



## Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Independence Charter School West**

**Initial Effective Date: July 30, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**Date of Last Revision: Thursday, November 12, 2020**

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 in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?
  - Independence Charter School West (ICS West) will open the 2021-22 school year with full in-person instruction for our 800 students on September 7, 2021. Since the initial Covid school closure in March of 2020, we have based all of our operational decisions on the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC, and that will continue throughout the 21-22 school year. Based on the current rate of Covid transmission, the rising percentage of vaccine-eligible citizens becoming vaccinated, and the CDC's guidance on masking and 3 ft. of social distancing, it is our strong belief that in-person instruction will not only be safe, but also in the best interest of our school community. Our leadership team will continue to monitor all of these factors, and if these factors were to shift toward indication of a less-safe school environment, coupled with guidance from the CDC recommending a shift to remote instruction, we would then shift from in-person to remote instruction, relying on the remote program created and implemented by our team in the 20-21 school year.
  
2. 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?
  - As we are planning to open the 2021-22 school with full in-person instruction, our ability to provide for the academic and social/emotional needs of our students and team will be at pre-Covid-closure levels of efficacy. We will be

operating at full staff capacity for all academic and social/emotional programming, with no limitations. We will also resume full implementation of our school breakfast and lunch programs, making these meals available to all students in our school. Our full-time school nurse will also be present daily to monitor and facilitate student health. In the event of a school closure recommended by the CDC, we would immediately institute our full remote instruction plan, created and implemented by our team in the 20-21 school year. This plan includes our complete staff, including all members of our social/emotional support staff, continuing all counseling and support services.

3. Use the table below to explain 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 CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p>Though the City of Philadelphia has relaxed mask requirements, ICS West will mandate correct mask-wearing for all members of our school community when on our campus. Until the percentage of fully vaccinated community members exceeds a threshold recommended by the CDC, we believe that remaining fully masked is a foundational element to maintaining the safety of our students and team. Students will have scheduled mask breaks throughout the school day, and will also be permitted to remove masks while eating/drinking, at the appropriately scheduled times. Team members will be able to remove masks while working on their own, in their own dedicated work space. All students riding a school bus will be masked while on the bus. All members of our community will be provided with masks as needed, purchased by the school. Finally, any visitor to our school will be required to wear a mask to gain entry.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>We are fortunate to be able to operate our in-person instructional program at full, pre-Covid capacity due to the size of our classroom spaces. Based on the CDC's recommendation of 3 ft. of distance between students, our smallest classroom will still allow for a teacher and a class of</p>

	<p>25 students, which is our normal class size. Most of our rooms allow for even bigger classes. Non-essential furniture has been removed from all rooms, and desks will all face front and be in rows to optimize distancing. Our cafeteria is large enough to accommodate a full grade level of students at 3 ft. of distance. Finally, we will monitor the HVAC system in all of our classroom and operational spaces for cubic feet per minute (CFM) of airflow, and immediately repair any that fall below 100% of design.</p> <p>As we did in our return to in-person instruction this past spring, we will keep students in pods that stay in the same rooms daily to prevent unnecessary interaction between members of our school community. We will also schedule all transitions between spaces (classroom to cafeteria/recess, student arrival/dismissal) to ensure that pods move swiftly through hallways without creating an overload for any particular space.</p>
<p>c. <a href="#"><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></a></p>	<p>As mentioned above, all members of our school community will be correctly masked at all times, with the exception of scheduled mask breaks and eating/drinking, when coughing/sneezing into one's elbow will be taught and reinforced. When using restrooms, students will be taught to wash hands for 20 seconds. Finally, we have installed automated hand sanitizer stations throughout our entire facility, including inside and outside of every classroom, and in every transitional space.</p>
<p>d. <a href="#"><u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></a></p>	<p>Our cleaning team currently cleans our entire facility multiple times daily, on a schedule, with an emphasis on high-touch areas such as door handles and railings. All classroom and office spaces are cleaned nightly, again with an emphasis on high-touch areas, especially student desks. All hydration stations have had the water fountain locked, and only the touchless system for filling water bottles will be used. Finally, as mentioned above, we will monitor the HVAC system</p>

	in all of our classroom and operational spaces for cubic feet per minute (CFM) of airflow, and immediately repair any that fall below 100% of design.
e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b>	As we did during our return to in-person instruction this past spring, we adhere completely to all recommendations from the CDC and Philadelphia Department of Public Health with regard to procedures in the event of symptoms/possible exposure/positive test result. Contact tracing in such situations is manageable due to the maintenance of our pods and appropriate social distancing. We utilize the CDC's definition of "close contact" (being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for 15 total minutes or more in a 24 hour span) for contact tracing. Any member of our community who tests positive, as well as any close contacts, will quarantine according to the PDPH guidelines, with the exception of those who are fully vaccinated. Finally, all members of our school community (including parents on behalf of students) will self-monitor for symptoms of Covid, and will remain home if symptoms are present. All members of our team have access to additional Covid sick leave as provided by the City of Philadelphia.
f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</b>	ICS West has been offering opt-in Covid screening testing on a weekly basis since our return to in-person instruction in April, 2021. This testing will continue in the 21-22 school year. Our program utilizes saliva samples, and samples are pooled for testing by our contracted provider. We are able to notify school community members of a possible positive test result within 2-3 days of their sample being collected, so that they can then get a diagnostic test.
g. <b>Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b>	ICS West is working with Walgreens to coordinate vaccination events for our school community throughout the fall of the 21-22 school year.
h. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b>	As we are planning to open the 2021-22 school with full in-person instruction, our ability to provide for the academic and social/emotional needs of our students

	<p>with disabilities will be at pre-Covid-closure levels of efficacy. We will be operating at full staff capacity for all academic, support, and clinical programming, with no limitations. All students with disabilities will be supported on an individual level to be able to manage our safety protocols in ways that work for them, in partnership with parents.</p>
<p>i. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>ICS West maintains clear lines of communication with the PA Department of Education (PDE), the PA Department of Health (PDH), the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), and the Charter School Office (CSO) of the School District of Philadelphia, ensuring that we have the most current information/guidelines/recommendations necessary to operate in a way that maximizes the safety and success of our school community.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Independence Charter School West** approves this Health and Safety Plan on **August 5, 2021**, after originally affirming the plan on 7/30/21.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

**7 Yes**

**0 No**

Affirmed on: **August 5, 2021**

By:

DocuSigned by:  
  
BB8A621AC060420...

---

*(Signature\* of Board President)*

8/9/2021

---

*(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.