



Frequently Asked Questions 2021-2022 School Year

Health and Safety:

- **What is Annville-Cleona School District’s (ACSD) stance on mitigation efforts?**
 - For the 2021-2022 school year, ACSD will continue to monitor the ever-changing and applicable requirements and guidelines from the PA Department of Education (PDE), the PA Department of Health (DOH), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that are effective on or after July 30, 2021. If there are any changes or revisions to mandates, we will follow them, and update the plan accordingly.

- **Will there be changes to the ACSD Health and Safety Plan?**
 - As the guidelines and mandates for the COVID-19 are updated on a regular basis, so will be the ACSD Health and Safety Plan. It is our expectation that we will stay current with the mandates from our local and federal agencies (PDE, DOH and CDC) as new information becomes available.
 - Minimally, PDE requires districts to revisit the Health and Safety Plan every 6 months.
 - ACSD will continue to consult with our District Physicians and District Solicitor throughout this school year.
 - Mitigation strategies will be communicated with all stakeholders to ensure the health and safety of our community.

- **What is the difference between a mandate, guideline, and recommendation?**

Mandate	Guidelines	Recommendation
A law and a mandate have the same power to be enforced. A mandate is made by the Governor, with the power given to them by the legislature in a state of emergency.	A general rule or piece of advice.	A suggestion or proposal as to the best course of action, especially one put forward by the Department of Health (DOH) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Examples of Mandates	Examples of Guidelines	Examples of Recommendations
● On March 19, 2020, the Governor <u>ordered</u> all Commonwealth businesses	● The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provide <u>guidance</u> for COVID-19	● As of July 9, 2021, the CDC <u>recommends</u> masks indoors for those who are not fully vaccinated.



<p>that were not life sustaining to close.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● On April 15, 2020, the Governor <u>required</u> mitigation measures to be applied at businesses permitted to engage in in-person operations, including a requirement that all customers wear masks.● On June 28, 2021, the Department of Health lifted the Universal Masking <u>order</u> but urged Pennsylvanians to follow mask-wearing guidance where required	<p>Prevention in K-12 schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has provided COVID-19 <u>guidance</u> for schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● As of July 9, 2021, the CDC <u>recommends</u> maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms● As of July 9, 2021, the CDC <u>recommends</u> that schools consider screening for those participating in sports who are not fully vaccinated.
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- **Will ACSD students be required to wear masks or face coverings for the 2021-2022 school year?**
 - Face coverings and masks are optional since the Governor's masking order expired on June 28, 2021. Unless there is a state or federal order or mandate, face coverings will remain optional for the 2021-2022 school year in our school buildings and facilities.
- **What if my child wears a mask, will they be separated from unmasked students?**
 - At this time, we are planning to provide students who are choosing to wear masks a safe space in each classroom in order to provide them with an optimally safe environment (i.e. around other students who choose to wear masks, etc.). As we evaluate classroom numbers and students who are willing to wear masks throughout the school day, we may be able to develop classrooms that are masks only. Again, this will depend on the number of students that are willing to wear masks and at this point is not a certainty.
- **Will students/staff be required to quarantine, isolate, and/or get tested?**
 - Students, teachers, and staff should **stay home** when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.



- Please reference the “[ACSD Vaccinated/Unvaccinated Flow Chart](#)” that will act as our guideline in determining how to address various exposure scenarios.
- **What prevention strategies will ACSD be implementing?**
 - The CDC emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households. Since we serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time, ACSD will be implementing layered prevention and mitigation strategies to keep our schools safe including:
 - Continued at-home health screenings; stay home when sick and get tested
 - Increased Ventilation - installation of bipolar ionization in all District buildings
 - Physical distancing - spacing students out in rows as much as possible so they are facing forward
 - Handwashing/Respiratory Etiquette - continued encouragement
 - Contact tracing
 - Cleaning and disinfection - access to appropriate cleaning/disinfectants, daily cleaning, increased cleaning when conditions require
- **Will student lunches, recess, and other activities in school return to normal?**
 - It is the goal of the ACSD to return students to typical school day activities to the greatest extent feasible as required by PDE and DOH mandates.
- **Will I be able to attend Open House and Parent-Teacher Conferences in person?**
 - It is the goal of the ACSD to provide various options for parents and students regarding the various parent meetings that will be held throughout the school year. Parents will have the option of attending in person or virtually to a host of different activities.

Vaccination:

- **Will ACSD require proof of vaccination?**
 - Parents, students and staff members will not be required to verify that they have been vaccinated unless they are being asked to quarantine and wish to do so for a shorter period of time with proof of vaccination.
 - The District will continue to provide information to parents and staff about the availability of vaccinations through local healthcare providers.



- **Will there be different procedures for Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated staff/students?**
 - Please reference the “[ACSD Vaccinated/Unvaccinated Flow Chart](#)”.

Instruction:

- **What instructional options will be offered for the 2021-2022 school year?**
 - Per the CDC, students benefit from in-person learning therefore safely returning to in-person instruction in the Fall 2021 is a priority. Therefore, for the 2021-2022 school year, families will have the option of selecting from two learning options:
 - **In-Person** - students in grades K-12 will be provided in-person learning five days per week.
 - **Annville-Cleona Digital Community (A-C~DC)** - students in grades K-12 electing an online learning model will be enrolled in the district's ACDC program.
 - Parents who are interested in this option for their student(s) should contact Mr. Tommy Long at TLong@acschools.org.
- **Could there be any shifts to virtual instruction? If so, are we prepared to go fully virtual (in case)?**
 - Changes in mandates from PDE and the PA DoH could require an instructional shift.
 - If the District experiences a significant outbreak of COVID-19 cases in the school community, there could be an instructional shift to a different instructional format (ie. fully virtual).
 - We will be working with our staff and students to ensure the seamless transition from in-person instruction to virtual instruction using the same platforms as were utilized last year (i.e. Zoom, Schoology, SeeSaw, etc.).
- **What happens to a student’s instruction if they are quarantined?**
 - Asynchronous work will be provided for the students to complete.
 - As needed, an instructor will be identified (most likely will be the student’s classroom teacher) to check in with the student up to 1 hour per day and up to 5 hours per week in order to assist students in understanding the asynchronous materials.



- **Attendance Procedures for Quarantine Students**
 - Building administrators will work with individual students and families who are required to quarantine because of exposure or potential exposure to ensure the minimal impact on attendance procedures.