

BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

HEALTH + SAFETY PLAN

Approved August 19, 2021 | Effective August 20, 2021 | Updated March 17, 2022 | Reviewed June 16, 2022

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Berks County Intermediate Unit**

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: March 17, 2022

Date of Last Revision: March 17, 2022

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?

The health and safety of the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) and the Pennsylvania Key staff and students remain, as always, the top priority for the organization. The BCIU Leadership Team and Pandemic Team continue to take critical steps in making decisions that protect the health and safety of our organization in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the expiration of statewide mitigation orders, the BCIU has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all staff members as the organization transitions forward. Protocols include the following:

- Self-Screen for COVID-19 Symptoms
- Practice Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
- Clean and Disinfect Your Workplace
- Maintain Physical Distancing Protocols
- Wear Face Coverings (in accordance with section 3.a.)
- Transportation Protocols
- Communicable Disease Reporting Procedures
- Participate in Required Training
- Monitor Communication and Confidentiality
- Stay Informed and Maintain Best Practices
- Stay Informed of CDC's Guidance Relative to Travel
- Vaccination

Additionally, supplemental documents containing frequently asked questions as well as protocols relative to reporting cases, contact tracing, and quarantine/isolation have been prepared to provide additional direction and guidance to staff.

Expectations are based on the latest mandates issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BCIU Leadership Team and Pandemic Team will continue to monitor communications. As conditions change and/or new orders/mandates are issued related to COVID-19, protocols are subject to change.

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?

The BCIU educational programs will continue operating under its current hybrid approach, in-person, and virtual instruction, through the end of the 2021 summer session pending any change in mandates from PDE / DOH.

The BCIU educational programs are planning for a return to full in-person instruction in the fall of 2021 pending any change in mandates from PDE / DOH. And, in accordance with OCDEL, teleintervention will remain an ongoing option for delivering services by a student's IEP Team.

The BCIU educational programs and services may shift between in-person and virtual instruction depending on health circumstances as directors determine appropriate/necessary and/or as directed by the DOH. The BCIU has applied for emergency instructional time authorization and, if approved, will consider multiple factors of student and staff health, safety, and well-being when making decisions regarding instructional models.

The BCIU continues to make resources available through its employee assistance provider, online training system, and intranet site containing additional resources to include wellness information. Current employees and new hires, as part of their onboarding process, must complete training relative to the BCIU Health + Safety Plan: Organizational Standards + Expectations; Coronavirus – Managing Stress and Anxiety; and Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Prevention (Universal Precautions). Instructional staff are required to complete additional coursework related to diaper changing steps and food service modifications.

3. Use the following table 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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<p>The BCIU will comply with any face-covering mandate initiated by the state or federal government in accordance with general statutes.</p> <p>In the absence of a face-covering mandate, the use of face masks/coverings will be informed by guidance issued by the CDC and/or the PA DOH based on county risk level designations and other data sources, which include but are not limited to BCIU local case counts and conditions, building case counts, and community vaccination data.</p> <p>The CDC's guidance as of February 25, 2022:</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the county risk level is considered “low” or “medium”, face masks/coverings will be optional based on personal preference, informed by one’s level of risk. • When the county risk level reaches the designation of “high” (as per CDC data), the BCIU will implement universal masking as part of the layered prevention strategy. <p>The BCIU’s current exceptions to the optional use of face masks/coverings as of March 2, 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start and Pre-K Counts staff providing direct services to students must adhere to the masking requirements defined in the Head Start Program Performance Standards. • Transportation staff who transport students within school districts or programs with a mask requirement must adhere to the district’s or program’s mask requirement. However, drivers and assistants are not required to wear a face mask/covering when there are no students on the vehicle. • Staff who travel to other locations to provide services must adhere to the location of service’s mask requirement. • Staff who work within school district buildings or outside agency locations must adhere to the masking requirements in those facilities. • Individuals who test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19 or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are considered a close contact should continue to follow guidance issued by the CDC and/or PA DOH. • Students, parents, guardians, visitors, and volunteers must adhere to the location of service’s mask requirement. <p>The BCIU will continue to make face masks/coverings available to individuals.</p>

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<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts / podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCIU will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, CDC, and OCDEL relative to physical distancing. • Physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible will continue to be recommended for indoor and outdoor spaces and transportation vehicles, regardless of vaccination status. • Physical barriers, such as plexiglass dividers will be available for use in classrooms and high-traffic areas.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations related to handwashing and respiratory etiquette are contained in the BCIU Health + Safety Plan: Organizational Standards + Expectations document which has been emailed and mailed to each staff member as well as posted on the BCIU's intranet site. • Protocols include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Washing one's hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. ○ If soap and water are not available, using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer). ○ Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth. ○ Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into one's elbow. ○ Increasing monitoring to ensure adherence among students.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCIU will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC related to cleaning and ventilation. • The BCIU is committed to continuing the best practices developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping the workplace clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors. • The use of universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases will continue to be implemented. Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials will remain available. • Limiting shared materials and use of toys that cannot be easily cleaned will continue.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will continue to be expected to share in the cleaning and disinfecting of shared equipment and / or furniture / items within one's office / classroom. • Additional cleaning and disinfecting measures / protocols may be required as deemed appropriate or directed by the DOH, depending on circumstances. • Staff will continue to be expected to adhere to appropriate personal protective equipment guidelines.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DOH considers COVID-19 a communicable disease. As such, it is among the DOH's listing of reportable diseases. • Staff are required to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 or exposure to individuals who suspect or test positive for COVID-19 to their supervisor immediately and follow the guidance provided by their health care provider, the DOH, or the BCIU in accordance with the CDC's recommendations. • The BCIU will contact the DOH and follow their guidance. Guidance may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disease information; ○ The distribution of appropriate letters and communications; ○ Identification of high risk individuals; ○ Appropriate action and treatment; and ○ Ongoing support and assistance.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are required to follow the recommendation of their attending physician and / or DOH directive(s) as it relates to diagnostic and screening testing.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCIU continues to collaborate with local health care providers and epidemiologist leaders regarding targeted areas of needs and will continue to serve as a vaccination host site if called upon. • The BCIU continues to communicate local vaccine opportunities available to staff and the community at large.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special accommodations or health care needs of students with disabilities will be addressed through the IEP process. • Accommodations may include but are not limited to adapted service delivery models

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	(i.e., teleintervention, individualized services, when appropriate), and / or other health and safety precautions as outlined in an individualized health plan.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BCIU will continue to maintain existing partnerships with local and state agencies. • As with any communicable disease, the BCIU will contact the DOH to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 and follow its guidance.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors / Trustees for **Berks County Intermediate Unit** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 19, 2021.

The Board of Directors of the **Berks County Intermediate Unit** reviewed and approved the updated Health and Safety Plan on March 17, 2022.

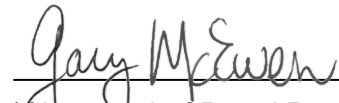
The plan was approved by a vote of:

13 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **March 17, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Gary McEwen

(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.

**APPROVED BY THE BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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