



## **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](http://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 one-directional flow for students and faculty, meaning one-way foot traffic for entrance, exit, and travel through hallways and stairwells.
- b. Where possible, student desks and classroom workspaces 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 most 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. Beginning the week of February 14, 2022, mandatory testing will be for all staff and students who are either unvaccinated or who are not fully vaccinated. Persons who voluntarily wish to be tested will be included in the weekly testing. This testing protocol will be conducted for two consecutive weeks. If at the end of that two-week period, the overall test positivity rate is less than 1%, the testing protocol will be further modified to only test individuals exhibiting COVID symptoms, or those who voluntarily wish to be tested. The current testing protocol used is a saliva swab (least invasive) and is easily self-administered under the supervision of The Pathway School personnel. Currently, Pathway relies on PCR testing, should we transition to testing symptomatic individuals only, Pathway will utilize rapid Antigen testing.

**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.



The Pathway School will continue to host vaccine clinics for students, staff and family members, with documented parental consent. At these vaccine clinics, we will offer initial doses and booster shots for those who sign up. We will also arrange for interested individuals to receive follow up vaccine doses as necessary. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 5 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. If you had COVID-19 but had **no symptoms**:
- a. Isolate for at least 5 days.
  - b. Day 0 is the day of your positive viral test (based on the date you were tested) and day 1 is the first full day after the specimen was collected for your positive test.
  - c. If you continue to have no symptoms, you can end isolation after at least 5 days.
4. If you had COVID-19 **and had symptoms**:
- a. Isolate for at least 5 days.
  - b. To calculate your 5-day isolation period, day 0 is your first day of symptoms. **Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed.**
5. You can end isolation after 5 full days if:
- a. You are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
  - b. Your other symptoms have improved (*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks*)
6. May return on the 6th days if: (ALL BELOW)
- a. At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication
  - b. If you have no symptoms or your COVID-19 related symptoms are resolving after 5 days
  - c. Must wear masks both indoors and in crowded outdoor settings or activities with close contact to others for 5 additional days
  - d. Provide the School Nurse or Human Resources with a negative Covid-19 test result or a doctor's note.
    - i. PCR or Antigen COVID-19 test are acceptable
7. If using an Antigen Test, please:
- a. Provide evidence of a negative test, including your name and date test was administered.
  - b. Provide manufacturer of the Antigen Test
  - c. Take test towards the end of the 5-day isolation period.
  - d. Collect the test sample only if:
    - i. You are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
    - ii. Your other symptoms have improved (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
  - e. If your test result is **POSITIVE**, you should continue to isolate **until day 10.**

- f. If your test result is **NEGATIVE**, you can end isolation, but must wear masks both indoors and in crowded outdoor settings or activities with close contact to others for **5 additional days**

**b. Direct Exposure-Close Contract:**

**1. Fully Vaccinated or Up to Date (with Booster):**

- a. Have received COVID-19 booster shoot
- b. Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months
- c. Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months
- d. Tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90 days
- e. With **NO COVID-like symptoms, you DO NOT need to quarantine** following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
  - i. Should monitor for symptoms
  - ii. Should test 5 days following a known exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19.
  - iii. Must wear masks both indoors and in crowded outdoor settings or activities with close contact to others for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result
- f. If experiencing 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.

**2. Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated:**

- a. Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine OVER 6 months ago and are not boosted
- b. Completed the primary series of J&J OVER 2 months ago and are not boosted
- c. Unvaccinated
- d. Must quarantine at home for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of your exposure is considered day 0.
- e. If you develop symptoms, **get tested immediately** and isolate until you receive your test results. If you test positive, follow

please contact School Nurse or Human Resources immediately.

- f. If you do not develop symptoms, it is recommended that you get tested after 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19
- g. If you have not experienced any symptoms related to COVID-19, you may return to work/school on the 6th day
  - i. Upon return you **MUST** wear masks both indoors and in crowded outdoor settings or activities with close contact to others **for 5 additional days**
- h. 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 **“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 Update

This document, originally approved on September 30, 2021, by The Board of Directors/Trustees for The Pathway School has been updated by Pathway School management on January 31, 2022.

Affirmed by:

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*(Signature of School President)*

David J. Schultheis, President and CEO

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*(Print Name of School President)*