

Health and Safety Plan Summary Bear Creek Community Charter School

Initial Effective Date: August 30, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 19, 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?

All stakeholders should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities. Bear Creek Community Charter School understands that the modification of the educational process due to the ongoing pandemic places a great deal of stress and responsibility on all stakeholders of the school community. In the end, we have an obligation to prepare to educate children with the opening of school on August 30, 2021, and this plan represents our best efforts to balance all the demands placed on us – government mandates, health and safety guidelines, and parent expectations. We continue to face a challenging situation; however, we will be moving forward with a plan that we believe balances the need to educate our students with the health and safety of all involved, while complying with state and federal law. Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to monitor CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines, PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) recommendations, as well as PDH (Pennsylvania Department of Health) recommendations in order to continue monitoring local health data and additional actions, orders or guidance provided to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments throughout the school year.

Mitigation practices, such as physical distancing to the extent possible, modern ventilation, and spending time outdoors will continue to be utilized. Students will be seated as socially distant as possible with a minimum of three feet within the classroom setting, all forward facing. Face coverings will not be required, but are optional for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. Students and staff will be encouraged, but not required, to wear masks during small group instruction as well as small group activities. Students will travel in cohorts throughout the school day to minimize exposure within the school setting. Students will eat lunch at tables in grade level cohorts, utilizing the Dining Hall and part of the Gymnasium to provide eating space with social distancing to the extent possible. Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, will not be required to wear a face covering when outdoors. Cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch areas will also be continued, as this practice may help reduce transmission, even though the virus spreads predominantly from person to person through respiratory droplets (Ries, 2020).

Students and their parents as well as employees will be asked to self-monitor at home each day before sending children to school and/or reporting to school or work. Bear Creek Community Charter School will provide resources and guidance to assist students, parents and staff in this process, including guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Parents will be continually reminded as to the importance of keeping symptomatic children home from school. Each school day during morning announcements, there will be a reminder of everyday prevention actions to stay healthy, including but not limited to, washing your hands, covering coughs or sneezes with a tissue or an elbow then washing hands, avoiding touching the eyes, nose and mouth, staying away from people who are sick, and to stay home if you are sick. The school nurse will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms. Staff members who feel ill will be requested to stay home from school/work.

If a staff, student, or other member of the school community becomes ill or has been exposed to an individual confirmed positive for COVID-19, that individual will be evaluated by the School Nurse. As necessary, the School Nurse will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The School Nurse's evaluation will include taking the temperature of the individual who presents with symptoms, isolating them from other students and staff, until they can be removed from the building.

Individuals will be isolated in the Nurse's Office, which is equipped with a supplemental ventilation system to evacuate airborne particles from the area. When the Nurse's Office is being used for isolation purposes, no other students and staff members will be permitted to enter. A "service desk" will be available to all others outside the Nurse's office for non-COVID related conditions. When used for isolation purposes, the Nurse's Office will be closed for the remainder of the school day and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Additional nursing and support staff will be called in as necessary to support school operations, based on the needs present on any given school day. The School Nurse will be provided with additional personal protective equipment such as N95/KN95 masks, disposable gowns and plastic face shields.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding cases of students or staff who are exposed to COVID-19, including others that may need to be quarantined to due potential exposure, length of potential quarantine, and criteria for return to school/work.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will notify families and staff in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school community. Notification would take place via letter and/or emails to families, as well as posting on our school website and social media page. Bear Creek Community Charter School will comply with the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Privacy Portability act when disseminating health information. No student-specific or staff-specific information will be released.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will dismiss students in groups based on “colors” through the back door of the school, beginning at 3:15 p.m. daily. Parents will no longer be permitted to congregate in the gymnasium for student pick up. Parents are asked to wait outside the double gates near the rear play area to pick up their children. Parents will be encouraged to socially distance while waiting for their child(ren). All students will be placed into a color group (red, green, blue, purple, yellow, etc.) and will be dismissed by group, which will allow us to control the number of children being dismissed at any given time yet allow for students residing in the same household, but in different grades, to be dismissed at the same time.

Bear Creek Community Charter School will conduct Bus Dismissal by calling one bus for boarding at a time. This practice will provide a ‘bus cohort’ to minimize student exposure to COVID-19 within the school setting while exiting the building to board the school bus.

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?

Bear Creek Community Charter School plans to reopen on August 30, 2021 with full in-person learning for all students, Kindergarten through Eighth grade. Bear Creek Community Charter School conducted full in-person learning for all students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade from April 6, 2021 through June 15, 2021 with no evidence of community spread within the school setting. The YMCA hosted the Power Scholars Summer Program for six weeks during the summer of 2021, with approximately 25 children in each classrooms with face coverings optional, and there were no report cased of COVID-19 and no evidence of community spread. Bear Creek Community Charter school and its stakeholders believe that it is in the best interests of the students’ and staff members’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, to be in person for learning based on our experience with both hybrid and virtual learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Being in-person provides all students access to school services, including but not limited to, academic instruction, school nursing services, school counselor services, food services for both breakfast and lunch, special education and gifted services, as well as socialization with peers and trusted adults.

Bear Creek Community Charter School recognizes that certain individuals are considered more vulnerable than others as it relates to COVID-19. Bear Creek Community Charter School will provide appropriate accommodations for students who qualify under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and will provide reasonable accommodations to employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Examples include implementing student-specific planning, increased social distancing strategies, increased communication with parents, the provision of additional personal protective equipment, etc.

The School Nurse will continue to coordinate and conduct annual Health Screenings, including but not limited to, vision, hearing, height and weight measurements, physical exams, dental screenings, scoliosis screening, and head lice checks. Students will be sent to the nurse in small groups within their cohort to minimize potential COVID-19 exposure within the school setting.

If a staff, student, or other member of the school community becomes ill or has been exposed to an individual confirmed positive for COVID-19, that individual will be evaluated by the School Nurse. The School Nurse's evaluation will include taking the temperature of the individual who presents with symptoms, isolating them from other students and staff, asking guiding questions of the student and/or the parent in regard to possible COVID-19 exposure, vaccination status, and maintaining the student within the Nurse's Office until they can be removed from the building. Upon notification of a positive COVID-19 case, the School Nurse and/or the Director of Student Affairs (or their designee) will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to determine whether individual or additional quarantine or isolation is warranted.

Individuals will be isolated in the Nurse's Office, which is equipped with a supplemental ventilation system to evacuate airborne particles from the area. When the Nurse's Office is being used for isolation purposes, no other students and staff members will be permitted to enter. A "service desk" will be available to all others outside the Nurse's office for non-COVID related conditions. When used for isolation purposes, the Nurse's Office will be closed for the remainder of the school day and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Additional nursing and support staff will be called in as necessary to support school operations, based on the needs present on any given school day. The School Nurse will be provided with additional personal protective equipment such as N95/KN95 masks, disposable gowns and plastic face shields.

Food Service will continue to offer three options for breakfast, as well as three choices for lunch, using a point of service program. Students will be seated in the Dining Hall for breakfast, at tables with social distancing to the extent possible. Students will be seated in grade level cohorts utilizing both the Dining Hall and part of the Gymnasium, seated at tables in both locations during lunch, encouraged to socially distance as much as possible and to utilize mitigation strategies, such as washing their hands or using hand sanitizer when finished eating. Students may choose to put on a face covering when they are finished eating as a mitigation strategy, but it will not be required.

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 |
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| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <p>All students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, will have the option, but will not be required, to wear face coverings within the school setting in alignment with the Pennsylvania Department of Health lifting the Universal Mask Mandate on June 28, 2021. All students and staff will be encouraged to utilize other mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as social distancing to the extent possible, washing hands and/or using hand sanitizer frequently, avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, stay away from people who are sick and to stay home if they, themselves, are sick. Students and staff will be encouraged, but not required, to wear a face covering while engaging in small group instruction as well as small group activities within the classroom setting.</p> |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <p>All students will be forward facing within the classroom setting, with as much physical distance between desks as feasible for safety and movement within the classroom. Students will attend classes and travel throughout the building in cohorts to minimize exposure within the school setting. Students will eat in the Dining Hall for breakfast at tables with as much social distancing as possible. Students will eat lunch in grade level cohorts, seated at tables in the Dining Hall as well as part of the Gymnasium in order to provide as much social distancing as possible.</p> |
| <p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All visitors will be provided with hand sanitizer upon entry to the building as part of a modified visitor check in process. (Visitors overall to the building will be limited.) - Students and staff will be encouraged daily, as part of morning announcements to wash hands often with soap and water, especially prior to eating, after using the restroom or after a cough/sneeze or blowing of the nose. Many classrooms have sinks, soap dispensers and paper |

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| | <p>towels within the classroom to facilitate this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tissues will be available in all classrooms for student and staff use. - Hand sanitizer will be provided to all staff. Hand sanitizer, which is made up of an alcohol-based hand rub/hand sanitizer with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol, will be available for students who do not have access to a sink within their classroom. - Instructions will be posted in all restrooms reminding students and staff to wash their hands. - Students who are observed coughing or sneezing will be instructed to wash their hands. - Students will be required to wash their hands after each recess as well as before lunch. - Staff members shall wash their hands upon entering the building, after using the restroom, and prior to eating in-school breakfast or lunch. Staff members who cough or sneeze shall immediately wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. - Students will be assigned their own Chromebook and school supplies. Students will not share computers or educational supplies. Individual supplies, such as glue sticks, pencils, crayons, etc. will be provided for each student's personal use. - Students and staff will be encouraged, but not required to wear a face covering during small group instruction as well as small group activities within the classroom setting. - Athletic equipment will be disinfected between each class period. |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning and disinfecting of all classrooms, offices, other work spaces and common areas by the housekeeping team will occur nightly between 4:00 p.m. and |

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| | <p>7:00 p.m. Bear Creek Community Charter School will use <i>CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes</i> as the baseline for its cleaning and disinfecting practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bear Creek Community Charter School's facility is five years old. Our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is modern and meets all appropriate building codes and best-practices following the national consensus standard for outside air ventilation under ASHRAE, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality and its published addenda. - Bear Creek Community Charter School will ensure its HVAC system is properly maintained and in good working order while school is in session. - The School Nurse's office, restrooms, and certain other spaces are also equipped with supplemental mechanical ventilation for additional exchange of indoor and outdoor air. |
| <p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students and their parents, as well as employees will be asked to self-monitor at home each day before sending children to school and/or reporting to school or work. Bear Creek Community Charter School will provide resources and guidance to assist students, parents, and staff in this process, including guidance from PDH (Pennsylvania Department of Health) and the CDC) Center for Disease Control and Prevention - Parents will be continually reminded as to the importance of keeping symptomatic children home from school. |

ARP ESSER Requirement**Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

- Each school day, the teacher that comes into contact with a student displaying signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will send the student to the school nurse. The school nurse will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms.
- Staff members who feel ill will be requested to stay home from school/work.
- If a staff, student, or other member of the school community becomes ill or has been exposed to an individual who has confirmed positive for COVID-19, the school nurse should be contacted by the family or staff member (or the school nurse will reach out to the family of a child who has been absent three (3) consecutive days or more) to determine the reason for the prolonged absence.
- In the event the student or staff member is in school at the time of the onset of symptoms, the school nurse will provide guidance to the student's family or the staff member in accordance with the most recent guidance available from the CDC and PDH and the individual will be sent home
- The school nurse will triage student issues, with potential contagious students being maintained in the Nurse's Office, where there is increased ventilation, and other students will be seated in the School Commons, or treated at the 'Service Desk' outside of the Nurse's Office and returned to class, in order to minimize potential exposure within the Nurse's Office.
- The School Nurse, the Director of Student Affairs or a designee will consult with the Department of Health on any known cases that occur either in or outside of the school setting in which there is the potential of other individuals within

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| | <p>the school setting having been potentially exposed to COVID-19 to obtain guidance on other individuals who should quarantine, the length of an individual's quarantine and the criteria for return to school/work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bear Creek Community Charter School will notify families and staff in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school community. Notification will take place via a letter sent to the families of individuals within a class or on a bus, through email, as well as posting the information on the school website/social media page. Bear Creek Community Charter School will comply with the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) as well as the Health Insurance Privacy Portability Act (HIPPA) when disseminating information regarding a potential COVID-19 exposure within the school setting. No student-specific or staff-specific information will be released. - The School Nurse will contact and communicate with any families in which a student will be required to quarantine due to potential exposure within the school setting. |
| <p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p> | <p>Bear Creek Community Charter School utilizes the I-Ready program to conduct individual diagnostic assessment to determine individual student academic needs. This program is used as a diagnostic three times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring) to determine individual student growth throughout the school year. The I-Ready program is also used on a weekly basis throughout the school year to provide individualized instruction for remediation of skills and continued skill growth.</p> <p>Bear Creek Community Charter School will suggest that families consult with their medical practitioner in regard to COVID-19 testing and will offer information on</p> |

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| | <p>local establishments that provide COVID-19 testing to parents and families who request this information. Bear Creek Community Charter School will not be providing COVID-19 testing within our facility, but will work collaboratively with local providers in this regard.</p> |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p> | <p>Bear Creek Community Charter School provided two vaccination clinics at the school campus on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 for the first vaccination dose and on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 for the second vaccination dose for individuals age 12 and older. Bear Creek plans to provide another vaccination opportunity at the school campus if and when additional age groups are eligible for the vaccine.</p> |
| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <p>Any student who cannot wear a face covering or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a face covering without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. These, as well as other individual needs, would be addressed through the individual student's Chapter 15/Section 504 plan, Individual Safety Care plan, or through the child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Individuals who choose the option of wearing a face covering and are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, will be provided with a plastic face shield or another type of face covering with a clear window panel so the mouth can be seen while speaking.</p> |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bear Creek Community Charter School will continue to monitor CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines, PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) recommendations, as well as PDH (Pennsylvania Department of Health) recommendations in order to continue monitoring local health data and additional actions, orders |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
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| | <p>or guidance provided to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments throughout the school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upon notification of a positive COVID-19 case, the School Nurse and/or the Director of Student Affairs (or their designee) will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to determine whether individual or additional quarantine or isolation is warranted. |

Bear Creek Community Charter School administration reserves the right to amend/change this plan as needed, based upon new data available, changing health conditions in the school environment, or based on CDC or Department of Health guidance. A revised Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval at the earliest possible date.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Trustees for the Bear Creek Community Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on Monday, July 19, 2021.

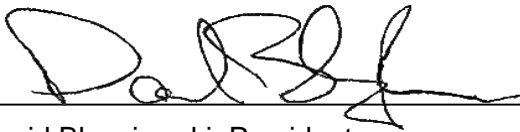
The plan was approved by a vote of:

4 Yes

2 No

Affirmed on: July 19, 2021

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Blazejewski', written over a horizontal line.

David Blazejewski, President
Bear Creek Community Charter School Board of Trustees