



## 2021-2022 Health and Safety Summary

### Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania School Programs

**Date of Last Review and Revised: 5/6/2022**

**6/27/2022**

Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania School students will attend school daily in a traditional school setting with Covid-19 safety measures in place. We want our families to know that we are committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff. We will continue to take steps to prevent and mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our schools by adhering to current state and local mandates and recommendations. The purpose of this document is to inform the community that students and staff will return to a traditional learning model with the following plans to maintain a healthy and safe environment. This plan is also subject to change in response to any future health and safety needs that may arise throughout the year.

- 1. How the LEA will, to 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*

Starting with the 2021-2022 school year Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania school students will attend in-school instruction Monday through Friday with safety measures in place. We will continue to take steps to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our schools by following the guidance of CDC and our state and local health officials. During the 2020-2021 school year, many changes were made and implemented in the cleaning and sanitation protocols to disinfect our schools throughout the day. These enhancements will remain in effect and are described below.

Additionally, Easterseals will monitor the COVID-19 risk level in the surrounding areas and adjust plans when necessary to ensure safety. At this time we are confident that we can safely continue to provide traditional, daily, in-person learning while following all safety and health guidelines to the maximum extent feasible. The schools will also

follow recommendations to isolate students who may present symptoms of the virus and follow contact tracing procedures when necessary.

2. *How the LEA will 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;*

Easterseals school will ensure continuity of services for all students through a daily, traditional in-person learning model. Should a need to quarantine a classroom occur due to a reported confirmed exposure to COVID, the classroom will convert to remote learning through Google Classroom and instructional packets will be sent home for instruction during this quarantine period. All students will receive testing at the beginning of the school year to establish baseline information and student progress will be monitored to address academic needs of the students.

### Health Screenings and Needs

The first line of defense in keeping our school environments healthy begins at home. Families are asked to continue to monitor their child for symptoms of illness.

- Parents/guardians should report to the school nurse/site coordinator any COVID-19 exposure.
- Each school site has a designated area for isolating a student who becomes sick at school.
- Parents/guardians will be called to pick up their child who is experiencing symptoms.
- Contact tracing protocols will remain in place. Contact tracing of individuals with COVID-19 will be discussed with the family, county and state department when appropriate.
- Students who must be quarantined due to contact tracing will have school instruction through remote learning using Google Classroom.

### Monitoring COVID-19 Risk

Most students with special needs have a challenging time learning through on-line learning so Easterseals will make every effort to keep our schools open to provide in-person learning. We do, however, recognize that this could change should community risk levels increase to a point where it is no longer safe to provide in-person learning. Should the need to shift to a remote environment, families will be informed about the nature of the instructional model containing all the necessary details.

3. *How the LEA will 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 CDD:*

<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p><b>As of August 26, 2021 masks are required for all staff regardless of vaccination status. (Revised 5/6/2022: Staff masks are optional)</b></p> <p><b>Masks are optional for our students due to the severity of their special education needs and compounding medical issues.</b></p> <p><b>Mask needs to cover nose, mouth and chin and should be snug to the face.</b></p> <p><b>Cloth and disposable masks are acceptable.</b></p>
<p>b. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p><b>Social distancing will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.</b></p> <p><b>3 foot distancing as often as possible.</b></p> <p><b>Learning centers in the classroom will be limited to 2 students at a time, while maintaining a social distance.</b></p> <p><b>Staggered bus loading and unloading. Use of intercom devices to announce bus arrivals.</b></p> <p><b>6-8 students per classroom with average classroom enrollment at 4-6 students.</b></p> <p><b>Classroom groups will have no interaction with other classroom groups in the building.</b></p> <p><b>Support staff will provide services to one classroom per day to eliminate interactions between classrooms.</b></p> <p><b>Visual reminders for social distancing are posted within the schools in key areas.</b></p> <p><b>Classroom visitors are limited to specialists as outlined in child’s IEP or grant (i.e., vision, hearing and music specialists). Any visitor must wear a mask and follow all safety protocols.</b></p>

<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</p>	<p><b>Students and staff are required to wash hands upon arrival, before food preparation, before and after lunch, after toilet use, after outside, when hands are in contact with body fluids.</b></p> <p><b>School nurses provide ongoing training to staff on best practices for wellness and personal hygiene.</b></p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.</p>	<p><b>Staff will continue to clean all areas daily with disinfectant that has been approved for school buildings and COVID-19.</b></p> <p><b>Commonly touches surfaces such as handrails, door handles will be sanitized regularly each day.</b></p> <p><b>After students leave for the day the school buildings are cleaned thoroughly.</b></p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with State and Local health departments.</p>	<p><b>Each school site has an isolation area for holding if a student becomes ill at school. This area is separate from the classrooms.</b></p> <p><b>Parents/Guardians will be called to pick up a student that is experiencing symptoms.</b></p> <p><b>Contact tracing of individuals with COVID-19 will be discussed with the family, county and state health department when appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>Easterseals will communicate with the family throughout exposure.</b></p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and Screening testing.</p>	<p><b>Parents/Guardians and staff should monitor their temperatures and physical wellness each day before coming to school or work. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or above should not be allowed in the school.</b></p> <p><b>Student's temperatures will be taken upon arrival at school.</b></p> <p><b>All must report to the school nurse or site coordinator any possible COVID-19 exposure.</b></p> <p><b>People fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.</b></p>

	<p><b>Children and unvaccinated staff who had close contact with someone who has (suspected or confirmed) COVID-19 should stay home (quarantine) for 5 after the last exposure to that person. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period.</b></p> <p><b>Quarantine of a child or staff member due to a school-based exposure can be shortened if an individual remains asymptomatic for at least 5 days. Extended home quarantines will be permitted upon parent request or preference.</b></p> <p><b>Symptomatic individual/child with test positive to COVID-19 must stay home for 5 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms. If child or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, call local or state health department for further instructions.</b></p> <p><b>An infected individual/child must submit a negative testing report (In-Home Test Results accepted) or report from their doctor stating that they are healthy and can return to work/school after appropriate quarantine.</b></p> <p><b>Symptomatic individual/child not tested must stay home for 5 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms. It is highly suggested a parent contact their child’s pediatrician for additional guidance.</b></p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p><b>Easterseals has already participated in a vaccination clinic in Spring of 2021. Future vaccination clinics may be held for school communities as needed. There are many local pharmacies, doctor’s offices and health clinics that currently offer the COVID-19 vaccine to all who are eligible.</b></p>

h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<b>As all students enrolled in our Easterseals programs are children with disabilities we will continue to monitor and make appropriate accommodations through the IEP review and revision processes.</b>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<b>Easterseals management and school nurses keep abreast of information that is shared from state and local health officials and are regularly involved in communications and planning with regard to ensuring that the recommended protocols are followed, or the health and safety plan needs revised.</b>

### **Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement**

**The Board of Directors/Trustees for Easterseals Western and Central Pennsylvania reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 17, 2021.**

**The plan was approved by a vote of:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

**Affirmed on: August 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 needed.**