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**Nazareth Area School District**  
**Health and Safety Plan**  
**for the 2021-2022 School Year**

## Reviews and Submissions

**Initial Effective Date:** July 28, 2021

**Date Approved by the Nazareth Area School District Board of Directors:** July 27, 2021

**Date of Last Revision and Board Approval:** August 24, 2021

**Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education:** July 30, 2021

**Posted on Nazareth Area School District website :** July 28, 2021

<https://www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us/healthandsafety>

<b>Health and Safety Plan Review Team</b>		
<b>Individual(s)</b>	<b>Role/Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Dr. Dennis Riker	Superintendent of Schools	Nazareth Area School District
Dr. Isabel Resende	Assistant Superintendent	Nazareth Area School District
Dr. Stuart Whiteleather	Business Administrator	Nazareth Area School District
Dr. John Hauth	Senior Network Administrator, Sports Medicine Relations	St. Luke's University Hospital
Mr. John Ostrowski	Lead Athletic Trainer	St. Luke's University Health Network- Sports Medicine
Ms. Pamela Vlasaty	Director of Pupil Services	Nazareth Area School District
Ms. Noelle Kondikoff	Director of Elementary Education and Educational Technology (K-6)	Nazareth Area School District
Mr. A.J. Kise	Director of Special Education and Alternative Education	Nazareth Area School District
Mr. Michael Uelses	Director of Information Technology	Nazareth Area School District
Mr. Rob Zemanick	Director of Facilities and Operations	Nazareth Area School District
Ms. Donna Garr	Director of Food Services	Nazareth Area School District
Chief Jill Mahady	Chief of School Police / Director of Security & Safety	Nazareth Area School District
Mr. Ray Ramella	Director of Athletics & Coordinator of Student Activities	Nazareth Area School District
Ms. Nancy Ducey	Assistant Business Administrator	Nazareth Area School District
Ms. Elizabeth Steinmetz	Accountant	Nazareth Area School District
Ms. Dana Hoffman	Assistant Director of Facilities and Operations	Nazareth Area School District
Ms. Patricia Quinn	Supervisor of Transportation	Nazareth Area School District

Mr. Alan Davis	Principal	Nazareth Area High School
Dr. Robert Bauder	Principal	Nazareth Area Middle School
Dr. Joseph Yanek	Principal	Nazareth Area Intermediate School
Mr. William Mudlock	Elementary Principal	Shafer Elementary School
Ms. Kelly Apruzzi	Elementary Principal	Kenneth Butz Elementary School
Mr. Michael Santos	Elementary Principal	Lower Nazareth Elementary School
Ms. Amy Tashner	Assistant Principal	Nazareth Area High School
Mr. John Fidelibus	Assistant Principal	Nazareth Area Middle School
Mr. Rusty Amato	Assistant Principal	Nazareth Area Intermediate School
Ms. Adele Mitch	Teacher, NAEA President	Nazareth Area High School
Ms. Michelle Marchese	Psychologist, NAEA Vice President	Lower Nazareth Elementary School
Ms. Jill Hoch	School Nurse, Teacher Leader	Nazareth Area High School
Ms. Jaime Myers	Teacher	Nazareth Area High School
Ms. Nicole Bloise	Teacher	Nazareth Area Middle School
Ms. Rebecca Willock	School Psychologist	Nazareth Area Intermediate School
Mr. Steve Rohn	Teacher	Nazareth Area Intermediate School
Ms. Christina Ehrets	Special Education Teacher	Nazareth Area Intermediate School
Ms. Jackie Bewick	Teacher	Nazareth Area Intermediate School
Ms. Melissa Parsons	Special Education Teacher	Kenneth Butz Elementary School
Mr. Doug Geiger	Teacher	Lower Nazareth Elementary School
Ms. Jennifer Pettinelli	Teacher	Shafer Elementary School

## Purpose of the Plan

The Nazareth Area School District (NASD) Health and Safety Plan outlines our district's school reopening activities for *five day a week of in-person instruction for students in grades K-12 for the 2021-2022 school year*. This plan was created considering the guidance from multiple sources, including St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network, the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [PA Department of Health \(DOH\)](#), and the [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\)](#), and in consultation with staff, Board of Directors, and local health agencies. The plan is unique to the needs of the Nazareth Area School District, and will be monitored, revised, and updated as Federal, State and local orders and health data evolve.

The process for developing this initial draft of the 2021-2022 Nazareth Area School district plan included multiple cycles of review and revision as the district utilized the input from various stakeholder groups.

1. Nazareth Area Education Association (NAEA) Health & Safety sub-committee reviewed the draft plan, surveyed the professional staff to gather their feedback and were provided with community feedback as it was shared with district administration. The NAEA was also provided with the guidance issued by the CDC, DOH and PDE as linked in the plan below.
2. The Nazareth Area School District building and district administrators were also provided with the guidance issued by the CDC, DOH and PDE as linked in the plan below. In addition, the administration reviewed other district-approved health & safety plans to comparatively analyze our own draft plan.
3. The Nazareth Area School District administration documented community feedback as it was provided through different modalities of communication.

As long as communicable diseases like COVID-19 exist in our community, revisions to this Health & Safety Plan may be necessary to meet public health requirements. Any changes to this plan will be presented at a public Board meeting and open to public comment.

## Introduction

The Nazareth Area District to the greatest extent practical continues to utilize the most recent guidance from the PA Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and our health partners at St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) to inform our decisions for health and safety planning for the reopening of school facilities in order to provide 5 day a week in-person instruction to all students. We will continue to use state and local guidance to implement appropriate prevention and mitigation protocols in response to the level of community spread in our county and in our local community. Our goal has been and continues to be to maximize the amount of in-person learning for our students in the safest manner possible by:


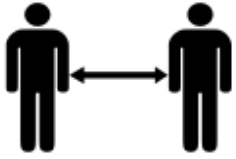

- Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials.
- Participate in contact tracing efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible and practical).
- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread.
- COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school.
- Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness.
- Sports and extracurricular activities occur while maintaining physical distance to the greatest extent feasible and practical.

The Nazareth Area School District will ensure continuity of services (academic, social, emotional, mental health, and food services) of students by operating a summer program for students through ESSER funds during the summer of 2021 for students identified with potential learning loss. Students in our summer program will also be provided lunch through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) program. We will also offer when appropriate an Extended School Year (ESY) program for students with special needs.

The District will continue to operate Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students throughout the 2021-2022 school year with interventions in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, positive behavior support programs, special education programs and services, and programs specialized to meet the needs of students with social, emotional, or mental health needs, as well as Seamless Summer Option Program throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Students and families will have access to behavioral health supports including school counselors, school psychologists, behavior interventionists, social workers, and third party providers to assist students. Additionally, students may access the [Safe2Say](#) reporting tool and Student Assistance Program when needed. Other [Mental Health Resources and Behavioral Health Supports](#) resources for students and families can be accessed with the link above. Employees have access to a variety of Behavioral Health

Supports that may include: EAP Program [Pinebrook Family Answers](#) 610-432-3919 Preferred EAP, [Behavioral health support through employee benefits plan](#), and [Community resources](#).

Mitigation Efforts	
Standard	Organizational Expectations
 <p><a href="#">Face Coverings</a></p>	<p>The Nazareth Area School District has designed a <a href="#">decision-making tool for tiered mitigation measures</a> based upon the DOH guiding metrics for the 2021-2022 school year. This decision-making tool was designed to assist the Nazareth Area School District when a change may be needed to our indoor face covering requirements within each individual school building.</p> <p>Face coverings are not required outside.</p> <p><b><i>Modifications to the district’s face covering practices will be made in response to state orders and/or as the metrics on the spread of COVID-19 and its variants are monitored.</i></b></p>
 <p><a href="#">Physical Distancing</a></p>	<p>Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain 3ft of physical distance to the maximum extent feasible and practical.</p>
 <p><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a></p>	<p>Frequent hand washing by students and employees will be encouraged throughout all schools during the entire school day.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be readily available.</p> <p>Each classroom will be provided with disinfectant.</p>



Cleaning, disinfecting and ventilation

**Cleaning & Disinfecting**

Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC, and DOH guidelines. EPA approved products will be used in accordance with labeling requirements and staff are trained on how to appropriately use these products.

**Ventilation**

Ventilation maintenance will exceed ventilation standards. NASD increased the amount of outside air coming into each classroom. Each classroom has increased air flow which includes: outside air and an increase in air changes per hour (ACPH). On average, there are 6-7 air changes per hour. This falls in the higher range of the recommendation of 4-6 changes per hour. NASD filters utilize a MERV (Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value) rating of (8), again within the recommendation. Filters are changed three times per year. When the weather is warm, the windows in the classroom should be open to help increase the amount of fresh air.



Communication Disease Reporting Procedures (Contact tracing, isolation and quarantine)

The District will continue the established case investigation/contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine procedures for COVID-19 positive cases as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) until otherwise deemed unnecessary by the DOH.

- If an individual's vaccination status affects the recommended quarantine requirement, proof of vaccination may be requested.
- If an individual's COVID infection history affects the recommended quarantine requirement, proof of Positive COVID infection may be requested.



Travel

Staff and students are encouraged to adhere to CDC's guidance relative to travel as well as monitor and comply with state guidelines regarding travel advisories or orders.





Screening

Symptom screening should be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day, using the District-provided [COVID-19 screener](#) . Children with symptoms should not be sent on a bus or brought to school.

Parents should report a positive diagnosis of a student case of COVID-19 to the school nurse.

Symptom screening should be done by all employees at home each day before work using the [COVID-19 screener](#). Employees with symptoms should not report to work.

Employees are required to report a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to their school nurse or Director of Pupil Services.



Vaccinations

The District will collaborate with its health partner, St. Luke's, and/or other providers to advertise COVID-19 vaccination opportunities to the community.



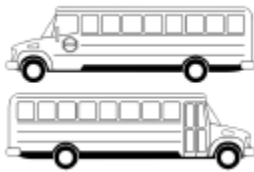
**Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**

Students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations detailed within their IEP or 504 plan based on their individual needs.



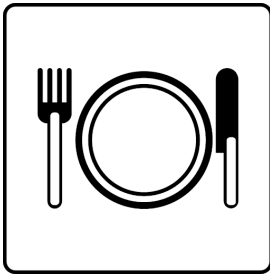
**Coordination with state and local health officials**

The District will collaborate with state and local health officials by the means of (1) directly contacting them as needed or directly through known contacts; or (2) through our continued participation in the established Superintendent Advisory Council for Colonial Intermediate Unit 20.



**Transportation**

*Under a Federal [order](#) issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation - this includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.*



**Cafeteria**

In cafeterias and other areas used to serve lunch, individuals will be seated in a manner best designed to minimize transmission of illness to the extent feasible and practical.

Cleaning in the cafeterias will occur between services.

A touchless and cashless Point of Sale will be utilized for staff and student transactions in the cafeteria




**Volunteers/Visitors/  
University Placements**

**Volunteers/Visitors/University Placements During Instructional Day**

Limit, to the extent practical, visitors in the buildings, during the instructional day.

Under Tier 1 of the Face Covering Tiered Mitigation Measures, all school visitors and volunteers, during the instructional day, are required to wear a face covering or provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. All school visitors and volunteers will be required to follow the [Face Covering](#)

	<p><a href="#">Tiered Mitigation Measures</a> in place in the building at that time.</p> <p>Under Tier 1 of the Face Covering Tiered Mitigation Measures, all University/College placements are required to wear a face covering or provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. All University/College placements will be required to follow the Face Covering Tiered Mitigation Measures in place in the building at that time.</p> <p>Face Coverings are not required outside.</p> <p><b><u>Volunteers/Visitors Before and After the Instructional Day</u></b></p> <p>Before and after the instructional day, face coverings are recommended and encouraged for school visitors and volunteers.</p>
 <p><b>Sports/Extracurricular Activities</b></p>	<p>Continuing to follow CDC guidelines regarding face coverings which are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continued masking for all individuals (coaches, athletes, staff) during team travel (on bus/van).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Face coverings must cover nose and mouth</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <a href="#">Fully vaccinated guidance</a> (≥ 2 weeks from final vaccine dose)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Face coverings optional, maintain distancing and hand hygiene</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <a href="#">Unvaccinated guidance</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Face coverings recommended, maintain distancing and hand hygiene</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <a href="#">Healthcare workers</a> (Athletic Trainers, Team Physicians, etc.)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continued masking during patient care</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Prevention Strategies</u></b></p> <p>The following prevention strategies should continue to avoid potential outbreaks and suspension of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Water</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Athletes are required to bring their own water to practices and events</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Distancing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continue to spread out during water breaks and on sidelines</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Cleaning</b></li> </ul>

- Continue to clean hands and shared equipment frequently (“sanitation breaks”)

**Screening and Attendance**

Participants should self-screen before arriving to campus, and anyone not feeling well should stay home and call their healthcare provider. Accurate attendance should continue to be taken for every practice, lift session, etc. to allow for contact tracing in the event of a positive case and/or exposure.

**Return-to-Activity Following COVID Case**

In the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, an athlete returning from a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will require clearance documentation from a physician/healthcare provider (see attached “NASD COVID RTP Form”). If directed by the treating physician/healthcare provider, the athlete will then begin the [Gradual Return-to-Play Protocol](#) following a positive (or presumed positive) COVID-19 case. The [Gradual Return-to-Play Protocol](#) takes approximately (7) days to complete and an athlete to be cleared for resumption of full, unrestricted activity ([click here for infographic](#)).

## Resources

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health COVID-19 website](#)

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for the Nazareth Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes **9**

No **0**

Affirmed on: August 24, 2021

By:

DocuSigned by:



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Dr. Linda Stubits

President of the Nazareth Area School District Board of Directors