



Revised COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan

Prepared for the 2023-2024 Academic Year



Initial Adoption: July 2021
Last Revision: February 2024

Introduction

The following Health and Safety Plan for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) was prepared in accordance with guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH).

The plan reflects guidance through May 2023. The plan is subject to change in accordance with updated guidance of the relevant public health from the CDC and PADOH. Any changes will be reflected in plan revisions by the AIU administration, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

The plan applies to all AIU divisions. The universality of protocols and the streamlined processes developed and refined throughout the pandemic allow for a concise document that outlines the procedures the AIU will follow, while providing the flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

This plan replaces the Revised COVID-19 School Reopening Health and Safety Plan adopted on July 27, 2021.

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Initial Effective Date: July 27, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 26, 2024

Date of Last Revision: February 26, 2024

1. How will the local education agency (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?
 - a. The AIU supports prevention and mitigation policies in a number of ways:
 - i. Through a continued partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), the AIU will regularly consult with public health officials on positive cases, exposures, mitigation strategies and interpretation of the most up-to-date CDC guidance.
 - ii. The AIU will communicate this plan as well as specific details of the mitigation strategies contained herein in several ways:
 1. Posting on the AIU website and employee intranet (InSite).
 2. Summarization and review of the plan at employee in-service workshops at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.
 3. Communication to parents from AIU programs outlining expectations for students and the mitigation plans adopted in each facility operated by the AIU.

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
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| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <p>On February 25, 2022, the CDC issued revised guidelines regarding masks. On May 11, 2023, the CDC changed Community Admission Level to Hospital Level. As such, and in conjunction with the CDC’s revised guidelines, the AIU will adopt the following procedures for masks across the organization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless required by a host location’s health and safety plan, masking will generally be optional for AIU employees when Allegheny County’s COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level is “Low ”or “Medium,” as calculated by the CDC. Masking will be required if Allegheny County’s COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level is “High” or if otherwise recommended by the CDC. • The administration reserves the right to require employees in any program to mask in special circumstances, such as those involving medically fragile students or clients. |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AIU will follow the most current recommended guidelines established by the CDC regarding physical distancing in educational settings. |

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| <p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing is taught in classrooms and reinforced by signage in AIU schools and program locations. • Signs are posted in the AIU Central Office restrooms reminding staff of proper handwashing techniques. • Students are taught to cover their mouths when they cough and/or to cough into their arms. • Water fountains in all schools, program locations and Central Office are shut off. Students and staff may bring water bottles. Where equipped, bottle filling stations are available. |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All AIU sites, including the Central Office, Special Educations Schools, Community Centers, and Pre-school/Early Childhood program sites are cleaned daily, with attention focused on high touch areas. • In cases of a COVID-19 outbreak at a particular site, the affected area is thoroughly cleaned by the custodial staff. |
| <p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <p>A contact tracing protocol is in place to manage close contacts and exposures among our student population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians of students who test positive for COVID are requested to inform their child’s teacher, who will then notify the immediate supervisor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Close contacts among students will be notified by program staff. |

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| <p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage is present in AIU central office encouraging sick individuals to remain home. • All AIU leadership encourages employees to remain home when ill. • All AIU student-facing/public-facing programs regularly remind parents/guardians to keep children and students home when ill. Children and youth that are found to be ill while attending an AIU-operated program are isolated until sent home. |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AIU continues to encourage employees and students to get vaccinated and stay current with booster shots as per CDC recommendations. |
| <p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the AIU-operated schools and many of our programs are specifically designed to serve students with special needs, accommodations for these students are built into each program. |
| <p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AIU has a well-established partnership with the ACHD. • The AIU has established relationships with local healthcare providers: Allegheny Health Network, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on February 26, 2024.

Affirmed on: February 26, 2024

By:



Signature* of Board President

Phil Little

Print name of Board President

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.



475 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120
412-394-5700 | aiu3.net