

IAA - Health and Safety Plan FAQ

Does the [Governor's Targeted Mitigation Order](#) apply to schools?

- The Order does not apply to classroom settings but does apply to school activities outside of the classroom that are not related to educational instruction.
- School activities and gatherings not related to educational instruction that are held indoors are limited to no more than 25 people. This includes meetings, assemblies, etc.
- Activities and gatherings held outdoors are limited to no more than 250 people.

Do the event and gathering limitations include students and staff?

Maximum occupancy includes all individuals present at the event or gathering, whether they are students, staff, or spectators.

Are school gyms and fitness facilities included in the Order?

- Yes. All gyms and fitness facilities, while permitted to continue indoor operations, are directed to prioritize outdoor physical fitness activities.
- All activities must follow masking requirements as provided by the [Secretary of Health's Universal Face Coverings Order](#) and more specifically addressed in the PA Department of Health School Guidance released July 16, 2020; must provide for social distancing of at least 6 feet; and must adhere to the indoor and outdoor gathering limitations in the [Governor's Targeted Mitigation Order](#).

Does the [Governor's Targeted Mitigation Order](#) apply to school buses?

The Order does not apply to school buses. The [Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Phased Reopening of Pre-k to 12 Schools](#) includes a list of best practices for safely transporting students.

Are school board meetings considered gatherings under the [Governor's Mitigation Order](#) and can they still meet?

Yes. A school board meeting is a gathering. Meetings may be held but must follow the gathering limitations outlined in the Order if meeting in person.

Does the Order apply to school cafeterias and college dining facilities?

No. School cafeteria food services and college dining services are exempt from the Order, as those services are not considered to be a private catered event or offered by a restaurant. However, if meals are being served in a congregate setting, the Pennsylvania Department of Health recommends individuals sit at least 6 feet apart and wear face coverings when walking to and from the dining facility and when getting their food. See [Public Health Guidance Regarding COVID19 for Phase Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools](#) for additional guidance on social distancing in cafeterias.

Opening of School for 2020-2021

When is the first day of school?

The first day of school is **August 31, 2020** for all students. You can access the 2020-2021 school calendar by clicking [here](#).

What opening model will IAA implement?

At the August 19th School Board meeting, the Board of Directors will be presented with the IAA School Re-Opening plan which will implement a hybrid model based on the most recent information available concerning COVID-19 and recommendations from the PA Departments of Education and Health. You can access the updated PDE/DOH guidance [here](#). The hybrid model will be in effect at least through the first marking period which ends on November 4, 2020. It may extend beyond that date.

What is the weekly schedule for the Hybrid Model?

The weekly schedule for the hybrid model is as follows:

Hybrid Model				
Group A: Last Name A-L In-Person/In-School	Group A: Last Name A-L In-Person/In-School	Groups A & B Remote Learning	Group A: Last Name A-L Remote Learning	Group A: Last Name A-L Remote Learning
Group B: Last Name M-Z Remote Learning	Group B: Last Name M-Z Remote Learning		Group B: Last Name M-Z In-Person/In-School	Group B: Last Name M-Z In-Person/In-School

Note: Wednesdays are not days off for students or staff. It is a remote learning day for students and teachers to connect and students are expected to fulfill attendance requirements.

Will my child's temperature be taken each day?

Each parent/guardian should take their child's temperature prior to them leaving the house in the morning. **If your child's temperature is greater than 100.4° they should stay home and you should contact the school nurse.**

Additionally, students' temperatures will be taken upon entry into the school building. If their temperature is greater than 100.4° they will be isolated from others and you will be contacted to pick up your child.

Face Covering Guidelines/Requirements

What are the expectations for face coverings?

Students and staff are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in a school.

What if a student refuses to wear a face covering?

If students or their families assert children cannot wear face coverings in schools for medical reasons, Section 504 and IDEA both contemplate a similar fact gathering process be used to decide whether an accommodation should be provided. Therefore, IAA will require parents/guardians to provide pertinent medical information in order to decide whether a 504 plan should be developed or modified for a child (or an existing IEP modified) to address whether a child should be excused from wearing a face covering in school. If a student does not have a valid medical excuse for the face covering requirement, and continued noncompliance with this requirement occurs, IAA will elect to make a non-disciplinary transfer of the student to a virtual learning environment in order to protect the health and safety of staff and students in the school.

Are all students required to wear face coverings?

Face covering requirements will follow the guidelines outlined by the Governor's Ordinance in place at the time. These guidelines, as revised on July 17, 2020, indicate that face coverings are required for all students, unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.

Will face coverings be required for all visitors?

See FAQ section about building/classroom procedures.

What requirements will there be on buses for face coverings and social distancing?

See FAQ section about transportation procedures.

Are face coverings required at bus stops?

See FAQ section about transportation procedures.

Transportation Guidelines/Requirements

What requirements will there be on buses for face coverings and social distancing?

- Students will be expected to wear a face covering on the bus.
- Bus runs have been adjusted to limit the number of students on the school bus to be no more than two per seat.
- All students will have assigned seats.
- Students will be seated strategically to coordinate pick up/drop off locations to minimize unnecessary contact with other students. Examples include students being seated with relatives if possible and loading and unloading will be done so less students walk by one another.
- Students' assigned seats will be filled from back to front as students are picked up from their stops.
- Students in the same family will be seated together when feasible.

Will my child have access to hand sanitizer on the bus and at school?

Yes, there will be hand sanitizing stations in multiple locations throughout the school building. There will also be hand sanitizer at the front of each bus and in each classroom.

How will you mitigate the risk of COVID-19 when my child is riding on the bus?

Buses will be sanitized twice daily. The children will be seated with no more than two children per seat. The first two seats of the bus will not be used to provide more social distancing between the bus driver and the children. Face coverings (including face shields or face masks) are required of children unless doing so jeopardizes the physical and/or mental health of the child and/or wearing a face covering is not feasible due to a disability. Bus drivers will be required to wear face coverings (including face shields or masks) when students enter or exit the bus, unless doing so jeopardizes the health of the driver.

Will siblings be able to sit together on the bus?

Yes, we will do our best to keep siblings seated together on the bus.

How will the wearing of masks and facing forward be enforced on buses?

The expectation for riding on buses has not changed. All students are expected to sit in their seats, face forward, not be in the aisles and be respectful of the responsibility that the drivers have. The only expectation that has changed from this year over last year is that only 2 children sit in a seat and they wear their mask while on the bus. Aligned with current practice, bus drivers will work with the building principal to address any bus infractions.

Are face coverings required at bus stops?

Yes, based on the current health and safety guidelines, face coverings are required at bus stops and on the bus. Masks will be required when students enter or exit the building, in the hallways, and when closer than 6 feet in the classroom. The school will continue to monitor the health and safety requirements and send updates if the requirements change regarding face coverings.

When will buses be cleaned?

Buses will be cleaned and sanitized twice daily – once after delivery of all students to school in the morning and again in the afternoon after returning all students home. High touch points in the entry stepwell will be cleaned and sanitized upon arrival at each school drop off location. All cleaning and sanitizing will be conducted using products that meet the CDC and EPA requirements for COVID-19.

Will I still be allowed to drop off my child at school?

Yes. Parents are encouraged to do this because it will lessen the amount of students on each school bus. Please understand that drop-off and/or pick-up procedures, times, etc. may be different than in previous years. Please follow all procedures from the school principal to ensure a safe arrival and dismissal for everyone.

How can parents/guardians assist at the bus stop?

Whenever possible, parents/guardians are requested to assist at the bus stop by monitoring and enforcing social distancing guidelines and the wearing of approved face coverings.

Building/Classroom, Event & Gathering Guidelines

Does the [Governor's Targeted Mitigation Order](#) apply to schools?

See FAQ section about Governor's Targeted Mitigation Order.

How will students be made aware of new procedures in the school (like walking through the halls, going to the bathroom, eating meals)?

Students will receive information on the first day of school from the announcements and homeroom teachers. Letters and E-mails will be sent to them and their families directly prior to the beginning of school.

How will my child's classroom appearance change?

Classroom set-up will be modified as needed to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. For example, desks will all face in the same direction and they will be arranged to maximize the space between desks. In addition, some flexible seating arrangements may be replaced with traditional desks.

How will we keep our students safe when sharing materials like writing implements, art supplies and textbooks?

The use of shared items, including but not limited to pens, pencils, scissors, crayons, textbooks, art supplies, lab equipment, machines and physical education equipment, will be minimized wherever feasible.

What should my child be prepared to bring to school daily?

Children are encouraged to bring the following items to school each day:

- Water bottle(s) filled with water
- At least one face covering (includes face shields or masks). The school encourages students to bring an additional face covering in case the need arises to replace the original one.
- Other additional items may be added to the list in the future.

Will the school allow visitors in the building?

Nonessential visitors will not be allowed into the building.

Will disinfecting materials be available for teacher use?

Each classroom will be provided with disinfectant.

What constitutes an event or gathering?

An event or gathering is a temporary grouping of individuals who interact for defined purposes, that takes place over a limited timeframe, such as hours or days. For example, events and gatherings include fairs, festivals, concerts or shows and groupings that occur within larger, more permanent businesses, such as shows or performances within amusement parks, individual showings of movies on a single screen/auditorium within a multiplex, business meetings or conferences, or each party or reception within a venue.

Similarly, groups of people who share a space within a building in the ordinary course of operations, such as in an office building, classroom, production floor or similar regularly occurring operation of a business or organization, are not "events or gatherings."

Gatherings are subject to the lesser of the building occupancy limit or per-person limit (25 for indoor, 250 for outdoor) as in the Order.

Will student temperatures be screened at school?

Yes, prior to entering the building.

Will visitors be screened before entry?

Visitors will call the front office before entering the building. Screening of symptoms of illness will be required for staff and visitors prior to entering the school or at the front office.

Will face coverings be required for all visitors?

Yes. Face coverings will be required for all visitors entering the building and while visiting the building in accordance with the orders set forth by the Commonwealth.

Symptomatic or sick staff, students and visitors will not be permitted to enter the school.

Will students be able to use hand sanitizer?

Washing hands with soap and water is the best defense against the spread of communicable diseases. Where soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer with at least 70% isopropyl alcohol is an acceptable alternative. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school, in school common areas, and for outdoor activities.

Will students be allowed to use water fountains?

Students are encouraged to bring personal, labeled water bottles/drinking vessels from home. Water fountains will be covered or turned off.

How will students and staff be reminded to follow safe practices?

- Signage will be placed at the entrance to the school's main office to communicate how to stop the spread of the disease and hours of operation, as well as CDC signage to communicate preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and social distancing for each building.
- Physical guides, such as tape on floors/sidewalks, and signs on walls will be placed to ensure staff and students remain at least 6 feet apart when feasible.
- Students and staff will be educated on handwashing, proper use of PPE, Bloodborne Pathogens, Social distancing, COVID-19 Information, and pre-screening for symptoms of COVID-19.

What social distancing protocols will be in place at IAA?

- Arrival & departure procedures for the building will be constructed in a way that adheres to social distancing guidelines.
- Variable locations for arrival and dismissal of students may be utilized to encourage social distancing.
- Encourage school drop-off and walking to school.
- Classroom seating/desks shall be at least arranged apart to the greatest extent feasible.
- Use rows all facing the same direction for seating configurations of desks and work areas, when feasible. If not feasible, consider staggered, diagonal seating, or clear barriers at shared tables to avoid "across the table" seating.
- Limit high-traffic, high-volume hallway use to increase social distancing.
- Limit the use of congregate settings.
- Limit the sharing of materials among students.
- Continue with physical education activities as long as those activities limit physical contact and touching.
- Have class outdoors as much as practicable.
- Limit field trips to virtual, inter-group activities and extracurricular activities to follow the masking and social distance guidelines, through at least November/December.
- We will strive for 6ft social distancing to the greatest extent feasible and no less than 3ft.

What extra cleaning and sanitizing protocols will IAA put in place?

IAA is re-aligning custodial shifts to focus our resources on the times when students and staff are in the buildings. Regular sanitizing of high-touch areas will occur throughout the day. Extra cleaning and sanitizing will occur in bathrooms. Additional sanitizing using sprayers will occur in classrooms and communal areas following the school day.

Meals/Food Service Guidelines

How will lunch time work in cafeterias?

In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to minimize movement within the building, lunches will be served in the classrooms to those students who will be attending school under the “**hybrid learning model**”. Students will remain in their classrooms during their designated lunch times and take their lunches from a designated food cart. Students will then return to their desks and remain seated. Masks may be removed once students are seated at their desks.

What protocols are in place for lunchtime (Where / When applicable)?

- Cashless point of sale will be implemented. Touchless student/staff transactions at checkout (students/staff will use ID cards).
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff.
- Disposable plates, utensils, etc. will be utilized.
- Meals may be brought from home in labeled Ziploc bags and in disposable containers. No sharing of food and utensils permitted.
- Social distancing lines/markers will be placed to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practical); there will be designated entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use.
- Cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day will be conducted after each meal service.
- Posters encouraging covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often will be placed in the cafeteria in sight of all students and staff.

Possible Illness/Quarantine Guidelines

IAA will work directly with the PA DOH for contact tracing and quarantine decisions

What will happen if a student begins to feel ill during the school day?

If a student begins to feel ill during the school day, he/she should notify the teacher immediately. The student will be sent to the school nurse, wearing his/her face covering, and the nurse will assess the student's symptoms. If the student is exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms, the student will be isolated and the parents/guardians of the student will be called to immediately pick up their student. Parents/guardians will be asked to contact their physician and/or appropriate healthcare professional for further directions.

Under what circumstances will quarantine be recommended for students/staff?

The school will continue to monitor CDC, PA Department of Health and PDE recommendations and guidance related to student/family isolation and quarantine. IAA will work directly with the PA DOH of health for contact tracing and quarantine decisions

What should I do if my student has a medical condition which places him/her at a higher risk for serious illness if infected with COVID-19?

We recommend that you speak with your student's physician to obtain specific recommendations for your student's individual health situation, and contact the Certified School Nurse.

How will the IAA protect vulnerable students for severe illness?

- Continuity of education plans should be followed for those students that may not be able to attend due to high risk.
- Remote learning will continue as appropriate. Allow vulnerable students to complete their coursework virtually.
- Allow an early transition for vulnerable students to go to classes.
- Ventilate all classrooms and common areas when available.
- Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students by the Certified School Nurse for students.

What happens if a student or staff member starts developing symptoms during school hours?

If a student or staff member starts exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, they will immediately mask (if not already masked) and be sent to the isolation room in the nurse's office. The nurse will assess the student or staff member, including a temperature check. If it is determined that the individual's symptoms could be related to COVID-19, they will be kept in isolation until they are dismissed from school.

What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for, or was in close contact of a student or staff member with COVID-19?

The local health department conducts contact tracing on all individuals who test positive for COVID-19. If a student or staff member is identified as being in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, they will be notified by and placed under quarantine by the Department of Health. Staff and students can usually return to school 14 days after their last exposure to COVID-19. All areas in the school that the individual was located will be closed off until the area can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

If there is a positive at the school, will the school close?

IAA will work closely with the local health officials to determine if a classroom or the entire school building needs to be closed.