

UPPER DAUPHIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADDENDUM TO 2021-22 HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN
August 26, 2021

Reason for Addendum

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to evolve and local data begins to show an increased level of community spread in northern Dauphin County region, some adjustments need to be made to the 2021-22 Health and Safety Plan. In addition, recent clarifications and guidance by the Pennsylvania Department of Health have helped the Upper Dauphin Area School District (UDASD) make decisions about how certain situations should be handled. Finally, concerns over the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to grow. Consequently, this addendum is a response to additional information, clarification of information regarding the Delta variant, and current trends in public health data.

The UDASD administrative team recognizes that there are community members that fall on both sides of the debate over mitigation efforts. That said, the administrative team is charged with putting forth a plan that at its forefront, protects the health and safety of students and staff and preserves in-person learning. The plan outlined within this addendum was developed with multiple scenarios in mind including a potential increase in the impact of COVID-19 variants as the year evolves. While the UDASD did issue a Pandemic Recovery Plan in May with a belief that the pandemic response was moving in a positive direction, it has become clear that the focus must shift to a continued response model, and the team will monitor and adjust that response as deemed necessary to preserve the primary goals identified above. This does not mean that the UDASD is abandoning its Post Pandemic Recovery Plan, but the plan will run in parallel with efforts to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during the current school year.

Mitigation Efforts

At this time, the UDASD will not require students or staff to wear face coverings entering the 2021-22 school year, with the following exceptions:

- By federal order of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), face coverings must be worn when riding on UDASD transportation when traveling to and from school and traveling to and from extracurricular events.
- As specified under the 'Symptomatic Individuals' and 'Positive Cases' sections.
- As specified under the 'Outbreak Return Mitigation' section.
- As specified under the 'Close Contact' section.

Please note that anyone is allowed to wear a face covering while in school and doing so will reduce the chances of being quarantined should a positive case occurs as noted in the 'Contact Tracing' section.

The UDASD does not plan to utilize social distancing except as specified under the 'Outbreak Return Mitigation' section.

Cleaning

Classroom and large group areas will be cleaned daily. A weekly disinfection schedule will be implemented similar to last year with some areas receiving more frequent disinfection activities. Busses will be disinfected on a daily basis. If a positive test occurs, areas accessed by the positive individual will be disinfected within twenty-four (24) hours as per CDC guidelines.

Symptomatic Individuals

If a person within school or extracurricular activities is showing symptoms of COVID-19, the person will be isolated and removed from the school environment. They will be asked to wear a mask until they exit school property. According to the UC Davis Health (2021), the symptoms of the delta variant are the same as COVID-19. Parents should continue to monitor their children for these symptoms and keep students home from school if they are experiencing one or more of the symptoms. If a child does come to school and shows symptoms of COVID-19, the child will be evaluated by the nursing staff or athletic trainer (extracurricular activities). If the nursing staff or athletic trainer determine that the symptoms exhibited are consistent with COVID-19, the student will be sent home and the parents will be contacted. Once a student is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms, the child should see their primary care physician to either be tested or cleared for return to school. Please note that vaccination status does not matter if the person is symptomatic.

Although testing is being made available to schools, the UDASD does not have the resources available to conduct testing and will defer to primary care physicians for all testing related to COVID-19. Likewise, the UDASD will not hold vaccination clinics, but the UDASD does recognize that higher numbers of vaccinated people may help to reduce the impact on in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year.

Positive Cases

When the UDASD receives notification that a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, the UDASD will take the following steps if the person has been in the school environment within forty-eight hours prior to symptom onset:

- If the person who tested positive is in school, the person will be isolated, asked to mask and sent home.
- The person testing positive must serve a ten (10) day isolation period from the day following the onset of symptoms or the day following the last positive test (if asymptomatic) regardless of vaccination status.
 - o The person testing positive must also be without fever for twenty-four (24) hours without medication.
 - o Other symptoms must have improved, but loss of taste and smell may last for quite some time and should not prevent the end of isolation if other criteria are met.
- Contact tracing will be conducted to determine Close Contacts (see 'Close Contact' section).
- Any areas accessed by the positive individual will be disinfected within 24 hours.
- The positive case will be reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Health using the designated reporting method.
 - o The report will contain case information.
 - o The report will contain a list of potential school-based close contacts.

Outbreak Determination

For each positive case, the determination will be made if the positive case causes the UDASD to meet the criteria for an outbreak. An outbreak is determined by two (2) or more cases within a single classroom or group without other epidemiological linkages. If it is determined that the case constitutes an outbreak, the UDASD will consult with the Pennsylvania Department of Health about whether or not it needs to modify its operational level (i.e. virtual education), implement additional mitigation measures, and the length of any operational level modification (maximum 14 days). Please note that the modification may be made for the affected classroom or school depending on an assessment of the situation.

Multiple Outbreaks

If the positive case leads to an additional outbreak and the additional outbreak is the third outbreak within a school or grouping, the UDASD will work with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to determine if its operational level needs to be changed or if existing modifications need to be extended. This could be done for the individual school or the entire district depending on the situation.

In addition, if the following thresholds are met within a fourteen (14) day period, the UDASD will notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health to discuss the need to modify operations or extend existing modifications.

- Elementary School = 19 cases
- Middle School = 16 cases
- High School = 18 cases
- District-Wide = If more than one building meets the criteria.

Outbreak Return Mitigation

The maximum time that the operational level can be changed due to a single outbreak is fourteen (14) days. Upon return from a single outbreak, it may be determined by the DOH that the UDASD may return sooner than fourteen (14) days if face coverings are worn. If that occurs, the UDASD will require face coverings during school and indoor extracurricular activities for the difference between the fourteen (14) day maximum and the number of actual modified days decided upon in cooperation with the DOH.

If a third outbreak occurs or the above thresholds are met, upon return from the virtual learning period, a fourteen day face covering period will be implemented and the situation will be assessed to determine if further mitigation efforts are required. The face covering period may be for the school or district depending on the data at the time and an overall assessment of the situation.

Extracurricular Activities

Any modification to school operations and/or education services may result in a suspension of extracurricular activities for the same time period as the modification.

Assessment Period

The UDASD reserves the right to modify the school operational level temporarily as needed to assess individual situations, assess outbreak impacts, or implement additional mitigation measures.

Contact Tracing

Fully vaccinated asymptomatic individuals (students or staff) do not need to quarantine based on close contact with a positive case. However, the vaccinated individual does need to:

- Be tested within two (2) to five (5) days after exposure even if asymptomatic,
- Wear a mask indoors and in public for fourteen (14) days or until the test comes back negative.
- Isolate for ten (10) days if the test comes back positive.

If a student otherwise meets the definition of a close contact, but the student and the positive person were wearing masks, the student does not have to quarantine. Please note that this does not apply to adults.

All other close contacts will be required to quarantine for ten (10) days unless they obtain a negative test after five days since last contact. Close contacts who obtain a negative test after five days may return

after the seventh day. Close contacts are determined based on six (6) feet for fifteen (15) consecutive or cumulative minutes based on several factors including proximity, prolonged exposure, symptomatic status, presence of coughing, singing, or shouting, or presence of crowding and indoor contact.

Once close contacts are identified, parents will be provided with a preliminary exclusion notice pending notification of the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The UDASD will submit all identified close contacts for each case to the Pennsylvania Department of Health for follow-up. Only the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) approved reporting mechanism will be used to report cases and DOH nurses and epidemiologists will not be contacted directly except to follow-up on a case that has already been reported. Students or staff identified as close contacts may not return to school unless the quarantine period has been served or the DOH notifies the UDASD that the person no longer meets the close contact criteria.

Non-School Close Contact

The criteria under the 'Contact Tracing' section will be followed even if the contact occurs outside of school. In addition to the information provided, a person who meets the criteria for a close contact that does not qualify for any of the exemptions must serve a ten day quarantine period prior to their own quarantine period if the person continues to live with a family member who has tested positive.

DOH Initiated

It is possible that the Pennsylvania Department of Health may become aware of a positive case through other means. If they become aware of a case affecting the UDASD, they will contact the UDASD and discuss the situation. The information contained elsewhere in this addendum will be used to determine the course of action required as a result of the report.

Dashboard

Similar to last year, a dashboard will be created and displayed on the District's website. The dashboard will contain information about case levels, outbreaks, and face covering requirements at the time. The dashboard will be broken down by school building.

References

UCDavis Health. (2021). Delta variant: 8 things you should know about this COVID-19 strain. Retrieved from <https://health.ucdavis.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-information/delta-variant.html>

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2021). CDC guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools. Retrieved from <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/CDCGuidanceInformation/Pages/default.aspx>

Pennsylvania Department of Education. (2021). Plans and processes for K-12 schools during COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Safe%20Schools/COVID/GuidanceDocuments/Plans%20and%20Processes%20for%20K-12%20Schools%20During%20COVID-19.pdf>