



# ***Health and Safety Plan***

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## ***The Vista School***

***Approved Private School, Licensed Private  
Academic School Hershey, Pennsylvania***

Initially Approved July 20, 2020

Revised September 4, 2020

Revised November 30, 2020

Revised March 7, 2021

Revised April 13, 2021

Revised September 2, 2021

The Vista School is a private school specializing in the treatment of students with moderate to severe autism ranging from ages 3-21, sent to the school via Local Education Agent's (LEA's) and the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. The Vista School serves over 42 different school districts across 8 counties. The School campus has four buildings: an elementary school with 5 classrooms, a middle school with 2 classrooms, a junior high with 3 classrooms, and a high school with 4 classrooms. The Vista School recognizes the unique complexities of the individuals we serve and the need for consistent instruction which makes the threat of a highly infectious outbreak a concern for the health, wellbeing, and instructional progress of the individuals we serve.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to achieve the following goals:

- Increase the likelihood of a healthy and safe learning and work environment while minimizing disruptions to instruction
- Continue to provide evidence-based instructional practices while simultaneously following Department of Health and Center for Disease Control recommendations and guidelines
- Create and maintain a learning environment that supports to the best of our ability the intent of Department of Health and Center for Disease Control guidelines

## **CONSTRAINTS OF PLAN**

1. The virus may change in intensity and spread at varying degrees throughout the course of the next school year. Our plan will need to be flexible and respond to those changing realities with the pandemic.
2. Our students require close instruction, support with personal care, have disabilities that impact their ability to adhere to social distancing guidelines, decreased ability to persist with wearing personal protective equipment, or have full independence with hygiene care. Additionally, our students at times engage in significant behaviors of concern that may increase the likelihood of physical contact with others and/or require intensive behavioral interventions.
3. Our staff will be in close contact with students to support instruction and self-care (toileting, dressing, feeding, cleaning, safety, etc.) which does not allow for adherence of 6 feet between the staff and student for many components of programs and instruction
4. Our students are in a high-risk category due to their autism as well as other comorbid medical conditions.
6. Our school is a nonprofit private school and does not have access to taxpayer funding, large reserve funds, public school

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grants, etc. We are committed to following all recommendations and guidelines from the CDC to maintain as safe a public environment as possible.

7. The procurement of personal protective equipment and/or appropriate cleaning materials will be mitigated to every extent possible.
8. Our school serves students from 8 different counties which complicates concerns related to contact tracing and monitoring of the level of community spread in student home counties. This will be monitored and Vista will follow guidance from Local Education Agent's (LEA's), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DoH) related to these logistical complications.

## **SCOPE/DEFINITION**

The Vista School's Health and Safety Plan plans for prevention and mitigation of symptoms and diagnosis of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – The definition/description of COVID-19 per the Center of Disease Control is as follows:

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness accompanied with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. The virus is spread person-to-person between people within close contact via respiratory droplets. This occurs most often when someone sneezes or coughs and another person nearby inhales the droplets into the lungs. Transmission may also be possible through contact with contaminated surfaces, but this is not the primary source of transmission.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are listed below. A fever may be less likely in children than adults and GI symptoms may be more likely in children. Further, children (more often) and adults may be asymptomatic. Symptoms of COVID-19 (symptoms may be updated as the medical community continues to learn from the virus. Therefore, reference the link below the listed symptoms for most up to date symptoms):

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting

- Diarrhea

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

All decision-makers should be mindful that if there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities.

Depending upon the public health conditions in any county within the Commonwealth, there could be additional actions, orders, or guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) that will require changes to this plan and/or reverting back to a previously published health and safety plan.

## Type of Reopening

### Key Questions

- How do you plan to bring students and staff back to physical school buildings, particularly if you still need social distancing in place?
- How did you engage stakeholders in the type of re-opening your school entity selected?
- How will you communicate your plan to your local community?
- Once you reopen, what will the decision-making process look like to prompt a school closure or other significant modification to operations?

**Based on your county's current designation and local community needs, which type of reopening has your school entity selected for the 21/22 School year: Full Reopening**

## Pandemic Coordinator/Team

Each school entity is required to identify a pandemic coordinator and/or pandemic team with defined roles and responsibilities for health and safety preparedness and response planning during the phased reopening of schools. The pandemic coordinator and team will be responsible for facilitating the local planning process, monitoring implementation of your local Health and Safety Plan, and

continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year. To ensure a plan that reflects the considerations and needs of every stakeholder in the local education community, LEAs are encouraged to establish a pandemic team to support the pandemic coordinator. Inclusion of a diverse group of stakeholders is critical to the success of planning and implementation. In the table below, identify the individual who will serve as the pandemic coordinator and the stakeholder group they represent in the row marked “Pandemic Coordinator”. For each additional pandemic team member, enter the individual’s name, stakeholder group they represent, and the specific role they will play in planning and implementation of the Health and Safety Plan by entering one of the following under “Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities”:

- **Health and Safety Plan Development:** Individual will play a role in drafting the enclosed Health and Safety Plan.
- **Pandemic Crisis Response Team:** Individual will play a role in within-year decision making regarding response efforts in the event of a confirmed positive case or exposure among staff and students; or
- **Both (Plan Development and Response Team):** Individual will play a role in drafting the plan and within-year decision making regarding response efforts in the event of confirmed positive case.

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Pandemic Team Roles and Responsibilities (Options Above)
Janet Foor	Executive Director of Education	Both
Marcie Lawrence	School LPN, Nursing Department	Pandemic Crisis Response Team
Devon Sprenkle	Development Director, Communications	Pandemic Crisis Response Team
Sabrina DeLong	Compliance Officer	Pandemic Coordinator
Carvel Keiser	Director of Infrastructure	Pandemic Crisis Response Team
Alicia Burger	Executive Director of Clinical Programs	Both
Kendra Peacock	Director of Quality, Training, Research	Pandemic Crisis Response Team
Meredith Chamberlin	Director of Human Resources	Pandemic Crisis Response Team
Joseph Carter	Facilities Supervisor	Pandemic Crisis Response Team

**Health and Safety Plan**

**1. How will The Vista School, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

Vista will continue to monitor this plan to include federal and state mandates and consider significant new guidance. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary with the option of reverting to a previous plan, if needed. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to students, families, staff and the greater community.

**2. How will The Vista School 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?**

To address academic needs, our methods for educational delivery for the 2021-2022 school year will be:

- 1) Vista students will have the following delivery options:
  - a. In- person classroom instruction (asynchronous learning may be occasionally necessary depending on positive cases and governmental guidance and mandates)

**3. The table below demonstrates how The Vista School 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.**

Requirement	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<p><b>Universal and correct wearing of face coverings</b>  <a href="#">COVID-19: Considerations for Wearing Face coverings   CDC</a></p>	<p>Staff: Vista will follow CDC guidance for all staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Staff sitting alone in offices are not required to wear a face covering. Staff will maintain, where feasible, a 6ft distance from other staff while eating and drinking. Vista continues to offer disposable face coverings for any staff that needs one.</p>

	<p>Students: Students with disabilities are not required to wear a face covering, however, every alternative should be exhausted to support student in wearing a face covering. Staff will continue to work with students to wear a face covering while on campus and in the community.</p>
<p><b>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</b>  <a href="#"><u>How to Protect Yourself &amp; Others   CDC</u></a></p>	<p>Students should be socially distanced pursuant to CDC guidelines. In shared spaces, at least 3 ft. of distancing, will be maintained between students in classrooms, gym area, playrooms, vans etc.</p>
<p><b>Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette</b>  <a href="#"><u>When and How to Wash Your Hands   Handwashing   CDC</u></a></p>	<p>Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, transitioning back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Signage indicating proper handwashing procedures are posted in high-traffic areas throughout the campus. Students, staff and visitors will continue to be encouraged to implement these best practices.</p> <p>Staff will wear gloves while assisting student lunches, student snacks and student toileting procedures.</p> <p>Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is provided at strategic high traffic areas throughout the campus and in classrooms. Alcohol-based sanitizer will be utilized if soap and water are not readily available.</p> <p>Vista will continue to stock appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene practices.</p>
<p><b>Cleaning and ventilation</b>  <a href="#"><u>Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces for COVID-19   CDC</u></a></p>	<p>Strategies recommended by the CDC to the greatest amount practical while still providing a full educational program for students. Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, water bottle fillers) within the school and on school owned vehicles</p>

	<p>Cleaning procedures put in place last school year will continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The utilization of cleaning products that kill COVID-19 will continue as well.</p> <p>Ventilation rates will be maximized during occupied times to the maximum extent possible. Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows, doors, and/or fans. If there is a case of COVID-19 and the person was in the buildings during the contagious period, cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place.</p>
<p><b>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Contact Tracing Resources   COVID-19   CDC</u></a></p>	<p>Vista will follow DoH/CDC guidelines for isolation and quarantine of students and staff members who test positive or are close contacts of positive cases.</p> <p>Vista will continue to report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.</p> <p>Vista will provide the health department, as required, with a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school, to the best of its ability.</p>
<p><b>Daily symptom screening</b></p>	<p>All students, staff and families will remain trained to conduct a self-assessment for COVID symptoms and shall perform a self-assessment each day prior to arriving at Vista.</p> <p>Communications will be made to ensure that students and staff members with symptoms do not report to school; symptoms will be reported to the pandemic coordinator and/or school nurse. Staff and families will be notified that they or their children have been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19. The pandemic coordinator and/or school nurse will inform those who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 so they can monitor themselves for symptoms and/or be placed</p>

	<p>in quarantine, if applicable. Signage outlining COVID symptoms will be posted throughout the campus.</p> <p>There is a designated COVID-19 email that can be utilized by staff and families for any exposure reporting, questions and/or COVID-19 concerns</p> <p>Covid-alert@vistautismservices.org</p>
<b>Efforts to provide vaccination opportunities</b>	Vista will continue to research and publicize local vaccination opportunities to staff and student families, as applicable
<b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</b>	IEP teams will continue to develop specially designed instruction, accommodations, or strategies that meet the needs of each Vista student
<b>Coordination with state and local health officials</b>	<p>Vista will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contact tracing with the health department.</p> <p>Vista will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues as needed</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for The Vista School reviewed and approved Health and Safety Plan on **9/2/2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

5 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **September 2, 2021**

By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David R. Fine', written over a large blue circular scribble.

David R. Fine

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*(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.