



## **Health and Safety Plan Summary: The Pathway School**

**Initial Effective Date: August 17, 2020**

**Date of Last Review: May 16, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: May 16, 2022**

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 of the three currently authorized vaccines and booster inoculations (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 recommend the wearing of facemasks while indoors but will not require that they be worn. The wearing of facemasks or other protective clothing will be up to the individual (students and faculty/staff).

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

- a. 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.
- b. Students in the Emotional Support program and the Lower School program will continue to 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 or in the cafeteria) with students from other classrooms or academic programs. Students in the Upper School program will be allowed to transition across the campus to attend classes in other buildings.

**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 and throughout the 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. The Pathway School will also maintain an inventory of facemasks to offer to those who wish to wear one while on campus.

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?**

We continue to provide daily cleaning of the campus and conduct bi-weekly 'deep cleaning' in all buildings. We continue to complete 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?**

As of May 2022, The Pathway School will no longer conduct contact tracing when we are made aware of a positive COVID diagnosis on campus. We will notify the larger school community of the positive COVID diagnosis and communicate the appropriate course of action (e.g., health monitoring, COVID testing, etc.). See question #9 below for more details.

**6. Will The Pathway School conduct COVID testing?**

In April 2022, The Pathway School transitioned to testing symptomatic individuals only. To facilitate as quick a response as possible, Pathway is utilizing Rapid-Antigen test kits. Test results are available within 15 minutes of being administered by a trained staff member. Rapid-Antigen tests are responsive, but do not carry the high level of reliability that PCR testing does. Nevertheless, we believe at this time, Rapid-Antigen tests are the most effective method of determining the health status of individuals on our campus who present with COVID-like symptoms. Individuals on campus may also elect to voluntarily receive a COVID test.

**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, including all recommended boosters.

The Pathway School has hosted four vaccine clinics for students, staff and family members. 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?**

**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.
2. Must notify The Pathway School immediately so that we can take steps to mitigate any possible spread on campus.
  - i. Students – Families should notify the School Nurse by phone: 610-277-0660 x 555
  - ii. Staff - Notify your Direct Supervisor and Human Resources 610-277-0660 x 217

**3. If you test positive for COVID-19 but had **no symptoms**:**

- a. Isolate for at least 5 days.
  - i. 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.
  - ii. If you continue to have no symptoms, you can end isolation after at least 5 days.

**4. If you test positive for COVID-19 **and had symptoms**:**

- a. Isolate for at least 5 days.

- 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.**
  
- b. You can end isolation after 5 full days if:
  - You are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
  - Your other symptoms have improved (*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks*)
  
- c. **May return on the 6<sup>th</sup> days if: (ALL BELOW)**
  - i. At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication
  - ii. If you have no symptoms or your COVID-19 related symptoms are resolving after 5 days
  - iii. **Must wear mask** both indoors and in crowded outdoor settings or activities with close contact to others **for 5 additional days**

### **COVID Guidance: Direct Exposure/Close Contact**

You were within direct exposure (***cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period***) and close contact (***within 6 feet***) of an individual with a confirmed case of Covid-19 with or without a mask.

#### **Asymptomatic** (*no symptoms*)

1. With **NO COVID-like symptoms, you DO NOT need to quarantine** following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.
  - a. Monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 10 days.
  - b. To continue to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, you may choose to wear a well-fitting mask for five days from notification

#### **Symptomatic** (*experiencing symptoms*)



1. You should stay home and **get tested immediately.** You should isolate until you receive your test results.
2. If you test positive, please contact School Nurse (***students/families***) or Human Resources (***staff***) immediately and follow procedures for “**Confirmed Positive**” (***see above***)
3. If you test negative, continue to quarantine until symptoms are improving or a minimum of 5 days.
  - a. You may return to work/school on the 6<sup>th</sup> day:
    - i. Upon return it is preferred and recommended that you **wear masks both indoors and in crowded outdoor settings or activities with close contact to others** for **5 additional days.**

#### **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 May 16, 2022.

Affirmed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Schultheis', is written above a horizontal line.

*(Signature of School President)*

David J. Schultheis, President and CEO

*(Print Name of School President)*