



DEPAUL SCHOOL
FOR HEARING & SPEECH

Health and Safety Plan

2022-2023 School Year



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DePaulHearingAndSpeech.org

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

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At DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, we value the education we provide to every student; we take great care to ensure the safety of each student while they are in our care. This plan integrates the current guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDH) and many other sources to ensure that every student and every staff member is safe and healthy at DePaul School.

We strive to provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment that resonates the spirit of DePaul School to everyone who comes through the front door. Visitation will continue to be monitored in this COVID environment. This document contains an overview of the essential elements deemed necessary for operating in this COVID environment.

At DePaul School, planning and preparing for our students' needs, is our highest priority. Every student should be able to read lips during instruction, have access to sound and stay safe in this COVID environment. We have taken great care to minimize stressful situations and to ensure the confidentiality of each individual's health and privacy. Our duty is to keep every person in the building safe, this guidebook sets forth a clear plan to accomplish this goal.

Guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) mirrors the Center for Disease Control (CDC), suggesting that masks are optional for all. At DePaul School, we have adopted this same policy. Masks are optional. If parents want their child to wear a mask at school, they will need to send a written notice to the school nurse, and their child's teachers. An email notification is an acceptable form of notice. We will do our best to enforce this request, but we recognize that this is a conversation you will need to have with your child at home as well.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

-  Do not send your child to school if he/she has a temperature of 100°F or more while still at home.
-  If you send your child to school, and (s)he is coughing profusely, or showing significant symptoms of COVID, we reserve the right to call you to pick the child up, to ensure the safety of all students and staff.
-  If a child is showing cold symptoms, especially a cough, we may have them wear a mask until all symptoms are better. Students should remain home for a day of rest if symptoms are frequent and cannot be maintained by the child themselves (example, blowing/wiping runny nose, covering cough, or being able to wear a mask comfortably to contain symptoms).
-  If your child is coughing, and has no other symptoms, we may ask the child to wear a mask to protect others.

This plan is subject to change as local conditions change. We appreciate your continued understanding and support as we successfully work together to keep the school open for students.





Typical School Day

MORNING ARRIVAL:

- Students will enter through the front entrance and be directed to designated spots that will be marked to ensure 6 feet distancing in the main hall.
- Parents/guardians who drive their children to school must leave him/her at the front door and they will be escorted into the building.
- When students arrive late, the bus driver or parent/guardian will be asked to call the school when they are outside the building. Students who arrive late will remain in the front office until they are cleared to enter the building. Then the student will be escorted to their homeroom by a staff member.
- Students are not permitted to bring unneeded items to school such as personal toys or stuffed animals. All cell phones and personal tablets are to be left in the front office until dismissal.

BREAKFAST:

- Upon arrival, students will be escorted to breakfast by school support staff.
- Staff will be assigned to supervise children at breakfast.
- When breakfast is over, students will be escorted in small groups to their classrooms using the "UP" staircase.

LUNCH:

- Students will eat in the Student Dining Room. Tables and benches are arranged to accommodate social distancing as needed.
- Staff members will be assigned to lunch duty in order to supervise and maintain social distancing.



DISMISSAL:

- Students will be supervised by staff and are required to maintain healthy behavior while waiting to be dismissed.
- All students will follow the policies and requirements of transportation providers when getting on the bus or van.
- Parents/guardians who provide transportation should park across the street and meet their child on the sidewalk on Alder Street.
- Bus drivers will have limited use of the first-floor powder room only, and are not to use the main restrooms with students.




Health and Safety Measures for All






SAFETY MEASURES IN THE BUILDING:

-  Hand sanitizer stations are in place at the top and bottom of both stairs.
-  The elevator should be used only by staff and students who cannot safely navigate the stairs.
 - There is a three-person maximum on the elevators at a time.
 - No students are permitted on the elevator without an escort.

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO A CHILD WITH A FEVER:

-  Do not send your child to school with a fever of 100°F. They will be sent home. There will be no exceptions.
 - If a parent/guardian cannot pick up the student, he/she should let us know which of the individuals from their Emergency Contact list would be doing so.
 - The Emergency Contact picking up the student will need to show ID at the front desk

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO POSITIVE COVID:





-  Anyone who has tested positive for COVID must quarantine at home for 5 days. Upon return to the building, the individual will need to wear a mask for 5 more days. Person(s) should be symptom-free for 48 hours without medication before coming back into school.
-  **Anyone** who has been exposed to COVID (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) will be expected to wear a mask for a period of at least 5 days. Individuals who have had a known exposure to an active Covid case may be asked to “Test-to-Stay” in school.
-  Staff who have been exposed to a known positive case of Covid, will be required do a rapid test **prior** to returning to school, then again at 4-5 days post-exposure. We require this for students as well.
-  The school nurse will continue to provide us with current best practices (per CDC / ACHD guidelines), and will serve as the liaison in gathering information from parents and communicating with school administrators to make decisions.
-  **Rapid At-home COVID tests kits are available in the school nurse’s office and are accessible upon request.**

(Continued)



Health and Safety Measures for All (Continued)

VISITORS TO THE BUILDING:

-  All visitors need to have an appointment to be admitted into the building.
-  Visitors must provide the receptionist with a valid driver's license (or comparable valid ID). The receptionist will provide the visitor with a Visitor Badge to be worn while in the building.
-  Visitors will remain in the reception area until the person with whom they are meeting arrives to escort them to the meeting location.
-  NO drop-in visitations are permitted.

The Administrative staff of DePaul School is sincerely grateful for the support and cooperation of all of our staff, our students, and their families. Together, we are overcoming this virus successfully. Thank you for doing your part!