integrates the recommendations of the public health community with the best practices of special education professionals. We are committed to providing our students, faculty, and staff a safe, and engaging learning environment.

To date, the only effective means of preventing the virus from spreading, or from significantly impacting one's health are:

1. Receiving any one of the three currently authorized vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson)
2. Appropriate wearing of a face mask
3. Maintaining adequate social distance from other persons (six feet recommended)

It is our intention to update this plan throughout the 2021-22 school year as the situation with the COVID pandemic dictates. Updates will be posted on The Pathway School website www.pathwayschool.org with notifications posted on our social media channels.



1. What role will mask wearing play in the daily operation of The Pathway School? How will any mask mandate be enforced?

Pathway will require the appropriate wearing of facemasks of all persons (regardless of vaccination status) while indoors. The only exceptions to this will be:

- a. When outdoors
- b. During prescribed mask-wearing breaks
- c. When eating or drinking: breakfast, lunch, snack time

2. How will The Pathway School campus modify its facilities to promote social distancing?

- a. All buildings on Pathway's campus will operate with a uni-directional flow for students and faculty, meaning one-way foot traffic for entrance, exit, and travel through hallway and stairwells.
- b. Where possible, student desks and classroom workspace will be separated by six feet. In a few classrooms where six feet of spacing is not possible, a minimum of four feet of separation will be observed.
- c. Students in the Emotional Support program and the Lower School program will function as distinct learning pods. For the majority of the school year, students in these classrooms will have little interaction (other than on a school bus) with students from other classrooms or academic programs. Students in the Upper School program will have some interaction with students in other Upper School classrooms, and will have to transition around the campus to meet with teachers and support personnel, e.g. Reading Specialists, Counsellors, Speech and OT, etc. Students in the Upper School program will, sometimes, travel off campus to work sites for their Career Education.

3. How will The Pathway School promote handwashing, good personal hygiene, and respiratory etiquette?

Hand sanitization stations are located at the entrance of every building on Pathway's campus. Additionally, every classroom will have an ample supply of cleaning and sanitizing products for faculty and students' use. On-campus inventory will be monitored throughout the school day and will be replenished as necessary.

Classroom lessons on personal hygiene and correct mask-wearing will occur repeatedly throughout the school year.



4. What is The Pathway School’s plan to keep the campus clean and what is the plan to maintain healthy facilities?

Over the past 18 months, The Pathway School has increased the number of daytime custodians to assist with in-day campus cleanliness. Additionally, the school has engaged a second nighttime cleaning contractor to perform a thorough cleaning each evening and to perform weekly ‘deep cleaning’. We have added a bi-weekly cleaning protocol to administer anti-viral cleaning products on all touch surfaces for added cleanliness around the campus.

All air handling systems on the Pathway campus are equipped with Ultraviolet filtration systems which are designed to provide “hospital level” air quality in every building on our campus.

5. Will the Pathway School perform contact tracing?

When we are made aware of a positive COVID diagnosis, The Pathway School will conduct an internal contact tracing process, notify affected individuals of the extent of their exposure to COVID, and communicate the appropriate course of action (e.g. quarantine, health monitoring, COVID testing, etc.). See question #9 below for more details. The Pathway School follows current CDC guidance regarding contact tracing and recommended courses of action. When appropriate, The Pathway School will communicate with the Montgomery County office of Public Health or the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

6. Will The Pathway School conduct COVID testing?

Yes. For the foreseeable future Pathway will conduct mandatory, weekly COVID testing. The current testing protocol used is a saliva swab (least invasive) and is easily self-administered under the supervision of The Pathway School personnel. The testing currently being performed is ‘pooled’ PCR testing with test results available within 24-36 hours. Results are only communicated when a positive test result has been confirmed.

7. Will Vaccines be mandatory for students and faculty?

We do not require the vaccine for our students, faculty, and staff; however, we strongly encourage all in our school community to be fully vaccinated.

This autumn, The Pathway School will host vaccine clinics to offer initial doses of the vaccine, with documented parental consent, to those eligible to receive the vaccine. At these vaccine clinics, we will offer booster shots for those who are eligible based upon federal and state guidance. Parental consent for any vaccine will be required for students under 18 years of age.

8. Will accommodations be made for persons with disabilities?

The Pathway School will make reasonable accommodations to students, faculty, staff, and contractors on an individualized basis. Generally, accommodations will provide exemption from some compliance aspects of the health and safety plan, but for public health considerations, not all compliance aspects of this plan.

Requests for accommodation for a student are to be made in writing and directed to Catherine Lepley, Director of Education (clepley@pathwayschool.org).

Ultimately, our goal is to offer each Pathway student a robust education that meets Pennsylvania state education requirements, including goals contained within their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) document, while preserving the health and safety of the entire Pathway School community.

The Pathway School seeks to provide its faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors a safe and hygienic work environment. Faculty, staff, and contractors seeking reasonable accommodations must receive approval from Human Resources (cchiodo@pathwayschool.org). Vendors and visitors are expected to comply with all Health and Safety plan protocols.

9. What is the procedure if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 while they are on The Pathway School campus?

If a person tests positive for COVID-19 on campus or if a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 is reported, The Pathway School will notify all families and staff who either **tested positive** or had a **direct exposure and close contact**. The school nurse will notify families and the Human Resource director will notify staff.

a. **Confirmed Positive: Regardless of vaccination status**

1. Must isolate at home for 10 days from your first day of symptoms or from the date of your test (refer to recommendations from the CDC).
2. Must notify The Pathway School immediately so that we can take steps to mitigate any possible spread on campus
 - a. Students – Families should notify the School Nurse by phone: 610-277-0660 x 555
 - b. Staff - Notify your Direct Supervisor and Human Resources.
3. May return after 10 days if
 - a. At least 24 hours with no fever without using fever reducing medication
 - b. Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving

- c. After no longer are experiencing symptoms, get a COVID-19 test from a community provider and/or physician note to return.

b. Direct Exposure-Close Contact: If FULLY VACCINATED

1. Fully vaccinated persons with **no COVID-like symptoms** do not need to quarantine following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
 - a. Should monitor for symptoms of
 - b. Fully vaccinated people need to be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
 - c. Fully vaccinated people must wear masks both indoors and outdoors for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result
2. **FULLY VACCINATED PERSON WITH COVID-like symptoms** should remain home and not come to campus until after receiving a negative COVID-19 test and no longer experiencing COVID-like symptoms.

c. Direct Exposure-Close Contact: UNVACCINATED or PARTIALLY VACCINATED PERSON

1. Must quarantine for 14 days.
2. It is recommended that you get a COVID-19 test.
3. If you have not experienced any symptoms related to COVID-19, you may return to work/school on the 15th day.
4. If you develop symptoms or signs of illness, or test positive for COVID-19
 - a. Student/Families – Please contact the School Nurse immediately 610-277-0660 x 555
 - b. Staff – Please contact your direct supervisor and the Human Resource Director immediately
 - c. Follow the procedures for “**a. Confirmed Positive**”

d. Direct Exposure-Distant Contact: Regardless of vaccination status

1. No Quarantine necessary.
2. Continue to practice personal protection and prevention strategies.
3. Be on alert for symptoms: check temperature, watch for cough, fever, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Consider getting a COVID-19 test.

- a. Notify School Nurse (Student/Families) or HR Director (Staff) immediately if the test result is positive.
 - b. **If you develop symptoms or signs of illness, or test positive for COVID-19,**
 - i. Student/Families – Please contact the School Nurse immediately 610-277-0660 x 555
 - ii. Staff – Please contact your direct supervisor and the Human Resource Director immediately.
 - iii. Follow the procedures for “**a. Confirmed Positive**”
- e. **Secondary Exposure: Regardless of vaccination status**
- 1. No Quarantine necessary.
 - 2. Continue to practice personal protection and prevention strategies.
 - 3. Be on alert for symptoms: check temperature, watch for cough, fever, shortness of breath, loss of smell, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
 - 4. Consider getting a COVID-19 test.
 - 5. If you develop symptoms or signs of illness, or test positive for COVID-19, please notify your Supervisor and HR (or if Student, School Nurse) so that we can take steps to mitigate any possible spread on campus.
 - a. Follow the procedures for “**a. Confirmed Positive**”

10. With whom will The Pathway School share this plan document?

The Pathway School will be sharing this document with the following people and organizations:

- a. Pathway families and staff members
- b. All Local Education Authorities (including Charter schools) who place students at The Pathway School
- c. Pennsylvania Department of Health
- d. Montgomery County office of Public Health
- e. Pennsylvania Department of Education



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for The Pathway School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 30, 2021.

Affirmed on: August 23, 2021

By:

(Signature of School President)*

David J. Schultheis, President and CEO

(Print Name of School President)