

# Health and Safety Plan: Evergreen Community Charter School 2023-2024

**Initial Effective Date: August 20, 2020**

**Date of Last Review: August 2, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: June 2, 2023**

Our top priority at Evergreen Community Charter School is the health and safety of our staff, students, their families, and our community as a whole. Our primary goal is to work together with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) to maintain protocols that are expected to be followed by all staff, students, and families. These protocols are based on the most recent mandates and recommendations by the DOH and PDE. Protocols in effect at Evergreen are subject to change, and will be adjusted as conditions related to COVID-19 change. The PDE requires that all schools review their Health and Safety plans at least every six months, or whenever there are significant changes to the DOH recommendations for schools.

- 1. How will Evergreen Community Charter School support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the DOH for the operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning?**

Evergreen will proceed with a five day school week in the 2023-2024 school year for in-person instruction.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court lifted the mask-mandate for schools during the 2021-2022 school year. Unless the mandate is reinstated, masks will continue to be optional during the 2023-2024 school year. Students and staff may be asked to wear a mask if exhibiting signs of illness (coughing, etc).

Evergreen will make decisions based on current guidelines given to Pennsylvania schools by the DOH. Evergreen will support prevention and mitigation efforts in response to changing conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to practicing preventative health measures such as cleaning and sanitizing, as well as hand washing, Evergreen will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff and we will continue to monitor the temperature of all members of our community at the start of the day

**2. How will Evergreen ensure continuity of services, including, but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and the students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?**

Here at Evergreen we understand that the return to full-time in-person learning must focus on meeting the needs of students not only academically, but must also focus on the students' emotional, social, and mental health needs. Students, as well as their families will have access to both the counselor and school nurse.

Evergreen will also retrieve data on how students' learning has been impacted by the pandemic. Evergreen will address these findings by comparing the results to already existing achievement gaps, and formulating a plan to better meet the needs of the students.

**3. How will Evergreen maintain the health and safety of students, educators, other staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety guidelines established by the DOH?**

**A. *Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks:***

- The mask mandate issued by the DOH was lifted on 12/10/2021.
- Mask wearing will be optional for all students and staff while inside the school building.
- Students and staff may be asked to wear a mask if exhibiting signs of illness.
- Evergreen will provide PPE to all students and staff as needed.
- A change in the masking order could come from the state or federal government if circumstances with the pandemic change.

**B. *Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:***

- Students and staff will be asked to adhere to current DOH guidelines.

- Students and staff will be asked to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Students and staff will be permitted to use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not readily available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Sneezes and coughs should be covered with a tissue, or into your bent elbow.
- Used tissues should be thrown away and hands should be washed with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, hand sanitizer may be used.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the building.
- Monitoring to ensure adherence among staff and students.

C. ***Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:***

- Continue deep cleaning and sanitation procedures in the building, along with increased attention to high touch points such as bathrooms.
- Sanitizing, cleaning, and disinfecting will be performed in accordance with current CDC and DOH guidelines. Approved products will be used according to labeling requirements.
- Proper temperature and ventilation will be maintained during occupancy.
- Filters in air purification systems to be replaced on schedule.

D. ***Contact Tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with state and local health departments:***

- Evergreen will follow the current DOH guidelines for contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation.
- **Response to a Positive Covid Case:**
  - All positive cases will be referred to the Certified School Nurse.
  - Certified School Nurse will provide guidance on testing and exclusion from school based on current DOH guidelines.
  - Certified School Nurse will assist DOH with contact tracing if warranted.

F. ***Diagnostic and screening procedures:***

- Evergreen staff and students will follow current diagnostic testing and screening procedures set-forth by the DOH and PDE.
- Parents should perform daily symptom screenings at home. No children with symptoms should be sent on the bus or dropped off at school.

G. ***Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:***

- All eligible students and staff members will be encouraged to receive the Covid vaccine.

H. ***Appropriate Accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:***

- Evergreen will adhere to all accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities.

I. ***Coordination with state and local health Officials:***

- Evergreen will maintain our Pandemic team and continue to communicate with state and local health officials as needed.
- Evergreen will continue our communication with public health officials to mitigate and monitor the spread of Covid.

J. ***Athletics/Extracurricular Activities (Physical Education):***

- Continue to follow CDC and DOH guidance.
  - While indoors, as well as outdoors, masks will be optional for all staff and students.
  - Mask guidance is subject to change by mandates on either state and federal level.
- Regular cleaning of hands as well as the cleaning of shared equipment to continue.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Trustees for Evergreen Community Charter reviewed and approved the Health and Safety plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes       No

Affirmed on: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Board President)