



**Methacton School District**

**2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan**

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This Health and Safety Plan will be for the 2021-2022 school year and will address the instructional program and athletics/activities.

The Methacton School District will open for in-person instruction, 5-days per week, for all students in kindergarten through grade 12 for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board of School Directors adopt the following:

- The district's primary focus is to provide in person instruction for students in grades K-12 for the 2021-2022 SY.
- The district has made an alternative option of asynchronous online instruction available by semester for K-12 students that have opted for this delivery model in place of in-person instruction.
- The Board has approved an Emergency Resolution under Section 520.1 of the School Code as a means of providing virtual instruction when needed.
- The district will monitor county and municipality incidence and positivity data leading to a designation of low, moderate, or substantial status as determined by the Commonwealth.
- The district will continue to consider guidance and implement mandates where appropriate provided by:
  - The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PaDoH)
  - The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
  - The Montgomery Office of Public Health (MCOPH)
- When schools are required\* to be opened at a reduced capacity or are required\* to be closed fully, we will operate synchronously 5 days per week.
  - Staff will report to their assigned building for instruction
  - Students with special needs will adhere to a modified in-person model where feasible to best facilitate a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).
- Athletics and extra-curricular activities will consider guidance/requirements from PaDoH/PDE/MCOPH/PIAA.
- The district will use guidance from the Montgomery County Department of Health for determining building and/or district wide closures.
- The district will take multi steps/layered approach with the implementation of mitigation strategies prior to changing instructional delivery model whenever feasible.
- Provide continuous reinforcement in all of our communication to parents about the need to report positive cases and close contacts, as well as continue with a stay home if symptomatic mitigation strategy.
- The District will provide monthly communications to staff and families of available locations and vaccination options and will seek to coordinate one of our schools as a site when appropriate.
- Building Principals will conduct a workplace assessment prior to the start of school and at intervals of significant change as directed by the Superintendent and devise recommendations to support employees and students in terms of safety.
- The Board of school directors authorize the Board President and Superintendent to complete, sign, and submit any forms associated with the reporting/compliance of this health and safety plan as necessary.
- The district will monitor local levels of virus transmission as part of process of determining the mitigation strategies needed in a specific school and will provide updates on the district data dashboard.

***\* A requirement to modify our instructional model is defined as a mandate from PDE/PaDoH/MCOPH.***

## **Point of Contact – Dr. David Zerbe**

**Q1 - How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

- THE DISTRICT will continually review the most recent guidance, recommendations, and mandates from the CDC, PDE, PaDoH, and

MCOPH.

- THE DISTRICT Pandemic Team will regularly review the current plan and provide updates. Updates will be presented and approved by the Board of School Directors.
- THE DISTRICT will continue to foster communication and collaboration between Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, the Montgomery County Department of Public Health, and our district partners.
- THE DISTRICT has developed and will implement a multi-step/layered approach with the implementation of mitigation strategies prior to changing instructional delivery model whenever feasible.
- THE DISTRICT has adopted the following transmission levels to guide multi step/layered approach to mitigation strategies (PDE Table).
- THE DISTRICT has adopted the following Layered Mitigation strategies:
  - Indoor masking recommendation (Substantial Level)
  - Daily Self-Screening
  - 3' Distancing whenever feasible
  - Use of plastic dividers/separators
  - "Test to stay" protocol
  - Cohort in Pods
  - Ventilation Improvements
  - Handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes
  - Stay Home if feeling ill practice
  - Regular cleaning/spraying of high touch areas

**Community Transmission (PDE Chart)**

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)
Low	<10	AND	<5%
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%

*During two consecutive weeks of community transmission*

**Q2 - How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?**

- The District is planning for a full return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Should a mandated reduction in attendance or closure occur, THE DISTRICT will seamlessly transition to one of the following:
  - Reduction in attendance and full closure - we will operate synchronously 5 days per week K-12.
  - THE DISTRICT has developed a continuity of instruction plan and can be found here (see [Continuity of Instruction Plan](#))

**Q3 - How will the LEA maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and 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?**

- The DISTRICT will discuss and consider following recommended practices as per the PDE/PaDoH/MCOPH/CDC guidance to the extent they are feasible.

AREA 1 - UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT WEARING OF <u>MASKS</u>		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Staff: Guidelines on the use of face masks*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks will be optional for staff members for both indoor and outdoor settings.</li> <li>• Masks are required for Drivers/Adults (as per CDC Order) on school provided transportation.</li> <li>• Alternative face coverings may be provided upon request.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks will be encouraged for staff members while indoors.</li> <li>• Masks will be optional for staff members when outdoors.</li> <li>• Masks are required (as per CDC Order) on school provided transportation.</li> <li>• Alternative face coverings may be provided upon request.</li> </ul>

Students: Guidelines on the use of face masks*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks will be optional for students for both indoor and outdoor settings.</li> <li>• Masks are required (as per CDC Order) on school provided transportation.</li> <li>• Alternative face coverings may be provided upon request.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks will be encouraged for students while indoors.</li> <li>• Masks will be optional for students when outdoors.</li> <li>• Masks are required (as per CDC Order) on school provided transportation.</li> <li>• Alternative face coverings may be provided upon request.</li> </ul>
<p>* Unless a mask mandate for indoors is declared by PDE/PaDoH/MCOPH, all district buildings will continue with a mask optional environment.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> CDC recommends that unvaccinated persons continue to wear masks while indoors.</p>		

AREA 2 - MODIFYING FACILITIES TO ALLOW FOR <u>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</u>		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Protocols for distancing student desks/seating and other social distancing practices classroom/learning space occupancy that allows for separation among students and staff throughout the day to the maximum extent feasible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 3' of physical distancing will be established in all learning environments to the extent feasible.</li> <li>• All student desks will be oriented to face the front of the classroom or arranged in cohorts/pods.</li> <li>• Use of locker room for Physical Education/athletics (7-12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms to facilitate a minimum 3 feet to the greatest extent feasible.</li> <li>• All student desks will be oriented to face the front of the classroom or arranged in cohorts/pods.</li> <li>• No use of locker room for Physical Education/athletics (7-12)</li> <li>• Special considerations for musical performing ensembles, vocal/singing in classroom spaces, and instrumental/choral music instruction may be implemented.</li> </ul>
Procedures for restricting the use of cafeterias/food consumption in classrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cafeteria seating will maximize spacing to the extent feasible.</li> <li>• An automated process will be used for student payment in the lunch line. Students will be required to sanitize their hands after they use the keypad.</li> <li>• Cleaning carts will be available in all spaces used for serving/eating lunch to facilitate cleaning hands and wiping down of surfaces in between lunch services.</li> <li>• Food consumption in classrooms may occur.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student seating will be staggered to avoid sitting directly across from one another.</li> <li>• Alternate spaces within the school have been identified and will be used to provide more space for students to socially distance during lunch periods.</li> <li>• Plastic dividers/separators will be used as needed.</li> <li>• An automated process will be used for student payment in the lunch line. Students will be required to sanitize their hands after they use the keypad.</li> <li>• Cleaning carts will be available in all spaces used for serving/eating lunch to facilitate cleaning hands and wiping down of surfaces in between lunch services.</li> <li>• Food consumption in classroom will be strictly limited.</li> </ul>

Methods of limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will practice safe social distancing, to the extent feasible, when moving throughout the buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students, to the extent feasible, will be self-contained in classrooms (K-6) unless receiving services, supports, or special area classes.</li> <li>Grades 7-12 will practice safe social distancing, to the extent feasible, when moving throughout the buildings (one way directional/alternating bell schedules)</li> </ul>
Procedures to limit the sharing of materials among students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will share materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will share materials and wash hands before and after use with Principal/Teacher considering limits on sharing where appropriate.</li> </ul>
Protocols for adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per CDC Order - Face masks will be required at all times while on the bus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may be seated two to a seat, may load the bus from back to front, and unload from front to back to the extent feasible.</li> <li>Siblings will be encouraged to share a seat.</li> <li>As per CDC Order - Face masks will be required at all times while on the bus.</li> </ul>
Procedure for events, assemblies, and volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor and outdoor events/assemblies can be scheduled to support student curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.</li> <li>Volunteers shall be used the greatest extent possible and will follow protocols that apply to district staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor events may continue as planned with indoor events/assemblies requiring Superintendent review and approval.</li> <li>Volunteers shall be limited to areas of necessity and subject to Principal review.</li> </ul>

AREA 3 - <u>HANDWASHING</u> AND <u>RESPIRATORY</u> ETIQUETTE		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Hygiene practices for students and staff which include the manner and frequency of hand-washing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily self- check</li> <li>Stay home when sick practice encouraged.</li> <li>Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.</li> </ul>	
Hygiene practices for students and staff which include respiratory etiquette	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.</li> <li>Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.</li> </ul> <p>The District will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for their disposal.</li> <li>Provide resources for performing hand hygiene in or near waiting areas.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide space and encourage symptomatic patients to sit as far away from others as possible.</li> </ul>
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AREA 4 - <u>CLEANING</u> AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING <u>VENTILATION</u>		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces and any other areas used by students (i.e. restrooms, hallways, and transportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District will utilize EPA approved disinfectants against COVID-19.</li> <li>• Use of water bottle filling stations will continue to be used.</li> <li>• All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized &amp; disinfected at least 1x/day 5 days per week per CDC Guidance.</li> <li>• All classrooms will be cleaned, sanitized &amp; disinfected at least 1x/day 5 days per week.</li> <li>• All bathrooms and locker rooms will be cleaned, sanitized &amp; disinfected at least 1x/day 5 days per week.</li> <li>• Day custodians will sanitize high touch areas at least once during the school day.</li> <li>• Disinfecting wipes will be provided to all occupied areas in each building.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in every classroom, building primary entrances and office areas.</li> <li>• Half Day Kindergarten classroom surfaces will be disinfected between AM/PM sessions</li> <li>• Increased outside air in all ventilation equipment.</li> <li>• To the extent feasible, the district will implement recommended CDC strategies.</li> <li>• O2 Prime Ionization units were installed in district school buildings to combat spread of COVID.</li> </ul>	

AREA 5 - <u>CONTACT TRACING</u> IN COMBINATION WITH <u>ISOLATION</u> AND <u>QUARANTINE</u> , IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact tracing will occur upon receipt of information related to a probable or confirmed positive case in alignment with MCOPH Health Code.</li> <li>• Administrators and school nurses will all engage in contact tracing and family notifications.</li> <li>• Additional Nursing staff will be contracted to support school nurses throughout the school year.</li> </ul>	
Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Probable or confirmed positive cases will be isolated as per MCOPH Health Code and CDC guidance.</li> <li>• In the instance that student is required to isolate/quarantine, teachers will send work home via Google Classroom or via other traditional means to support the continuity of instruction.</li> </ul>	

Quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close contacts may be quarantined as per MCOPH Health Code and CDC guidance.</li> <li>• A modified quarantine may be utilized if approved by MCOPH</li> <li>• “Test to stay” and “testing out of quarantine” protocols may be employed to minimize students’ time out of the building</li> <li>• In the instance that student is required to isolate/quarantine, teachers will send work home via Google Classroom or via other traditional means to support the continuity of instruction.</li> </ul>
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AREA 6 - <u>DIAGNOSTIC AND SCREENING TESTING</u>		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Self-monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff, students/parents/volunteers should continue to self-monitor, conduct daily self-screening and remain home if not feeling well.</li> </ul>	
Staff testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District plans to continue optional testing for interested staff members in conjunction with County/CHOP where and when available.</li> </ul>	
“Testing to stay”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District <u>may</u> implement a “test to stay” protocol based on MCOPH and CHOP support/guidance for staff and students. No testing will take place of students without consent of parents. This is a developing protocol that will provide assurances and limit instructional disruptions. The district will follow the MCOPH recommendations that include quarantine protocol until such time the test to stay protocol is available to County Schools and after proper communication parents/guardians.</li> </ul>	
Testing out of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District may implement a “testing out of quarantine” protocol based on MCOPH and CHOP support/guidance for staff and students to encourage staff and students to return to school in an expedient manner, minimizing disruptions. This would require testing from a third party, often a family physician. This has not been formally approved by the county. If and when it becomes an approved protocol, we will plan and communicate accordingly.</li> </ul>	

AREA 7 - EFFORTS TO PROVIDE <u>VACCINATIONS TO SCHOOL COMMUNITIES</u>		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
Vaccination information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District will continue to provide information on vaccination sites and availability through multiple means of communication.</li> </ul>	
Vaccination School Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should a need arise, the District may coordinate with local pharmacists to provide a strategic pop-up vaccination site.</li> </ul>	



AREA 8 - APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
In-person instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal attendance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a modified model is mandated, students with IEPs may have the opportunity to continue in-person learning based on their individual needs.</li> </ul>
Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regardless of instructional model or transmission rate, students with disabilities will be provided accommodations as needed to ensure access to a FAPE.</li> </ul>	

AREA 9 - COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS		
Item	Low/Moderate	Substantial
MCOPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The District will continue to work alongside MCOPH and receive updates in conjunction with MCIU superintendent meetings.</li> </ul>	
PDE/PaDoH/CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The District will continue to review guidance and make updates to best practices as needed.</li> </ul>	
Montgomery County Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The District will continue to foster communication and collaboration between Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and our district partners.</li> </ul>	

## Athletics and Activities

**Primary Point of Contact** - Dr. Paul Spiewak

This section covers Athletics and Activities

### General Considerations

While there continues to be a level of risk for contracting COVID-19 to individuals participating in athletics, everyone in attendance, athletes, spectators, coaches, etc., should be actively working towards decreasing the risk of transmission to others.

Students, coaches, game workers or spectators in attendance at an event (camp, clinic, practice, and contest) should be in good physical condition. Anyone feeling sick or experiencing Covid-19 symptoms must stay home and or seek appropriate medical attention. Please use the self-screening instrument found [here](#). Athletic and Activity programs, when approved for use by the Department of Health, may implement a test to stay/participate where student athletes in exchange for quarantine, would be able to test onsite and when confirmed negative, allow to return to play.

### Mitigation Protocol (masking/distancing/sanitization etc)

The district will use layered mitigation strategies based on requirements issued by the Montgomery County Department of Public Health/PIAA. The district will, whenever feasible, coordinate these mitigation strategies with schools in the Pioneer

Athletic Conference. Similar to mitigation strategies outlined for staff and students above, masking will be optional with distancing being more strictly enforced on sidelines, locker rooms and outside the field of play occurs to the greatest extent feasible in substantial community transmission phase. Other mitigation strategies may be imposed given mandates or other best practices from the County Department of Health, PDE, State Department of Health and PIAA. Furthermore, there may be instances in specific sports that these mitigation strategies may require modifications by sport and by position within a sport to ensure the health and safety of participants during participation. Such modifications will be consistent with league and PIAA recommendations.

#### **Contest Screening/Gathering Limitations:**

Spectators attending an event are asked to self-screen for COVID-19 related symptoms. Additional mitigation matters may be employed including masking and limited seating if mandated by the Montgomery County Department of Public Health. In substantial community transmission phase, spectator admission and capacity limitations may occur.

#### **Consideration for Coaches**

If mitigation strategies are necessary in substantial community transmission phase, the following may be employed:

- Workouts whenever feasible will be in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together.
- Keep accurate records of those participants and staff who attend each function in case contact tracing is needed.
- Coaches may have to limit game day squad sizes for social distancing purposes.
- Players should bring their own water bottle(s) and follow established guidelines for hydration.
- Coaches should emphasize the importance of social distancing, hydration and hygiene with their participants.
- The district, based on Montgomery County DOPH and CHOP, may make available a test to participate option to provide for a safe environment while limiting player and team disruptions. No such testing of students will occur without parental permission.

#### **Positive Case or Close Contact of COVID-19**

All participants must follow their school’s health and safety plan guidelines with regards to a positive case or close contact of COVID-19. Exclusions from activities, practices etc., will be based on the county health department acceptance at that time.

## Pandemic Team

The pandemic Team meets monthly or as needed to review matters of health and safety with regards to students and staff.

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented
David Zerbe (Coordinator)	District Administration
Susan Angstadt	Pupil Services
Che Regina	Assistant Superintendent
Tara Ricci	Professional Development
Robert Jones	District Facilities
Kim Aubrey-Larcinese	School Board President
Sandy Katz	Students
Colleen Heidel-Butler	Support Employees
Christopher Lloyd	Professional Employees
Derick DeNardo	Teamsters Employees
Katie Shireman	Home and School
Cheryl Peiffer	School Nursing Health Services (Sec)
Annette Cramer	School Nursing Health Services (Elm)
Kelley Harmer	Elementary Staff and Students
John Smink	Secondary Staff and Students

## Health and Safety Plan

### Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on JULY 27, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8      Yes Votes  
0      No Votes  
1      Member Absent

Affirmed on: JULY 27, 2021

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Board President)

Kim Aubrey-Larcinese  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.