

Lower Dauphin COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan Summary

Anticipated Launch Date: Monday, August 31, 2020

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. All school activities shall fall under the state's Reopen Pennsylvania guidelines. The state has categorized reopening into three broad phases: red, yellow, or green. These designations signal how counties and/or regions may begin easing some restrictions on school, work, congregate settings, and social interactions:

- The Red Phase: Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning, whether using digital or non-digital platforms. Provisions for student services such as school meal programs should continue. Large gatherings are prohibited.
- The Yellow Phase and Green Phase: Schools may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health & Safety Plan, to be approved by the Board of School Directors and posted on the district's publicly available website.

Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) designating the county as being in the red, yellow, or green phase. Some counties may not experience a straight path from a red designation, to a yellow, and then a green designation. Instead, cycling back and forth between less restrictive to more restrictive designations may occur as public health indicators improve or worsen. Therefore, this plan shall enable fluid transition from more to less restrictive conditions in each of the phase requirements as needed.

Type of Reopening

Based on Dauphin County's current designation of **Green**, Lower Dauphin School District will reopen the 2020-2021 school year with:

- Total reopening for all students and staff (but some students/families opt for remote learning out of safety/health concern).
- Hybrid reopening that balances in-person learning and remote learning for all students (*Group A-K attend M/W; Group L-Z attends T/R; All Students online F*).
- Remote learning for all students. (All students receive education online with either synchronous or asynchronous instruction).

Key Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

In order to safely reopen schools, the district shall adopt strategies and procedures in four domains as defined by the state Department of Education. These domains include Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfection and Ventilation; Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols; Monitoring Student and Staff Health; and Other Considerations for Students and Staff. The following are summaries for each domain including action steps; needed materials, resources and supports; and professional development requirements:

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Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

The district’s buildings and grounds department, working in partnership with the maintenance department, is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of all school-owned facilities. The district maintains a regular cleaning schedule that is followed by each custodian.

Requirements	Action Steps under Green Phase
<p>Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, hallways, and transportation)</p>	<p>Increased use of PPE required (masks, gloves, face-shields).</p> <p>Increase social distancing & hygiene practices.</p> <p>The district will frequently monitor and follow the CDC’s Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools.</p> <p>Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces (exterior door handles, sink handles, hand rails).</p> <p>Limit the use of communal drinking fountains and provide safe alternatives for providing water when possible.</p> <p>Shutdown fountain and bottle filler system.</p> <p>Implement and supervise the daily and weekly COVID-19 cleaning activities.</p> <p>Weekly use of Protexus Electrostatic Spray Disinfectant</p> <p>Update training for custodial staff as needed.</p> <p>Increase ventilation rates from occupied-only hours to 24/7 operation.</p> <p>Increase outside air percentage from 10% to 40%</p> <p>Classroom and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors and/or fans.</p>

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Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

The district will rely on the following guiding principles to maximize social distancing:

- Limiting the number of transitions for students and staff, as is feasible, within buildings to minimize contact between students and staff.
- Restricting large group areas like cafeterias, gymnasiums and large-group instruction areas.
- Restricting access to buildings – allowing only students, staff and essential visitors.
- Practicing social distancing (at least 6-feet distance) for all students, staff and visitors, where physically possible.
- Providing hygiene education and encouraging best practices for both students and staff. Implementation of routine hygiene breaks throughout the day.

Requirements	Action Steps under Green Phase
<p>Classroom/ learning space occupancy that allows for 6 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day, to the maximum extent feasible</p> <p>Restricting the use of cafeterias and other congregate settings, and serving meals in alternate settings such as classrooms</p> <p>Hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices</p> <p>Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs</p> <p>Identifying and restricting non-essential visitors and volunteers</p>	<p>Schedules should be as static as possible by having the same group of students with the same group of staff based on age and developmental level.</p> <p>Restrict interactions between groups of students.</p> <p>Staggered schedule to limit the number of individuals in a classroom or other space.</p> <p>Limit gatherings, events and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Hold classes in gyms, auditoriums, other large spaces or outdoors when possible.</p> <p>Turn desks facing the same direction or have students only sit on one side of the table, spaced apart.</p> <p>Remove flexible seating arrangements and encourage use of 'industrial' furnishings.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer, provided at stations within the cafeterias, prior to consuming food or beverages.</p> <p>Parents/guardians will be encouraged to deposit funds using the online payment portal, avoiding handling of cash and checks in the cafeteria.</p> <p>Meal condiments will be limited and provided to students on the serving trays.</p>

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	<p>Students will not be permitted to serve themselves for items such as fruit and vegetables. Staff will serve students all meal components. Selection of fruits and vegetables will be limited.</p> <p>Staggered lunch periods have been developed at the secondary level and lunch periods have been extended at the elementary level.</p> <p>Additional tables and seating has been secured and alternate locations to eat will be utilized.</p> <p>Student dining areas and cafeteria serving areas will be thoroughly cleaned between lunch periods.</p> <p>All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students.</p> <p>Ensure handwashing strategies to include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p> <p>Post CDC handwashing resources including health promotion materials and information on handwashing techniques.</p> <p>Ensure adequate supplies (soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices.</p> <p>Wipes will be available for students to wipe down desks, chairs and other shared items.</p> <p>Post CDC handwashing materials in all cafeterias, restrooms and other high traffic areas</p> <p>Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities that involve outside groups.</p>
<p>Handling sporting activities for recess and physical education classes consistent with the CDC Considerations for Youth Sports</p>	<p><u>Physical Education</u></p> <p>Select and provide safe opportunities for exercise and sports events for students considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical proximity of players ● Amount of touching of shared equipment ● Ability to engage in social distancing while not engaged in active play ● Engagement of players at higher risk

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of teams <p>Train teachers, coaches, officials and staff on all safety protocols.</p> <p><u>Recess</u></p> <p>Limit to one group of students using playground structures at a time, following social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Ensure adequate playground equipment (balls, jump ropes, etc) to limit sharing of items or limit to one group of students at a time and disinfect between uses.</p> <p><u>Sports</u></p> <p>Limit team sports and group games following social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>No use of locker rooms.</p> <p>*See the PK-12 Athletics and Safety Plan for details.</p> <p>No outside individuals renting facilities under Policy 707.</p> <p>Limit large group activities such as extracurriculars in accordance with PIAA and PMEA guidelines.</p> <p>Ensure all large group activities, including but not limited to, assemblies, concerts and theatre shows, follow social distancing guidelines.</p>
<p>Handling Music Activities and Classes</p>	<p>Follow COVID-19 Instrument Cleaning Procedures (teachers will provide students instruction on these procedures prior to resuming instrumental music lessons or classes.</p> <p>Select and Provide safe opportunities for music instruction for students considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical proximity of students • Use of appropriate facilities to accommodate social distancing • Amount of touching of shared equipment • Ability to engage in social distancing while not engaged in active play • Engagement of players at higher risk • Size of groups

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<p>Limiting the sharing of materials among students</p>	<p>Clean and disinfect shared items between uses</p> <p>Keep each student's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, lockers or other areas</p> <p>Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible or limit to one group of students at a time and disinfect between uses. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbooks that are shared • Technology • Art Supplies • PE Supplies <p>Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment when possible. Clean and disinfect them before and after use.</p>
<p>Staggering the use of communal spaces and hallways</p>	<p>Create one-way traffic patterns in hallways when feasible to increase social distancing.</p> <p>Separate students within common areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival • Dismissal • Lunch <p>Pursue virtual group events, gatherings or meetings if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 6 feet between people if events are held.</p>
<p>Adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students</p>	<p>Develop routes paying particular attention to balancing student ridership.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to wear masks. They will also be encouraged to sit apart from other students.</p> <p>Siblings will be assigned to share seats.</p> <p>Adjust loading and unloading procedures</p> <p>Extracurricular and educational field trips will be limited.</p> <p>Roof hatches and windows will be opened whenever possible to allow for enhanced ventilation.</p>

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	<p>School buses and vehicles will be disinfected nightly at a minimum.</p> <p>Encouraging parents and guardians to drive their student(s) to school when possible.</p>
<p>Limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students</p>	<p>Classroom layouts will be adjusted to the extent feasible, students should be socially distanced 6-feet apart pursuant to PDE guidelines. If 6 feet is not achievable in the classroom setting, students should be spaced to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>Identify small groups and keep them together (cohorting).</p> <p>Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of students stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as possible for older children).</p> <p>Limit mixing between groups as much as possible.</p> <p>Restrict interactions between groups of students.</p>
<p>Coordinating with local childcare regarding on site care, transportation protocol changes and, when possible, revised hours of operation or modified school-year calendars</p>	<p>The District will continue to coordinate with onsite childcare programs to offer childcare options that operate within prescribed safety guidelines (CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs).</p> <p>Update the LD website with any transportation changes.</p>
<p>Other social distancing and safety practices</p>	<p>Install sneeze-guards in main offices and cafeteria point of sale areas</p>

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Monitoring Student and Staff Health

This section of the plan will detail how the district will monitor students, staff and others who interact with each other to ensure that they are healthy and not exhibiting signs of illness.

Requirements	Action Steps under Green Phase
<p>Monitoring students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure</p>	<p>Student symptom screening will be done at home by parent/guardian each morning before school day.</p> <p>No children with symptoms should be sent on bus or brought to school.</p> <p>All staff will perform a symptom screening on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill.</p> <p>Temperature screening will not be required upon entrance to school for students and staff.</p> <p>Students, parents and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 through parent communication on the criteria for sending students to school and monitoring illness.</p> <p>Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling ill.</p> <p>The district will share resources with the school community to help families understand when to keep children at home.</p> <p>As per the PA DOH, if you have traveled, or plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases, it is recommended that you stay home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania.</p>
<p>Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure</p>	<p>Identify isolation rooms or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms.</p> <p>School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-based Precautions with caring for sick people.</p> <p>Close off the area used by a person testing positive for COVID-19 and do not use before cleaning and disinfecting.</p> <p>Provide appropriate PPE for staff who work with suspected cases during the school day.</p>

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	<p>Notify staff and families of confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality.</p>
<p>Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to school</p>	<p>Persons who have COVID-19 symptoms were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:</p> <p>10 days from the onset of symptoms</p> <p>Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for the previous 72 hours.</p> <p>Improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected \geq 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)</p>
<p>Notifying staff, families, and the public of school closures and within-school-year changes in safety protocols</p>	<p>Post Health & Safety Plan on LD website</p> <p>Provide regular update information on LD website and in parent communications.</p> <p>Prepare parents and families for remote learning if school is temporarily dismissed.</p>

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Other Considerations for Students and Staff

This section will detail procedures regarding face-coverings for staff and students; what special protocols the district will need to protect students and staff at higher risk for severe illness; how the district will seek substitute teachers in the event of staff illness; and how the district can strategically deploy instructional and non-instructional staff to ensure that all students have access to quality learning opportunities as well as supports for social-emotional wellness at school and at home.

Requirements	Action Steps under Green Phase
<p>Protecting students and staff at higher risk for severe illness</p>	<p>Cancel all non-essential travel.</p> <p>The district will follow guidelines set forth in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).</p> <p>Special arrangements will be made for students and staff deemed to be at high-risk. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the underlying issue.</p> <p>Discourage the use of perfect attendance awards and incentives.</p>
<p>Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by all staff</p>	<p>Face coverings are required per DOH orders</p>
<p>Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by older students (as appropriate)</p>	<p>Face coverings are required per DOH orders</p>
<p>Unique safety protocols for students with complex needs or other vulnerable individuals</p>	<p>Extra precautions in low incidence programs (AS, MDS, SFLS, LSS).</p> <p>Servicing students in low incidence programs can be problematic due to, but not limited to, students with medical concerns, students not understanding the importance of wearing a mask, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting.</p> <p>For these reasons, extra precautions will be implemented. These include:</p> <p>Thoroughly washing hands before and after working with a student. Avoiding the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students,</p>

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	<p>each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use.</p> <p>Personal student iPads/ACC devices should be disinfected each time a student enters or exits the classroom.</p> <p>The district's feeding protocol should be followed when feeding students. Staff should wear gloves when feeding students.</p> <p>Bathrooms and changing tables should be disinfected before and after student use. Limit students to one at a time. Students should be assisted with hand-washing.</p> <p>Students should be encouraged to wear masks while in common areas such as the hallway and whenever feasible. Students should be encouraged not to touch walls and fixtures when in hallways.</p>
Strategic deployment of staff	Identify critical job functions and positions and plan for alternative coverage by cross-training staff.

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The Board of Directors for Lower Dauphin School District reviewed and approved the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan on Monday, July 20, 2020.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: July 20, 2020

By:



(Signature of Board President)

Eric M. Samples

(Print Name of Board President)