



# Upper Bucks County Technical School

Serving: Palisades, Pennridge, and Quakertown

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## **Health and Safety Plan Summary:** **Upper Bucks County Technical School**

**Initial Effective Date: August 21, 2020**

**Date of Last Review and Revision: June 17, 2021**

**Date this plan will take effect: July 1, 2021**

**Introduction:** School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic; the exceptions will be fully described within this document. Upper Bucks County Technical School was open all year for in person instruction, for five days a week, during the 2020-2021 school year. This plan reflects those components we will keep in place to promote general health and safety for all students, employees and visitors as well as remaining compliant with national, state and local health guidance.

**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?**

This plan will continually be monitored to include updated CDC and Bucks County Department of Health (BCDH) recommendations. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary at the administrative level by the school's Health and Safety Planning team as well as the building level teams. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, staff and the greater school community.

**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?**

Our methods for educational delivery for the 2021-22 school year will be:

1. Instruction will resume on August 30, 2021 on a normal, Monday through Friday schedule.
2. The following options will be available to families:
  - A. Face to face, in classroom instruction
  - B. Homeschool/face to face (this option has long been available to our homeschool families)

To adequately assess our staffing needs to provide these options, a survey was issued to parents/guardians who opted for a virtual setting in the previous school year or have newly registered students to determine if their child(ren) will be joining us for face-to-face instruction.

Student medical issues which require a temporary leave from school will be addressed on a case by case basis to determine appropriate instructional alternatives to continue the student's education in consideration of information provided by the student's health care provider, parent/guardians, principal and counselor, and IEP team, if applicable.

To address the issue of mental health concerns for our students and staff, the following measures will be in place for the 2021-22 school year:

1. A licensed professional counselor (LPC) provided by IU, in addition to the 2 building school counselors, are available to provide mental health support for students and connect families with services
2. Staff will be routinely reminded of how to access the district Employee Assistance Program
3. Teacher support group developed last year will continue
4. Professional development options will continue that support mental health/stress reduction
5. Behavioral health supports will also be added through a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

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.

<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>The Governor's Universal Masking Order is set to expire prior to July 1, 2021.</p> <p>If and when the Order is lifted, masks will be optional for all that choose to wear them while on Upper Bucks County Technical School property or participating in School sponsored events.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize distancing where feasible.</li> </ul>

<p>distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be taken outdoors as often as possible</li> <li>• Building faculty meetings, full administrative team meetings, and professional development activities will occur in person unless designated as virtual by the meeting coordinator.</li> </ul>
<p>c.Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items.</li> <li>• Proper hand washing technique signs will be posted in all bathrooms and sinks</li> </ul>
<p>d.Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All high-touch surfaces cleaned/disinfected by custodial crew daily (water fountains, door handles, desks, light switches, etc.) following posted EPA/CDC/manufacturer guidelines.</li> <li>• Clean desks on a frequent basis (soap and water for students/cleaning solution for faculty/staff).</li> <li>• Students and staff should sanitize/wash hands on a frequent basis. (Make hand sanitizer available in common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available).</li> <li>• PE equipment will be cleaned daily with Disinfectant spraying</li> <li>• All Water fountains have been replaced with no touch fountains, faculty/staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home and use filling stations.</li> <li>• Personal cloth furniture and area rugs will remain out of the classrooms for an additional year to promote distancing in classrooms.</li> <li>• Ventilate all classrooms and common areas when available/possible using windows. Use an air circulation path that pushes inside air towards open windows. Doors and windows will be open to the maximum extent feasible (doors locked propped in case we need to lockdown classrooms quickly).</li> <li>• When the AC is running - doors and windows will be closed. Exterior doors will remain locked. Quarterly Changes will occur to maximize air flow.</li> </ul>

<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use strategies similar to those used with influenza, other infectious diseases in the event of a confirmed case of COVID 19.</li> </ul>
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<p>State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and employees are encouraged to report positive cases of COVID 19 to the health care specialist</li> <li>• Consult with the Bucks County Health Department on decisions impacting the closure of classrooms, schools, or the district.</li> <li>• Although the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine are not required for school attendance or employment, it is highly encouraged for all students and staff to get the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine.</li> </ul>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p> <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians) on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at home before sending children to school and/or reporting to work.</li> <li>• The health care specialist or designated employee will evaluate any individual who presents with symptoms.</li> <li>• School health care specialist medical record tracking system currently in place for students will be used to monitor symptoms/exposure history for all employees including the tracking of vaccinations.</li> <li>• Emergency contacts must be up to date. A symptomatic student must be picked up within an hour and will not be sent home on the bus.</li> <li>• Continue to work with BCDH to provide opportunities for students and community members to receive vaccinations</li> <li>• District communications vehicles will be used to distribute information regarding vaccination clinics and designated hours.</li> </ul>

<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTE Supervisor, IEP case managers, school health care specialist, principal and counselors will work with families to develop a student-specific education plan for students with complex needs.</li> <li>• The district will also collaborate with BCIU and other education providers to coordinate plans for students with complex needs.</li> </ul>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular communication will continue with the Bucks County Department of Health to confirm updated guidance from the CDC and other health officials.</li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Joint Operating Committee reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 17, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes 9

No 0

Affirmed on: **June 17, 2021**

By:



(Signature\* of JOC Chairperson)

James Hallowell

(Print Name of JOC Chairperson)

