



Health and Safety Plan

2021-2022

Health and Safety Plan: Avon Grove Charter School

Initial Effective Date: June 30th, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 17, 2021-Draft

Date of Last Revision: August 17, 2021-Draft

**This plan will be officially ratified by the AGCS Board during its September
Board Meeting**

**This is a fluid document, based on local, state and federal guidelines and
is subject to change.**

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Introduction

This document serves as the school's forward-facing health and safety plan. In it are the school's core mitigation efforts, procedures, and policies related to the safe operation of its instructional plan.

Avon Grove Charter School plans a full return to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. AGCS will not offer a full-time remote learning option or hybrid option next school year unless required to do so by the legislature and/or Department of Education or due to physical distancing requirements imposed by the Department of Health.

AGCS Plan for a Safe Opening of School

Avon Grove Charter School recognizes the importance of in-person instruction for students in the 2021-2022 school year and that schools are critical community institutions. AGCS is currently preparing for students to return to a full-time in-person learning environment. AGCS has developed a health and safety plan which addresses specific policies, protocols, and procedures that will be utilized to create a safe learning environment for all students and staff.

This plan outlines Avon Grove Charter School's strategy for in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year, along with responding to potential future safety and operational concerns related to COVID-19.

This is a fluid document based on local, state, and federal guidelines and is subject to change.

Pandemic Response Team

Each school entity is required to identify a pandemic coordinator and/or pandemic team with defined roles and responsibilities for health and safety preparedness and response planning during the phased reopening of schools. The pandemic coordinator and team will be responsible for facilitating the local planning process, monitoring implementation of your local Health and Safety Plan, and continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year.

Health and Safety Plan Development: Individual will play a role in drafting the enclosed Health and Safety Plan;

Pandemic Crisis Response Team: Individual will play a role in within-year decision making regarding response efforts in the event of a confirmed positive case or exposure among staff and students; or



Both (Plan Development and Response Team): Individuals will play a role in drafting the plan and within-year decision making regarding response efforts in the event of a confirmed positive case.

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities (Options Above)
Kristen Bishop	AGCS Head of School	Plan Development and Response Team
Holly Verderame	AGCS School Nurse	Plan Development and Response Team
Ryan Taylor	AGCS Director of Student Services	Plan Development and Response Team
Bryan Brutto	AGCS Chief Academic Officer	Plan Development and Response Team
Tosha Bowers	AGCS Chief of Human Resource	Plan Development and Response Team
Sharon Ray	AGCS Principal	Plan Development
Matt Messick	AGCS Principal	Plan Development
Maggie Johnson	AGCS Principal	Plan Development
Jen Weaver	AGCS Curriculum and Instruction Director	Plan Development
Leona Bankowski	AGCS Food Services	Plan Development
Karen Furlano	AGCS Food Services	Plan Development
Dwayne Degler	Parent	Plan Development
Ian Currie	AGCS Facilities Manager	Response Team
Jeanne Franklin	County Public Health Director	Response Team
Stacey Fuller	AGCS Solicitor	Plan Development and Response Team



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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

Avon Grove Charter School implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the Chester County Health Department. AGCS was successful in protecting our school community while providing in-person learning. We secured an MOA with Chester County Health Department and participated in Project ACE-IT (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing), the school-based COVID-19 testing program. AGCS supported our teachers, students, and staff with vaccination information and clinics. We will continue to work closely with the Chester County Health Department as new guidance is provided. AGCS will continue to stay abreast of the evolving guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This information will assist us when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan and protocols as necessary. AGCS will continually communicate updated mitigation strategies with all stakeholders to ensure the health and safety of its community.

2. **How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs and students and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?**

Avon Grove Charter School provides a variety of school-based programs for students from kindergarten through age 21. The educational services we provide in these settings are comprehensive and can support our student's academic, social, emotional, physical, and mental health needs. Our ability to provide a continuity of educational programming was proven in the 2020-2021 school year. We provided virtual, hybrid, and in-person instruction throughout the entire year. AGCS plans on a return to full in-person for the 2021-2022 school year. Continuity of Education plans was developed early on during



COVID-19 and continue to be updated based on the ever-changing needs of our population. Our Child Study Team (CST) has and will continue to play a critical role in supporting our students' academic, social and emotional needs. Our team meets weekly to analyze data to determine our students' support to help them be successful learners. These ongoing conversations have allowed us to target and support our most vulnerable students (ELLs, economically disadvantaged, and special education). Supports have included home visits, partnering with local agencies to address students with substance abuse issues, truancy elimination plans. After the support has been put into place, we continue to analyze the effect of said interventions. Adjustments are made accordingly. Documentation is maintained through an online database (Panorama Learning) that is easy to navigate and identifies at-risk students seamlessly.

Summer learning academy was established to give K-3 students identified through our well-established MtSS (multi-tiered system of support) process interventions through the summer months. We will continue to identify learning gaps of our students through benchmark and diagnostic assessments. Benchmark assessments are designed with the PA Core Standards in mind. This data will be used to determine the level of support individual students need. Diagnostic assessments will allow us to drill down to specific skill deficits to personalize academic support. In addition, we will look for trends in the data that will be used to determine instructional starting points for the 21-22SY. Intervention groups/schedules will be organized in the summer months to begin intervening within the first two weeks of school. Grade level and content area trends in data will inform us of any adjustments needed at the Tier I/classroom level. Guidance will then be shared by administration, with grade-level/department teachers, in meeting the needs of their students.

A Focus on Building Foundational Learning and Supporting Staff SEL

AGCS has a core SEL team that meets at regular intervals to reflect on data and plan improvements. Each division has a team that discusses the implementation of supports within the respective divisions. In addition to an



SEL team that focuses on Tier 1 instruction and supports for students, a Child Study Team exists at each division to review data collected and implement interventions through an MTSS framework.

Foundational Learning Opportunities

In the 21-22 school year, AGCS will focus on professional learning to strengthen adult SEL capacity and experience. This will consist of ongoing professional development and meaningful opportunities for staff to focus on their social-emotional wellbeing and cultural competence. This development will occur on an ongoing basis.

Promoting SEL for Students

AGCS will provide a range of supports and services to support students' social-emotional well-being, including research-based SEL instruction and interventions for all students. Under an MTSS framework, additional interventions to support student's mental health and wellbeing include mentoring, social and academic intervention groups, check-in-check-out, individual and group counseling, mental health counseling, Student Assistance Programs, and engagement with community-based agencies and contracted service providers. This year, a social worker will be added to deliver preventative interventions to promote school engagement and attendance.

Ongoing Monitoring and Cycle for Continuous Improvement

Ongoing monitoring of tier 1 interventions will occur via student SEL surveys occurring a minimum of twice per year. In addition, students receiving Tier 2 and 3 interventions will have ongoing progress monitoring that is reviewed weekly.

We will continue to provide free meals for the 2021-2022 school year at the school buildings. We will eliminate the drive-through option due to our return to full in-person learning. We did see a decline of families who were virtual and needed this support through the summer months. We will monitor this need throughout the 21/22 school year.



Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, 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 masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mask wearing requirements will be implemented or adjusted in accordance with guidance from CDC, PA DOH, or PDE. Currently, PDE and PA DOH are recommending schools follow guidance from the CDC. ● Recent guidance from the CDC recommends that all individuals (age two and older) wear masks indoors. Mask wearing on school buses is required. ● Per CDC Order, all students must wear face-coverings/masks on school transportation/busses. ● AGCS will begin the school year with all K-12 students and staff being required to wear masks while indoors, regardless of vaccination status until October 1, 2021. ● The AGCS Health and Safety Plan and mask requirement will be reassessed during the month of September. ● <i>Department of Health and/or Governor orders will supersede any local decisions on face coverings/masks. This section may be amended if more restrictive guidelines are released.</i>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PA lifted orders for physical distancing and occupancy limits on May 31, 2021. Therefore, all AGCS buildings and offices will not require specific social distancing requirements. ● School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with no restrictions. ● Currently, the CDC recommends 3-feet of social distancing between students in classroom settings. AGCS will <i>encourage</i> 3-feet of distancing where <i>feasible</i> throughout the



	<p>school day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGCS will consider additional recommendations from the health department for additional mitigation strategies as needed.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each classroom has a hand sanitizing station installed at the entryway for students to sanitize their hands upon entry and exit. All classrooms will be provided additional hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for classroom use. Additional hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the buildings at entryways, hallway intersections, communal spaces, etc. Proper handwashing procedures are explicitly taught to all students Soap will be available at any location where a handwashing sink has been designated Students will be encouraged to utilize hand sanitizer before and after consuming food or beverages. Hygiene reminders are posted throughout the facilities.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGCS will continue to conduct routine clearing and sanitizing of utilized spaces. Ventilation systems will be cleaned regularly and inspected to ensure correct operating efficiency. <p>Please see below for more detailed information.</p>
<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"> AGCS will follow CDC, PDE, and PA DOH guidance related to communicable diseases including COVID-19. Students and staff should report exposures to COVID-19 or positive test results to the school nurse. Isolation rooms and PPE equipment will be maintained as necessary. Contract tracing, isolation, and quarantine requirements will be adapted to reflect current CDC, PDE, and/or PA DOH guidance. <p>Please see below for more detailed information.</p>



<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AGCS will maintain adequate PPE for use when individuals become ill or are in need of supplies. ● AGCS will require both staff and students to self-screen themselves prior to reporting to school and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19. <p>Please see below for more detailed information.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AGCS will continue to provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID 19 vaccine for their child or family member.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For students with disabilities with medical diagnoses that require a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP or 504 may reconvene to develop specifically designed instruction or strategies to meet the student’s needs.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AGCS will continue to report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contact tracing with the Chester County Health Department. ● The health department will consult and give guidance on specific cases or issues as needed.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

One of the key mitigation measures to ensure a safe reopening of our schools is the proper and ongoing cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation of our buildings. Avon Grove Charter School will follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) guidance and recommendations for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation. All policies and procedures related to uploading these standards will meet the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#) and [CDC requirements for COVID-19](#).



Avon Grove Charter School employs its own custodial staff as well as contracted janitorial and cleaning services. All school employees and contractors will follow protocols based on the CDC's recommendations. Daily and weekly cleaning expectations and benchmarks will be established and monitored, along with proper training and guidance provided to school employees and students related to cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting.

General Facilities Plan

- Proper cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting begin with professional development and training. Education on correct protocols and expectations will be provided to all cleaning staff, contractors, school employees, and students.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects routinely. Intense scrutiny will be applied to common gathering areas; door handles, light switches, stair rails, sink handles, chair arms, shared workstations, and shared learning materials.
 - Disposable disinfectant wipes and sanitizer will be provided to all staff to clean commonly used surfaces between each use and during established frequencies.
 - Disinfectant/sanitation stations will be set up at the entrance to every classroom and throughout the school buildings to provide ample opportunities for students to clean and disinfect their hands throughout the day.
 - Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting supplies will be replenished as needed.
- Cleaning and disinfecting bathrooms
 - Bathrooms that are maintained in the classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day per CDC guidelines.
 - Communal bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day per CDC guidelines.
 - All staff and student bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each evening in preparation for the following school day.
- All furniture and hard surfaces (located in classrooms and throughout the buildings) will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
 - Disposable disinfectant wipes will be provided to all staff to clean commonly used surfaces in the classroom and strategically deployed throughout the buildings for individual use.
- It will be encouraged that interior classroom doors remain open whenever feasible.
- The Director of Facilities, Custodial Supervisor, and building principals will conduct detailed building and grounds inspections throughout the school year/summer.
- Exhaust fans, exterior ventilators, and outside air dampers will be open throughout all buildings.
 - Additionally, it will be encouraged that all operational windows be opened (weather permitting)



- Fans to help circulate air will be provided where needed
- Teachers will be encouraged to leave their classroom doors open when instruction and assessment practices allow

Cleaning/Disinfecting Area due to Symptomatic or Positive Case

- When someone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19:
 - The building does not need to be evacuated
 - The area used by the sick individual will be closed off and will not be reused until proper cleaning and disinfecting have been completed.
 - Will wait, when possible, 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting.

Monitoring Student and Staff Health

The Chester County Health Department has issued COVID-19 Guidance for schools related to the following:

- Symptom Monitoring
- Reporting COVID-19
- Investigations of COVID-19
- Exclusions From and Return to School Requirements

Monitoring Health

- Students and staff will be required to complete an acknowledgment form at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, which outlines COVID-19 symptoms and the school's protocols for attendance
- All AGCS staff and families will be provided a specific framework for “decision making” related to whether they are free of symptoms and able to attend a school or come to work
- All AGCS staff and families will be provided a specific framework for isolation/quarantine (exclusion) and return to school
- AGCS will encourage adherence to all state travel advisories, if applicable

AGCS will require the following to ensure a safe learning environment:

- Parents/guardians will be required to screen their children for symptoms at home, each day, before school
 - Any student exhibiting symptoms should not come to school, be placed on a bus, or be dropped off at school
- If a student or staff member exhibits any symptoms at school, they will report immediately to the nurse.
 - Individuals will be isolated
 - The universal screening will occur and include:
 - Temperature check



- Assessment for symptoms related to COVID-19
 - General questions regarding symptoms and exposure
 - Individuals may be tested for COVID-19 utilizing the school's antigen testing program.
 - Parents must have completed a school permission form to have their students tested by the school.
- Students, staff, and visitors who become sick or exhibit symptoms related to COVID-19 or demonstrate a history of exposure will be required to isolate and quarantine per the Chest County Health Department guidelines.
- The Chester County Health Department will be contacted whenever the school is notified of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The school will suspend the use of perfect attendance awards and incentives.

Symptom Monitoring

Step one: **Take the temperature with a temporal or forehead touchless thermometer.**

Step two: **Are you taking any medication to treat or suppress a fever? Yes/No?**

Step three: **Are you currently experiencing any of the following symptoms?**

"Has Symptoms" is defined as having:
 1 or more symptom(s) in Group A
OR 2 or more symptoms in Group B
OR Yes to medication to suppress a fever.

Group A	Group B
1 or more symptoms	2 or more symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cough ● Shortness of breath ● Difficulty breathing ● Lack of smell or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever* ● Sore throat ● Chills ● Muscle pain ● Fatigue ● Headache



taste (without congestion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Congestion or runny nose ● Nausea or vomiting ● Diarrhea
A fever or elevated temperature is defined as 100.4°F.	

Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements			
Decision-Making Flowchart			
Scenario	Vaccination Status	Exclude From School	Return to School After...
#1 – No Symptoms	Yes & No	No	Not applicable
#2 – COVID-19 Symptoms	Yes & No	Yes	<p>Individuals, including those fully vaccinated, should be tested for COVID-19; individuals awaiting test results should be excluded from school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the test result is <u>negative</u>, return to school following readmission criteria illustrated in PA Code, § 27.73. Readmission of excluded children and staff having contact with children. If no alternative diagnosis is known, return to school 24 hours after symptoms are improved. ● If a test result is <u>positive</u>, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3. ● If an individual is not tested or refuses to test, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3 (assumed positive w/ symptoms). ● If an individual is using medication to treat or suppress a fever, he/she should be excluded until the medication is no longer needed.



#3 – Positive COVID-19 Test <u>with</u> Symptoms	Yes & No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hours with no fever without medication <i>and</i>; • improvement in symptoms <i>and</i>; • 10 days since symptoms first appeared
#4 – Positive COVID-19 Test <u>without</u> Symptoms	Yes & No	Yes	<p>10 days after the test was collected</p> <p>If symptoms develop during 10 days, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</p>
<p>A “close contact” is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals within 6 feet distance for greater than 15 minutes over a 24 hours period with a COVID-19 positive individual; or • Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case. <p>K-12 Indoor Classroom Setting: The “close contact” definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of a student with COVID-19 where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of a mask; and • Other K-12 school prevention strategies were in place 			
#5 – Close Contact <u>with</u> Symptoms (Probable Case)	Yes & No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hours with no fever without medication <i>and</i>; • improvement in symptoms <i>and</i>; • 10 days since symptoms first appeared
#6 – Close Contact of COVID-19 <u>without</u> Symptoms	Yes	No	<p>Individuals should be tested 3-5 days after their exposure.</p> <p>Individuals must wear a mask indoors for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result is received within the above window.</p> <p>If individual returns a positive test result, follow return to school guidance for scenario #3 or #4 depending on symptoms.</p>



	No	Yes	<p>A 14-day quarantine period is recommended as it offers the most protection from spreading COVID-19.</p> <p><i>Alternative Quarantine Periods:</i></p> <p>Option 1: No test and no symptoms, an approved 10-day quarantine period may be utilized.</p> <p>Option 2: Submit negative test results on or after day 5 of quarantine; quarantine may end after day 7.</p> <p>If symptoms develop during 10 days, follow return to school guidance for scenario #5.</p>
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Exposure to COVID-19 After Being Vaccinated or Having COVID, or Presence of Antibodies

For persons with known exposure to COVID-19, who ARE fully vaccinated:

Fully vaccinated individuals (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine) who are exposed to a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, AND remain asymptomatic throughout the current exposure, do not have to quarantine.

Additionally, Individuals who test positive for and recover from COVID-19 within the past 3 months who are exposed to a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case AND remain asymptomatic throughout the current exposure do not have to quarantine.

In these cases:

- Individuals should be tested 3-5 days after their exposure.
- Individuals must wear a mask indoors for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result is received within the above window.

Contact Tracing for COVID-19



All contact tracing and COVID-19 related investigations will be conducted by the Chester County Health Department and supported by school personnel.

COVID-19 investigations include the identification of close contacts during the contagious period. Contact tracing helps manage COVID-19 from spreading in schools and is used to break chains of transmission and to help prevent future surges of cases. Close contacts are within 6 feet distance for ≥ 15 minutes over 24 hours with the COVID-19 patient.

Close contacts of probable and confirmed cases will be contacted by the Chester County Health Department, or school personnel, to identify those at risk of exposure and provide the following information both verbally and in writing:

- The individual's last date of exposure and timeline for quarantine
- Expectations for quarantine
- How to report new or worsening symptoms
- Information about COVID-19

The success of contact tracing is dependent upon schools partnering with the Chester County Health Department on contact tracing and other mitigation actions, such as:

- Reviewing attendance records
- Identifying potential contacts
- Providing the Health Department with contact lists and contact information.

Increased Hygiene Practices for Students and Staff

- Staff will receive procedures on the instruction of handwashing and disinfecting based on a divisional level.
- Students will receive direct, explicit instruction in hand-washing/disinfecting and best practices for hygiene during the first week of school.
- Student and staff hygiene practices will be reinforced through the school-wide PBIS program.
- Visual materials regarding washing hands, symptom monitoring, and hygiene practices will be ordered through the CDC website and posted throughout the school buildings.
- Additional reminders will be made via the morning announcements.



Training and Professional Development

Training for Parents and Service Providers

- Education and training will be provided to parents and service providers on identifying symptoms of COVID-19, which would dictate a student needing to stay at home.
- A specific flowchart for self-screening will be provided to parents
- Families will be encouraged to self-report, to the school, and symptoms of illness
- AGCS will continue to share and post to its public website resources for the school community

Student and Staff Training

- Education and training will be provided to students and staff on identifying symptoms of COVID-19, which would dictate a student needing to stay at home or be sent home.
- A specific flowchart for self-screening will be provided to staff
- Staff will be encouraged to self-report, to the school, and symptoms of illness
- Reminders will be imbedded into the morning announcements at both buildings related to proper hygiene practices and symptom screening
- Reminders will be imbedded into the school-wide PBIS program to promote healthy hygiene practices and symptom screening
- AGCS will continue to share and post to its public website resources for the school community
- Staff and students will be provided explicit instruction and training related to new school protocols, procedures, and operations, instruction, and assessment expectations.

Communication and Signage

Communication and Signage



Communication

- Communication-related to COVID-19 and school operations will be sent to families and staff via the school's mass communication methods and the AGCS website.

Signage

- Visual aids will be posted throughout the building, classrooms, and bathrooms, reinforcing good hygiene practices.



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Avon Grove Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **September 21, 2021**. The plan was approved by a vote of:

____ Yes

____ No

____ Absent

Affirmed on: **September 21, 2021**

By: (Signature* of Board President) _____

(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 is needed.

