



Athens Area School District

Health and Safety Plan

2020-2021

School Year

AASD PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- Health and Safety Plan
- Phased School Reopening
- Anticipated Launch Date
- Student First Day

AASD PLAN REQUIREMENTS

PA Department of Education and Department of Health Guidelines:

- All Pre-K to 12 schools are required to develop Health & Safety Plans prior to returning students to school buildings and resuming in-person instruction.
- In developing these plans, Pre-K to 12 schools must to consider the safety and health of all adult staff, in addition to students, as well as balance the educational imperative to open schools to in-person instruction.

Tonight's Board resolution is to accept and adopt the plan with all options to prepare for the upcoming school year

AASD PLAN REQUIREMENTS

All family and community members should be mindful that as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that a school can adopt that will completely eliminate the risk of transmission within a school setting. Our goal is to implement as many safety precautions for faculty, staff and students that keep transmission as low as possible and to continue to educate our students. The district's Health and Safety Plan implements recommendations and guidance provided by:

- Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Pennsylvania Department of Health
- Centers for Disease Control
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- Intermediate Unit 17
- The Guthrie Healthcare System
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Collaboration and Cooperation of our families, students, and staff will be critical to provide a safe and healthy education for our students.

AASD Plan Requirements

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (PDE) have issued public health guidance to assist Pre-K to 12 schools in developing and implementing Health and Safety Plans. The complete list of guidelines can be found at -[PDE Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#)

- *Within the plan the district should offer flexible options and provide alternative learning plans that meet local conditions throughout the year.*
- *The district must monitor both the county and state level COVID-19 infection rates and respond quickly to any community breakout of the virus, which may require the district's plan to change*
- *The plan is a living document and will change when guidance and recommendations change or local conditions change.*

AASD Plan Requirements

PDE Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools. Provides guidance across broad and specific topics- See chart

- *Social Distancing*
- *Face Coverings*
- *Busing and Transportation*
- *Meals and Cafeterias*
- *Visitors, Gatherings, Events*
- *Symptom Monitoring*

Changes may Occur

Flexibility is a Must

- Depending upon the public health conditions in the county, the district's plan needs to be flexible, adaptable, and change with new developments. It should be expected that there may be a cycling back and forth throughout the school year between less restrictive to more restrictive designations as public health indicators improve or worsen.
- When and if a change would need to occur from one phase to another, the district will clearly communicate these changes to their families through the AASD School Info App, district website, and social media platforms.

Phased Reopening

AASD Reopening Options and Goals

- The Athens Area School District recognizes that their school community of students, parents, teachers, administrators and Board of Education members value and strongly desire that schools reopen for in-person instruction and that there is a return to our traditional school day.
- The district shares this common goal with their community and will work diligently to take the necessary steps to return students to their schools, when it can be accomplished safely without compromise to student, faculty or staff's health.
- Although the Pa Department of Education and Pa Department of Health both provide health guidelines, the school district must determine if classes resume in person at school buildings, remotely or a combination of both options a "hybrid" of in-person and remote.

AASD Phased Reopening

AASD Phases for Reopening

- The goal of the plan is to transparently communicate those measures to our families and to allow parents and guardians to make the most informed decisions for their child(ren).

Educational Phases for Reopening

- Based on the state, county, and local health conditions occurring within our community, AASD will provide education options based on these conditions, which are categorized into three broad phases:
 - In-Person Instruction (Low Transmission Risk)
 - Hybrid Alternate Schedule (High Transmission Risk)
 - Remote Learning (Critical Transmission Risk)

Instructional Options

In-Person Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must meet social distancing and face covering requirements	All Students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 days a week• 4 learning options for families/students
Hybrid Alternate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must meet social distancing and face covering requirements	Alternate Schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 days a week in-person• 3 days a week remote learning• Remote learning options
Remote Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No in-person instruction	Schools Closed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remote learning options• All Extra- Curricular Closed

In-Person Instruction

In-Person Instruction

- Minimal to moderate community/school transmission
- In-person Instruction with social distancing and health precautions in-place.
- Health and safety *requirements* will be implemented for students and staff “to the extent feasible” through district developed guidelines for social distancing, face coverings, spacing of students in classrooms, transportation, and social interaction group size and limitations.
- It is the expectation that students and staff will follow these *requirements* to safely return to in-person instruction.
- Multiple, flexible learning options for families and students.

Hybrid Model

Hybrid Alternate Schedule

- Substantial controlled, community/school transmission
- To safely meet multiple health and safety guidelines, the district will deliver an alternate school schedule, staggering student attendance for in-person instruction 2 days per week and 3 days out of school working remotely to reduce the number of students in buildings and classrooms.
- Students will be assigned their alternate school schedule by each building. The district's developed guidelines for social distancing, face coverings, transportation, and group size are *requirements* and must be followed to ensure a safe school environment.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning: Schools are Closed

- This phase has the sole purpose of minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through stay-at-home orders, strict social distancing, closures of non-life sustaining businesses, and closures of schools.
- Schools will be closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning, whether using digital or non-digital platforms.
- Provisions for student services such as school meal programs will continue. Large gatherings are prohibited
- Extra-curricular and athletics will also be closed

Remote Online Learning

What does online remote learning look like?

- The district has invested and implemented two new Learning Management Systems, Seesaw (K-2) and Schoology (3-12). Whether teaching in-person or if the need arises to move to an alternate schedule to remote learning, students will be able to use Seesaw and Schoology both in the classroom and at home.

Is this a new and different online platform than last spring?

- Yes, the district recognized the challenges the emergency closing created in navigating across many online resources. Seesaw and Schoology, will provide students one platform where all classroom work will be accessed, live lessons, and be able to make contact with your child's teacher.

Social Distancing

Will the district require social distancing?

- Yes, in both the In-Person and Hybrid Phases. State health guidelines require the district to return to in-person instruction, students and teachers must maintain up to 6 ft of social distancing to the maximum extent feasible. When 6ft of social distancing cannot be maintained students and staff are required to wear face coverings.

Where can we accomplish 6ft of social distancing in schools?

- Some classrooms but not all
- Outdoor spaces/recess
- Physical Education/Gymnasiums
- Some Communal areas
- Face covering breaks

Face Coverings

Will the district require face coverings?

- Yes, in both the In-Person and Hybrid Phases. When 6ft of social distancing cannot be maintained students, faculty and staff are required to wear face coverings.

Where will face coverings be required?

- School Transportation: bus stops, buses and all school vehicles
- Hallways, common areas such as libraries, lab spaces, performance areas
- Entering and exiting building
- Classrooms where 6 feet of social distancing cannot be accomplished

Will the district provide face masks?

Yes. Although students may provide their own, the district will provide a mask for each student. Families may choose to provide additional masks in addition to the district ones. **(See Chart on Acceptable face coverings)**

Face Coverings

If a student provides their own, what type of face coverings are approved?

“Face Covering” means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. It can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. “Face coverings” may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

A face covering deemed a distraction to the educational environment will be replaced with a district issued face covering

What happens if a student forgets their face covering?

- The student should go to their school building’s office and a face mask will be provided

What will happen if a student refuses to wear a face covering?

- We ask families to stress the importance of wearing a face covering, which will be a requirement. Students not complying with this requirement may be required to move to one of the district’s remote option.

Student Health

How will student health be monitored?

- Parents will be asked to take their child's temperature and use the AASD screening tool to determine if the child should stay home from school.
- Any student who has a temperature higher than 99.5 on a touchless thermometer or 100.4 on an oral or ear thermometer must not be sent to school and should stay home until they are **fever free for 24 hours without medication.**

Student Health

What happens if a student has symptoms of possible COVID-19?

- A school nurse will take the student's temperature and check for other symptoms. If the student has a fever and/or other symptoms they will be isolated and sent home.
- If a student has a fever and multiple CDC symptoms, it is recommended the parent take the student to the doctor for professional assessment by a physician
- •Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms with suspected exposure and have been directed to care for themselves at home or a facility may return to school if they meet the following criteria:
 - 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms
 - Fever free with no fever reducing medications for 24 hours.
 - COVID-19 symptoms have improved.

Student/Staff Health

Will all parents in a school be notified if there is a confirmed, positive COVID Test

Yes all parents, in that school, will be notified if a positive case (students, faculty and/or staff) by School Info App, social media and letter

Health steps taken in schools

- Isolation within the building
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms with suspected exposure and have been directed to care for themselves at home or a facility may return to school if they meet the following criteria:
 - 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms
 - Fever free with no fever reducing medications for 24 hours.
 - COVID-19 symptoms have improved.

Increased Cleaning

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation Protocol

- The custodial/maintenance staff will follow CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools. In addition to this cleaning, sanitation, and disinfecting, all classrooms will be “fogged” using an electro-static machine and an approved EPA disinfectant. High-touch surfaces such as door-handles, handrails, faucets, etc. will be disinfected throughout the day.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Throughout the Day

- Each classroom has a hand sanitizing station and teachers will be provided with disinfectant wipes and/or a spray bottle of disinfectant cleaner. The custodial/maintenance staff will disinfect high touch surfaces (i.e. door handles, handrails, and faucets) throughout the day. Bathrooms will be disinfected Multiple times throughout the day with an approved EPA disinfectant.

The transportation contractor, will clean and disinfect all buses using an EPA approved disinfectant at the end of each day. Between morning and afternoon runs, buses will be “fogged” using an EPA approved disinfectant.

Changes for Elementary

- **How will a student's day look different?**
- Less movement inside the building.
- Breakfast and lunches will be served in classrooms.
- Face coverings will need to be worn possibly inside and outside of classrooms i.e.; hallways, walking to the office, entering and exiting buildings, group bathrooms etc.
- Drinking fountains will be replaced with touchless bottle filling sessions.
- Recess will happen, however, playground equipment will not be available at this time.
- Sharing of materials will be limited.

Changes for Middle School

- **How will a student's day look different?**
- Monitored movement inside the building.
- Breakfast will be served in classrooms.
- Lunch will be eaten in two cafeterias and the LGI
- Face coverings will need to be worn possibly inside and outside of classrooms i.e.; hallways, walking to the office, entering and exiting buildings, group bathrooms etc.
- Drinking fountains will be replaced with touchless bottle filling sessions.
- Students will still be provided time outside after lunch
- Sharing of materials will be limited.

Changes for High School

- **How will a student's day look different?**
- Monitored movement inside the building.
- Breakfast will be served in classrooms.
- Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria and old gym.
- Face coverings will need to be worn possibly inside and outside of classrooms i.e.; hallways, walking to the office, entering and exiting buildings, group bathrooms etc.
- Drinking fountains will be replaced with touchless bottle filling sessions.
- Sharing of materials will be limited.

Communication

How will we communicate?

- The district will use multiple communication channels to announce our plans so that our community is well informed. The following methods will be used:
 - A news release written for distribution to our media outlets and district website, which also will include a copy of our plan.
 - We will develop a page specific to our re-opening plans, which will include an FAQ, on our district website.
 - We will send a push notification of the plan's publication to our families using our School Info App.
- Information and a link to our Health & Safety Plan will be posted to our social media channels, specifically Facebook.
- Information will be mailed and/or sent home with each student ahead of their first day of school.

Transition & Remote Learning Committee

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Pandemic Team

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Questions