



*Nurturing Confidence. Realizing Potential.*

## **COVID-19 Plan 2021-2022 School Year**

This document provides information regarding guidelines that will be followed in order to allow Center School to continue to provide its excellent programming in a safe and healthy manner.

Center School is a small population with under 60 students at the time of this writing. Generally speaking, classrooms are 1,500 square feet. The following guidelines have been developed after review of recommendations from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the CDC, and taking into consideration the size of Center School and the academic and social needs of our students.

### **Operations**

#### **Entering the Building**

1. Employees
  - a. Employees will enter the building through the front doors of the building.
  - b. Employees will not be screened upon entry but are required to self-monitor at home.
2. Students
  - a. The building is open to students starting at 7:45.
  - b. All students will enter through the double exterior doors of the gym facing the front walkway.
  - c. Once in the gym, students will report to the nurse's station to have symptoms monitored by the school nurse.

*\*Parents or guardians: Please drop your child at the gym doors if driving your child to school. If you need to enter the building, you may do so through the front doors of the school.*

#### **Health and Hygiene**

1. Any employee or student who is experiencing any sickness symptoms must remain at home.
2. All employees and students will wash their hands frequently including upon entering a new classroom, before and after eating, after using the bathroom, and after recess.
3. Hand sanitizer is provided for all classrooms. This is only used when hand washing is not available.

#### **Physical Distancing**

1. Desks are placed six (6) feet apart whenever possible.
2. Every attempt is made to physically distance in the classroom without compromising the quality of instruction.

3. Physical distancing will be practiced when traversing through the hallways and when lining up in classrooms.

### **Cleaning and Maintenance**

1. The HVAC system circulates fresh air in the building throughout the day.
2. Air purification systems are in each room.
3. Each room is equipped with fans.
4. High-touch areas are cleaned throughout the day.
5. Desks are cleaned when a class leaves a room.
6. Sports-related equipment is cleaned daily.
7. When realistic, the sharing of materials is minimized. When sharing items is necessary, they are cleaned and disinfected before each use.

### **Face Coverings and Masks**

Effective September 7, 2021, a face covering mandate is ordered in all schools by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). This mandate applies to indoors only. Additionally, per the federal mandate, masks must be worn on school buses.

While most individuals wear masks, face shields can be used. According to the order, an alternative to a face covering “may include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth, extends below the chin and to the ears, and leaves no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield’s headpiece”. Center School will provide these for all students and employees if any student or employee would prefer a face shield to facilitate communication.

Similarly, Center School will provide masks with clear fronts when students are participating in special services (speech, OT, etc.) and in other instances when seeing the mouth is essential.

According to Section 3 of the order, there are instances when face coverings are not required:

1. If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
2. If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
3. When necessary to confirm the individual’s identity.
4. When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction.
5. If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. *\*In these instances, employees and students will be permitted to remove their masks to improve communication.*
6. When the individual is under two (2) years of age.
7. When an individual is:

- a. Engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking, or playing an instrument that would be obstructed by the face covering
  - b. Participating in high intensity aerobic or anerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals.
8. When a child/student is participating in a sports practice activity or event, whether indoors or outdoors.

### **Positive Case, Exposure, and Quarantine**

#### **Positive Case:**

- If a student or employee develops COVID-19, the individual can return to Center School when the following requirements have been met:
  - 24 hours have passed with no fever and without the use of fever-reducing medication
  - respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
  - ten (10) days have passed since the symptoms first appeared
- If a student or employee tested positive for COVID-19 but has no symptoms, the individual can return to Center School when the following requirements have been met:
  - Ten (10) days have passed since your COVID-19 test resulted in a positive diagnosis
  - A doctor's note is submitted confirming the positive result and the date of the test

#### **Exposure:**

- If a fully vaccinated individual is exposed to a positive COVID person, quarantining is not required unless the individual is experiencing symptoms. The individual would then follow the above guidelines.
- If an unvaccinated individual is exposed to a positive COVID person, quarantining is required. A student or employee can return to Center School:
  - 10 days from the first day of exposure to the individual with COVID-19 without testing and without symptoms.
  - 7 days from the first day of exposure to the individual with COVID-19 if test results are negative and without symptoms. (Testing can occur on the fifth day of quarantine.)

If a student needs to quarantine, work will be available on Google Classroom.

### **Visitors**

Visitors are permitted in the building and will follow the guidelines in this plan.

*These guidelines are subject to change if mandates change.*