



# Health and Safety Plan

2023-2024

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**Review:** August 17, 2021

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**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.

### **AGCS Plan for a Safe Schools Operations**

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 maintaining in-person instruction 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.

Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities (Options Above)		
Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	
Kristen Bishop	AGCS Head of School	Plan Development and Response Team





<b>Holly Verderame</b>	AGCS School Nurse	Plan Development and Response Team
<b>Ryan Taylor</b>	AGCS Director of Student Services	Plan Development and Response Team
<b>Bryan Brutto</b>	AGCS Chief Academic Officer	Plan Development and Response Team
<b>Tosha Bowers</b>	AGCS Chief of Human Resource	Plan Development and Response Team
<b>Sharon Ray</b>	AGCS Principal	Plan Development
<b>Matt Messick</b>	AGCS Principal	Plan Development
<b>Maggie Johnson</b>	AGCS Principal	Plan Development
<b>Jen Weaver</b>	AGCS Curriculum and Instruction Director	Plan Development
<b>Niki Coin</b>	AGCS Food Services	Plan Development
<b>Dwayne Degler</b>	Parent	Plan Development
<b>Ian Currie</b>	AGCS Facilities Manager	Response Team
<b>Jeanne Franklin</b>	County Public Health Director	Response Team
<b>Stacey Fuller</b>	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 2023-2024 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. 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 various school-based programs for 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 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.

Through our well-established MtSS (multi-tiered system of support) process 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 determine the level of support individual students need. Diagnostic assessments will allow us to drill down to specific skill deficits to personalize academic support. 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. Intervention groups/schedules will be organized in the summer months to begin intervening within the first two weeks of school.





## **A Focus on Building Foundational Learning and Supporting Staff SEL**

AGCS has a core SEL team that meets regularly 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**

AGCS continues to focus on a continuation of professional learning to strengthen adult SEL capacity and experience as well as direct integration of SEL competencies. SEL competencies include Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Relationship Skills, Social-Awareness and Responsible Decision Making.

## **Promoting SEL for Students**

AGCS will provide a range of support 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 students' 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. The additional support of Social Work interns under the supervision of the School Social Worker will allow AGCS to expand capacity to support students.

## **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.

AGCS has made a concerted effort to inform our families that federal waivers for universal free lunch have ended. Families must complete the appropriate free/reduced lunch applications in order to determine their eligibility.



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
a. <b>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks are optional for all students, staff, and visitors while inside Avon Grove Charter School Buildings.</li> </ul>
b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with no restrictions.</li> <li>• AGCS will consider additional recommendations from the health department for additional mitigation strategies as needed.</li> </ul>
c. <b>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each classroom has a hand sanitizing station installed at the entryway for students to sanitize their hands upon entry and exit.</li> <li>• All classrooms will be provided additional hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes for classroom use.</li> <li>• Additional hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the buildings at entryways, hallway intersections, communal spaces, etc.</li> <li>• Proper handwashing procedures are explicitly taught to all students</li> <li>• Soap will be available at any location where a handwashing sink has been designated</li> <li>• Students will be encouraged to utilize hand sanitizer before and after consuming food or beverages.</li> <li>• Hygiene reminders are posted throughout the facilities.</li> </ul>





<p><b>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Disposable disinfectant wipes and sanitizer will be provided to all staff to clean commonly used surfaces between each use and during established frequencies.</li> <li>◦ 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.</li> <li>◦ Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting supplies will be replenished as needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cleaning and disinfecting bathrooms             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Bathrooms maintained in the classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day per CDC guidelines.</li> <li>◦ Communal bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day per CDC guidelines.</li> <li>◦ All staff and student bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each evening in preparation for the following school day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All furniture and hard surfaces (located in classrooms and throughout the buildings) will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It will be encouraged that interior classroom doors remain open whenever feasible.</li> <li>• The Director of Facilities, Custodial Supervisor,</li> </ul>
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	<p>and building principals will conduct detailed building and grounds inspections throughout the school year/summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exhaust fans, exterior ventilators, and outside air dampers will be open throughout all buildings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additionally, it will be encouraged that all operational windows be opened (weather permitting)</li> <li>Fans to help circulate air will be provided where needed</li> <li>Teachers will be encouraged to leave their classroom doors open when instruction and assessment practices allow</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGCS will support and communicate public health guidance on isolation and quarantine guidelines.</li> <li><b>AGCS will follow CDC/CCHD <a href="#">exposure and isolation guidelines</a>.</b></li> </ul>
<b>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AGCS will maintain adequate PPE when individuals become ill or need supplies.</li> <li>AGCS will continue to encourage both staff and students to self-screen themselves before reporting to school and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19.</li> <li>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</li> <li>All AGCS staff and families will be provided a specific framework for isolation/quarantine (exclusion) and return to school</li> </ul>



<b>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AGCS will continue to coordinate with the health department on guidance regarding specific cases or issues as needed.</li> </ul>





## 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 **November 14, 2023**. The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes  
0 No  
0 Absent

Affirmed on: **November 14, 2023**

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.

