

# Health and Safety Plan Summary: Bear Creek Community Charter School

**Initial Effective Date: August 30, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: August 4, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: September 1, 2022**

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 September 6, 2022, 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, ventilation, spending time outdoors, as well as reminding our school community of everyday prevention actions will continue to be utilized. Face coverings will not be required, but are optional for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. 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.

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 during the course of the school day, 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 and isolating them from other students and staff, as appropriate, 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. When used for isolation purposes, the Nurse's Office door will be closed. Students or staff who need assistance will knock and the nurse will come to the door to assist them. Additional nursing and support staff may 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 masks, disposable gowns and plastic face shields.

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 gym doors 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 doors on the pathway area to pick up their children. All students will be placed into a color group (red, green, blue, purple, yellow, etc.) and will be dismissed by group, which will 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 no more than three busses for boarding at a time.

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 September 6, 2022 with full in-person learning for all students, Kindergarten through Eighth grade. 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 and the 2021-2022 school years. 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.

If a staff, student, or other member of the school community becomes ill during the course of the school day, 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 as appropriate. The student or staff member will be required to wear a mask if they are demonstrating symptoms while awaiting to leave the school 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. Students and/or staff who need assistance will knock on the nurse's door. The nurse will then come to the door to address their needs. Additional nursing and support staff may 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 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 and lunch.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</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. All students and staff will be encouraged to utilize everyday mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as 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.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Students will eat in the Dining Hall for breakfast and lunch, seated at seats with no more than 8 students per table.</p>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All visitors will be provided with hand sanitizer upon entry to the building as part of the visitor check in process.</li> <li>- 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 towels within the classroom to facilitate this process.</li> <li>- Tissues will be available in all classrooms for student and staff use.</li> <li>- Hand sanitizer will be provided to all staff.</li> <li>- Instructions will be posted in all restrooms reminding students and staff to wash their hands.</li> <li>- Students who are observed coughing or sneezing will be reminded to wash their hands.</li> <li>- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands after each recess as well as before lunch.</li> <li>- Staff members shall wash their hands 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.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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 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.</li> <li>- Bear Creek Community Charter School's facility is seven 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.</li> <li>- Bear Creek Community Charter School will ensure its HVAC system is properly maintained and in good working order while school is in session.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students and their parents, as well as employees will be asked to self-monitor at home each day before sending children to school</li> </ul>

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<p>departments;</p>	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents will be continually reminded as to the importance of keeping symptomatic children home from school.</li> <li>- Each school day, the teacher that comes into contact with a student who is not feeling well will send the student to the school nurse. The school nurse will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms.</li> <li>- Staff members who feel ill will be requested to stay home from school/work.</li> <li>- 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 if the child's teacher or the office staff have not been informed of the reason for absence.</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- 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 outside of the Nurse's Office and returned to class, in order to minimize potential exposure within the Nurse's Office.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The School Nurse, the Director of Student Affairs or a designee may consult with the Department of Health, as appropriate and if necessary, on any known cases that occur within the school setting.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;	Bear Creek Community Charter School will suggest that families consult with their medical practitioner or utilize a home test in regard to COVID-19 testing. The 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.
g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;	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 utilized a survey method to determine if parents were interested in a vaccination clinic at the school. Based on the results of the survey, the school has not offered a clinic but has provided information to parents when vaccination clinics in the area are being held.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	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

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	<p>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"> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>

## **COVID Positive - Quarantine**

Students or staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will quarantine at home for a minimum of five (5) days and will be permitted to return to school following the five day period as long as they are symptom free (including fever) for a 24-hour period without the use of fever-reducing medication.

If a student or staff member continues to exhibit symptoms beyond five days, they will be required to extend their quarantine until they are symptom free (including fever) for a 24-hour period without the use of fever-reducing medication.

\*No note from a physician or negative test result is required for return to school.

## **COVID Exposure - Isolation**

Students or staff members who are exposed to an individual who is positive for COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) will NOT need to quarantine, but will be required to wear a mask for ten (10) days within the school setting. (If the person begins to demonstrate any symptoms, the person should follow the recommendations for isolation and seek a COVID test.)

\*No note from a physician or negative test result is required for return to school.

## **Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement**

The Bear Creek Community Charter School Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the revised Health and Safety Plan on Thursday, September 1, 2022.