

APPROVED BY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS 7/27/2021

REVISION APPROVED BY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS 8/10/2021

REVISIONS AS PER ACTING SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE AFFIRMED 4/26/22



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 community transmission levels as per the CDC Data Tool.
- 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 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.

**** 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. When changes to the CDC guidance occurs that is not congruent with the established Health and Safety Plan, and in concurrence with the School Board President, the Superintendent can issue notice of change to the plan and associated mitigation matters and have the plan retroactively approved by the Board at the next voting meeting of the

Board.

- The DISTRICT will provide a status notification on its website to inform students, staff, and the community on community transmission level status. The Superintendent will notify families when the community transmission level reaches high status.
- 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 CDC Community Levels transmission guide.

New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Per CDC's Community Levels

Low: No Recommendations

Medium: If immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease individuals should talk to your healthcare provider about whether they need to wear a mask

High: Wear a well fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K 12 schools and other indoor community Settings)

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#) (data tool) are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area.

- THE DISTRICT will monitor the community level transmission via the CDC data tool and when the data tool indicates that the county is in the high level for two consecutive weeks, the Superintendent will convene a Pandemic Team meeting to determine a need for mitigation recommendations and will notify the Board and present such recommendations to the Board at the earliest reasonable voting meeting.
- THE DISTRICT has adopted the following Layered Mitigation strategies:
 - Indoor masking when required
 - Daily Self-Screening
 - 3' Distancing whenever feasible
 - Use of plastic dividers/separators where appropriate
 - Cohort in Pods
 - Ventilation Improvements
 - Handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes
 - Stay Home if feeling ill practice
 - Regular cleaning/spraying of high touch areas

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 A1 – OPTIONAL MASKING

On February 25, 2022, the CDC issued new guidance on masking in schools. This guidance recommends masking indoors for schools that are in counties with “High” level of transmission. Transmission levels of “Low” and “Medium” do not have the masking recommendations.

MASK Optional Environment applies to this plan as of 2/26/2022 for all Methacton Schools, transportation, athletics, visitors, and use of facilities.

AREA 1 - UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT WEARING OF MASKS – When adopted by the Board following 2 consecutive weeks of high community transmission and recommendation of the Pandemic Team

Item	High	
<p><i>If/When Approved</i></p> <p>Staff/Students/Visitors: Guidelines on the use of face masks*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masks will be required for staff/students/visitors when indoors ● Masks are required for Drivers/Adults (as per CDC Order) on school provided transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal MASKING INDOORS for all persons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Optional masking outdoors (recess, parking lots etc.) ○ Optional masking for outdoor athletics and events ○ Masking required for indoor athletics and events ○ Optional masking for use of facilities groups (outside groups) ○ Exceptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accommodations in IEP/504 Plan ■ Eating and drinking ■ When in a classroom/space/office where it is singularly occupied

AREA 2 - MODIFYING FACILITIES TO ALLOW FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Item	Low/Medium	High
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"> A minimum of 3' of physical distancing will be established in all learning environments to the extent feasible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms to facilitate a maximum distance to the greatest extent feasible. Special considerations for musical performing ensembles, vocal/singing in classroom spaces, and instrumental/choral music instruction may be implemented.
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"> Students will practice safe social distancing, to the extent feasible, when moving throughout the buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will practice safe social distancing, to the extent feasible, when moving throughout the buildings.
Procedures to limit the sharing of materials among students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will share materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will share materials and wash hands before and after use with Principal/Teacher considering limits on sharing where appropriate.
Protocols for adjusting transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt CDC Order when issued
Procedure for events, assemblies, and volunteers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor events may continue as planned with indoor events/assemblies requiring Superintendent review and approval.
Procedures for restricting the use of cafeterias/food consumption in classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student seating will be staggered to avoid sitting directly across from one another. Alternate spaces within the school have been identified and will be used to provide more space for students to socially distance during lunch periods. Plastic dividers/separators will be used as requested. 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. 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. Food consumption in classroom will be limited. 	

AREA 3 - HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Item	Low/Moderate	High
Hygiene practices for students and staff which include the manner and frequency of hand-washing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily self- check • Stay home when sick practice encouraged. • Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. 	
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"> • Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. • Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose. <p>The District will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for their disposal. • Provide resources for performing hand hygiene in or near waiting areas. • Provide space and encourage symptomatic patients to sit as far away from others as possible. 	

AREA 4 - CLEANING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY FACILITIES, INCLUDING IMPROVING VENTILATION

Item	Low/Moderate	High
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"> • The District will utilize EPA approved disinfectants against COVID-19. • Use of water bottle filling stations will continue to be recommended with all water fountains returning to regular operation. • All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized & disinfected at least 1x/day 5 days per week per CDC Guidance. • All classrooms will be cleaned, sanitized & disinfected at least 1x/day 5 days per week. • All bathrooms and locker rooms will be cleaned, sanitized & disinfected at least 1x/day 5 days per week. • Day custodians will sanitize high touch areas at least once during the school day. • Disinfecting wipes will be provided to all occupied areas in each building. • Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in every classroom, building primary entrances and office areas. • Half Day Kindergarten classroom surfaces will be disinfected between AM/PM sessions • Increased outside air in all ventilation equipment. • To the extent feasible, the district will implement recommended CDC strategies. • O2 Prime Ionization units were installed in district 	

	school buildings to combat spread of COVID.
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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	High
Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District will follow the Montgomery County DOPH Contact tracing protocol. Contact tracing will occur upon receipt of information related to a probable or confirmed positive case in alignment with MCOPH Health Code. Administrators and school nurses will all engage in contact tracing and family notifications. Additional Nursing staff will be contracted to support school nurses throughout the school year. 	
Isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probable or confirmed positive cases will be isolated as per MCOPH Health Code. 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. 	
Quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close contacts may be quarantined as per MCOPH Health Code. A modified quarantine may be utilized if approved by MCOPH. 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. 	

AREA 6 - <u>DIAGNOSTIC</u> AND SCREENING TESTING		
Item	Low/Moderate	High
Self-monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff, students/parents/volunteers should continue to self-monitor, conduct daily self-screening and remain home if not feeling well. 	
Staff testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District will provide optional testing for interested staff members during High community transmission in conjunction with County/CHOP where and when available. 	
"Testing to stay and Mask to stay"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District <u>may</u> implement a "test to stay and Mask to Stay protocols based on MCOPH and CHOP support/guidance and with input from nursing department and the Pandemic Team. No testing will take place of students without consent of parents. The district will follow the MCOPH recommendations that include quarantine protocol until such time the test to stay/mask to stay protocol is implemented. 	

AREA 7 - EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VACCINATIONS TO SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Item	Low/Moderate	High
Vaccination information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The District will continue to provide information on vaccination sites and availability through multiple means of communication.	
Vaccination School Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Should a need arise, the District may coordinate with local pharmacists to provide a strategic pop-up vaccination site.	

AREA 8 - APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES

Item	Low/Moderate	High
In-person instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Normal attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a modified model is mandated, students with IEPs may have the opportunity to continue in-person learning based on their individual needs.
Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regardless of instructional model or transmission level, students with disabilities will be provided accommodations as needed to ensure access to a FAPE.	

AREA 9 - COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

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

Athletics and Activities

Primary Point of Contact - Dr. Paul Spiewak

This section covers Athletics and Activities

NOTE: All mitigation strategies for athletics and activities will be consistent with the district's health and safety plan and where appropriate differentiate to best provide safety of the athlete during competition and with respects to protection against COVID. Below are the mitigation strategies with which we will employ when the district shifts to mitigation during high community transmission level.

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 the District's Health and Safety Plan.

- When required universal masking for INDOOR athletics for all persons, coaches, spectators, visitors, referees, and athletes.
- Optional masking for outdoor athletics and events for all persons

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
Dr. David Zerbe (Coordinator)	District Administration
Dr. Susan Angstadt	Pupil Services
Ché Regina	Assistant Superintendent
Tara Ricci	Professional Development
Robert Jones	District Facilities
Sandy Katz	Students
Colleen Heidel-Butler	Support Employees
Christopher Lloyd	Professional Employees
Derick DeNardo	Teamsters Employees
Katie Shireman	Home and School
Cheryl Peiffer	TEMP -School Nursing
Annette Cramer	School Nursing Health Services (Elem.)
Kelley Harmer	Elementary Staff and Students
John Smink	Secondary Staff and Students

Health and Safety Plan

Governing Body Affirmation Statement

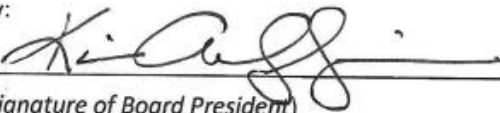
The Board of Directors/Trustees for METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on JULY 27, 2021.

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.

Health and Safety Plan

Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT reviewed and approved the REVISION to the Health and Safety Plan on August 10, 2021.


The plan was approved by a vote of:

7 Yes

1 No

Affirmed on: 8/10/2021

By:


(Signature of Board President)

Kim Aubrey-Larcinese
(Print Name of Board President)

Governing Body Affirmation


The Board of Directors/Trustees for Methacton School District reviewed and approved the revision to the
Health and Safety Plan on April 26, 2022

REVISION APPROVED BY A VOTE OF:

8 YES

0 NO

Affirmed on April 26, 2022


Signature of Board President

Elizabeth Drummond
Print Name of Board President