



DEPAUL SCHOOL  
FOR HEARING & SPEECH

## Health and Safety Plan

2023-2024 School Year

August 28, 2023

At DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, we value the education we provide to every student. 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 provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment that resonates the spirit of DePaul School to everyone who comes through the front door.**

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 Plan sets forth a clear plan to accomplish this goal. While all federal, state and local restrictions have been lifted as of May 11, 2023, we will continue to exercise caution with precautionary practices to ensure that DePaul remains a safe environment for all students throughout the school year.

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 there is an increased threat of COVID or Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in Allegheny County and 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. The greatest threat with COVID has been how readily transmissible it is, and the same holds true of RSV.

- ★ 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 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.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR ALL:

### Safety Measures in the Building

- Hand sanitizer stations are in place throughout the building.
- We continue to use the dots on the floors to help children to socially distance in the hallways.
- Elevator should be used only by staff and students who cannot safely navigate the stairs.
  - 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 until symptom-free for 48 hours without medication. Afterward, the individual will need to wear a mask for 5 days, even is asymptomatic.**
- **Anyone** who has been exposed to COVID (within in 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) will be expected to wear a mask for a period of 5 days.
- The school nurse will continue to provide us with current best practices, and will serve as the liaison in gathering information from parents and communicating with school administrators to make decisions.
- COVID tests kits are available in the School Nurse's office, and are accessible upon request.
- Individuals who have had a known exposure to an active COVID case may be asked to "test to stay" in school.

When in doubt, please reach out to nurse Aimee or your child's teacher. We consider ourselves partners in your child's education. We appreciate the care and consideration that you exercise, on behalf of all the students and staff at DePaul School. Together, we have been successful at navigating through these challenging times. Thank you for your support.