



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

Northwood Academy Charter School

Initial Effective Date: July 21, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 28, 2021

Date of Last Revision: *In accordance with ARP-ESSER guidelines, this will be reviewed every six months or as necessary, revisions will be made in accordance with ongoing data and guidance.*

- 1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;**

Northwood Academy Charter School will open for our regularly scheduled five days of in-person learning, beginning Monday, August 30, 2021. We will not be operating in a remote or hybrid capacity unless our local and state conditions and guidelines indicate as such.

Northwood Academy Charter School's (Northwood) Health and Safety Plan is informed by guidance from our federal, state, and local authorities. These include, and are not limited to, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Philadelphia Department of Health (PDH).

Northwood will continue to work in coordination with these agencies and our local partners to develop and refine expectations that meet all requirements.

Northwood will revise this plan as necessary, based on changing guidance, at any of these levels, and at the required frequency. Such changes will be communicated to all stakeholders.

- 2. How the LEA will 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;**

Northwood will continue to address and adapt to the ongoing needs of students and staff members to provide continuity to its programming. The school is poised to continue providing the technology and connectivity required to access all learning materials, regardless of the instructional model. Northwood will continue to provide training, time, support, and flexibility necessary for staff to prepare for successful instruction.

Northwood will continue implementing its Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The MTSS framework organizes tiered academic and behavior interventions to address students' individual needs aimed to improve student outcomes. Within this framework, students' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs are monitored and addressed by classroom teachers, key administration, counselors, the school nurse, and the behavior specialist. As feasible, the school will continue to provide additional supports to meet the needs of special populations, through the IEP/504 process.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, free meals will continue to be provided to students. In the event that Northwood would need to switch to a full remote and/or hybrid learning, the school will reinstate grab and go meals at our site. The food service department is equipped and agile enough to provide seamless meal distribution should circumstances change.

Northwood will continue to collaborate with Human Resources to provide support for the social, emotional and mental health needs of staff.

Northwood will continue to provide proactive, clear communication to all families and staff to include and guide all stakeholders throughout the school year.

3. 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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Northwood will continue to rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high-quality, student-centered instructional environments.</p> <p>Specifically, Northwood will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC and Philadelphia Department of Health (DOH). As of June 29, 2021, the Philadelphia DOH mandate requires universal masking for all students and staff. On July 27, 2021, the CDC also mandated universal masking for all staff and students.</p>

Northwood will require all staff to wear face masks that completely cover nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status, with the exception of during meals.

Students will wear face masks that completely cover their nose and mouth, regardless of vaccination status. Face masks are most important when indoors, especially when physical distancing is difficult. Wearing face masks may be more challenging for younger students and enforcement of this policy should be developmentally appropriate. For students unable to tolerate a face mask, a face shield is an acceptable alternative. Asthma is not a contraindication to wearing a face mask.

Face masks should not be placed on:

- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face mask without assistance.

For teachers and staff who work with multiple students who cannot wear face masks, additional barriers such as plexiglass, face shield in addition to face masks, and eye protection (goggles) may be considered.

- Students may remove their face masks during mealtimes, and when outdoors and greater than 6 feet apart from other students. “Mask breaks” should be brief (less than 15 minutes).
- Students should be encouraged to make sure their face masks cover their nose and mouth at all times. Students should be taught to use the edges of the face mask to adjust fit and avoid touching the front of the face mask to prevent hand contamination.
- Students should be encouraged to put on a clean face mask each day (either launder previously used face masks or replace disposable face masks).
- Schools should have a supply of masks to give to students who arrive at school without a mask or if a student’s or teacher’s mask becomes damaged during the school day.
- Parents/caregivers should wear face masks at arrival and dismissal times and wait for their children

	<p>outside of the school building (see transportation guidance below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School bus drivers, playground monitors and other volunteer staff should wear face masks at all times in the school building and when interacting with school staff and students. We will be working with the School District of Philadelphia Transportation to ensure drivers are adhering to regulations. • Staff will wear gloves along with a face mask when preparing food.
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Northwood will continue to rely on best practices, informed by federal, state, and local guidance, to design and implement high-quality, student-centered instructional environments.</p> <p>Specifically, Northwood will continue to rely on the CDC and Philadelphia Department of Health’s guidance to design safe instructional spaces and workspaces for all individuals.</p> <p>According to current guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classrooms will be modified to allow for 3 feet social distancing between students and 6 feet between adults where feasible • Auxiliary areas may be used for lunch where it is difficult to maintain social distancing. • Excess furniture will be removed as necessary to maintain proper distancing. • Cohorting will be implemented wherever possible to limit exposure to large groups of students.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Northwood will continue to rely on best practices informed by the CDC and the Philadelphia Department of Health.</p> <p>Northwood will continue to educate staff and students on proper hand washing, respiratory etiquette and proper hygiene techniques. All individuals will continue to be encouraged and reminded to sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available in all common areas, hallways, and/or lobby areas where sinks</p>

	<p>for handwashing are not available, in order to encourage frequent use.</p> <p>Northwood will continue to post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures/hygiene and how to stop the spread of germs.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Northwood will continue to follow proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols following CDC, Philadelphia Department of Health, EPA, and manufacturer guidelines.</p> <p>To ensure high levels of ventilation, Northwood will continue proper cycling and replacement of the MERV filters currently installed.</p> <p>Contracted cleaning services will continue deep cleaning on a nightly basis with an increased focus on high-touch items, including cleaning of restrooms, lobby, conference rooms and work areas using an ionized cleaning system.</p> <p>On-site janitorial staff will perform cleaning of high-touch items throughout the day including but not limited to: railings, door knobs, sink handles, etc.</p> <p>Northwood will continue to communicate with the Philadelphia School District Department of Transportation to ensure that proper cleaning/distancing is occurring.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations have been installed and will continue to be maintained throughout key areas of the building.</p> <p>All cleaning products utilized are approved on the EPA COVID-19 approved sanitization products list, following the approved application standards. Additional cleaning/disinfecting products are available for staff use as needed - disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, hand soap, and paper towels.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Northwood will conduct contact tracing for close contacts (any individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more) of laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.</p>

Northwood will ensure the front office has updated contact information (including date of birth, phone number, home address, grade level, and cohort) for all staff and families to facilitate contact tracing and rapid communication.

Northwood has a designated isolation area for anyone who experiences COVID-like symptoms. This space allows for a 6 foot distance between the person in question and other individuals.

Staff who develop symptoms of COVID-like illness will immediately be sent home. If they need to be picked up, they will wait in the designated isolation room or area while waiting.

If students develop symptoms, they will be brought to a designated isolation room while waiting to be picked up. The staff member waiting with the student will wear a surgical mask.

	Situation	Response
	Single case of COVID-19 in a school or extracurricular cohort	Those identified as a close contact will be asked to quarantine. School attendance for these individuals will be paid for 10 days. This may be shortened to 7 days with a negative test after day 5.
	2 or more cases in a classroom/cohort	The entire cohort/classroom must quarantine. The recommended quarantine is 10 days*
	2 or more cases in 2 or more classes of the same grade with an epidemiological link to the school (classroom or school hosted extracurricular)	The entire grade must quarantine. The recommended quarantine is 10 days*
	Multiple cases in staff/students: 3 within 14 days with epi link OR 6 or more within 14 days (regardless of source of exposure)	The entire school/child facing program must quarantine. The recommended quarantine is 10 days*
	Multiple COVID-19 clusters across grades	The entire school/child facing program must quarantine. The recommended quarantine is 10 days*
	<p><i>*Quarantine may be shortened using a test-based strategy. Individuals who test negative after day 5 may return after day 7. (PDOH)</i></p> <p>The above chart information was pulled directly from the City of Philadelphia Department of Health website on 7/20/2021.</p>	
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<p>Northwood has created a daily screening checklist for students and staff which includes screening for fever, symptoms, exposure and a visual inspection. Parents and guardians will continue to fill out the checklist with students through the RUVNA app.</p> <p>All school staff should help reduce the risk of in-school COVID transmission by identifying any colleagues and</p>	

	<p>students who appear to be ill. Northwood will continue to educate staff and parents on how to monitor symptoms at home every day. If an individual screens positive, they should not enter the facility.</p> <p>Northwood’s screening protocol includes the following components:</p> <p>Fever: If either a child or staff member has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they should remain home. The following options can be considered for temperature monitoring. Please note that temperature measurements may be affected by the environmental temperature. Please consult the device manufacturer’s instructions for optimal use. Oral thermometers should not be used for on-site temperature screening.</p> <p>Visual Inspection: If a child has signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, cough, or shortness of breath, the child should stay home.</p> <p>Exposure: If a staff member or child has been exposed to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 10 days, they should return or remain home.</p> <p>Additionally, Northwood will be performing voluntary weekly COVID testing of students and staff. Group Pooled Testing called a PCR test will be utilized. The school will continue to maintain the COVID testing results dashboard which is shared publicly via the Northwood website.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Northwood will continue to promote and communicate vaccination opportunities to our stakeholders. In the event that vaccinations are made available to student populations under age twelve, Northwood will partner with federal, state, local, and health care agencies to promote and offer opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;</p>	<p>Northwood will ensure that any of the policies or parts included in Health and Safety Plan will be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with health and/or medical issues.</p>

	<p>Northwood conducts IEP meetings to address specific and unique needs that a student may have related to a safety requirement for COVID-19.</p> <p>Accommodations of this nature will be documented in the IEP and made in accordance with federal and state laws.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Through partnership with the Mayor’s Office, Philadelphia Charters for Excellence (PCE) and the Philadelphia Charter School Office, coordination efforts and access to information and opportunities has been established and made available on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Northwood monitors local COVID transmission rates using CDC, Philadelphia Department of Health and CHOP PolicyLab dashboards.</p> <p>Northwood will work closely with the Philadelphia Department of Health in the event there is a positive case of COVID among staff or students to support contact tracing.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Northwood Academy Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 28, 2021**.

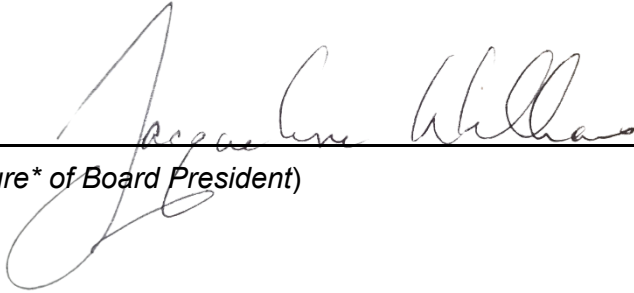
The plan was approved by a vote of:

 8 **Yes**

 0 **No**

Affirmed on: **July 28, 2021**

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacqueline Williams", written over a horizontal line.

(Signature of Board President)*

Jacqueline Williams

(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.