



Health and Safety Plan

2022-2023

Health and Safety Plan: Avon Grove Charter School

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

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Introduction	2
Pandemic Response Team	2
ARP ESSER Requirement	6
Strategies, Policies, and Procedures	6
Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation	8
Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation	8
General Facilities Plan	8
Monitoring Student and Staff Health	9
Monitoring Health	10
Symptom Monitoring	10
Increased Hygiene Practices for Students and Staff	11



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 recognizes the importance of in-person instruction throughout the 2022-2023 school year. AGCS will not offer a full-time remote learning option or hybrid option during the 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 2022-2023 school year and that schools are critical community institutions. 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 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 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 ability to provide a continuity of educational programming was proven in the 2021-2022 school year with a full return to in-person learning. Continuity of Education plans were 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 continued during the summer of 2022 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 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 22-23SY. 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

In the 22-23 school year, AGCS will 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 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 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 was ended. Families just 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. Universal and correct wearing of masks;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are optional for all students, staff, and visitors while inside Avon Grove Charter School Buildings.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with no restrictions. • AGCS will consider additional recommendations from the health department for additional mitigation strategies as needed.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	<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.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGCS will continue to conduct routine cleaning 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>
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGCS will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the PA Department of Health on the prescribed template for such instances. • AGCS will support and implement public health guidance on isolation and quarantines. AGCS has adopted the modified quarantine outlined by the CDC and PA Department of Health.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGCS will maintain adequate PPE when individuals become ill or need supplies. • AGCS will require both staff and students to self-screen themselves before reporting to school and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19. <p>Please see below for more detailed information.</p>
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	<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.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<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.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGCS will continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to 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 and contracted janitorial and cleaning services. 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. All school employees and contractors will follow protocols based on the CDC's recommendations.

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 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

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

- 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 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.
- COVID-19 cases will be reported to the PA Department of Health on a weekly basis.
- 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?**



People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion

A fever or elevated temperature is defined as 100.4°F.

Step four: **Is anyone in your household awaiting the results of a COVID test or currently diagnosed with COVID-19?**

AGCS will follow CDC/CCHD [exposure](#) and [isolation](#) guidelines.

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.



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 December 13, 2022. The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Absent

Affirmed on: December 13, 2022,

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.

