

## **Salisbury Township School District Health and Safety Plan - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are living in unprecedented times, and we have many difficult decisions to make concerning the learning of our children. Our team here in the District has been working tirelessly to implement the health and safety guidance provided to us and to think creatively about how to best resume school in a time when there are no easy answers to the challenges we face.

Parents and community members have raised an abundance of questions. In order to best support our families and caregivers, we have created this FAQ document to answer the questions we have received through the July parent survey and comments at the July board meeting.

This document will be updated with additional information as we progress through the planning process.

### Topics:

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## Hybrid/Blended Learning

### **Why is the district considering a blended learning model? What is the difference in going to school 2 days per week or 5 days per week?**

Guidance indicates the District should have no more than 25 individuals in a classroom. This is difficult to meet in all grade levels due to the number of students and adults (teacher, co-teacher, ESL teacher, instructional assistants, and other service providers) in the learning environment. The difference is the number of students attending on any one day. Fewer learners in a classroom increases the amount of space for social distancing and potentially allows for a reduction in the use of masks and face coverings.

### **Did the District consider a blended learning structure with three days face-to-face and 2 online?**

Teaching both online and in-person requires additional planning for teachers. Two days in person for each group of learners will allow a third day for additional planning and student and parent communication.

### **How will material/content be covered while at home? Will it be the same material as if in school with the teacher? How will instruction be provided by the teacher on days my child is not in the building?**

The District is collaborating with teachers to determine what learning will look like in this environment. In a blended learning approach, the priority will be building community, developing new concepts and assessment of skills. Online lessons will reinforce skills and could include recorded instructional videos designed by the teacher as well as activities and projects for application of learning.

### **If a blended learning option were needed, could families request which group their children would attend? The ability for children to attend on the same days as friends and neighbors would be helpful.**

At this time, we are gathering information on the preference of families.

### **What if the family has different last names? Will you go with the oldest child's last name?**

Attendance will be assigned by the oldest child's last name.

### **Will elementary children be allowed to bring student iPad or laptop back and forth between home and school?**

Yes, elementary children will be allowed to take their devices home for online learning days with parent permission.

**If only half the students are going on a given day, doesn't that mean there's half the kids on the bus?**

The blended approach will ensure fewer learners are transported by the district each day. The exact number of learners will vary by bus. We anticipate there may be some bus seats with two students per seat. Siblings will sit together. We will not know how many students will be on the buses until parents/guardians complete the Declaration of Intent for Transportation.

**How can working parents make this option work? Will there be childcare options or support?**

Lehigh Valley Child Care (LVCC) will offer before care and after care at Salisbury Elementary School and Salisbury Middle School. All-day on-site day care will not be available..

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## Building Cleaning Protocols

**How will the building be cleaned?**

Details are provided in the [Health & Safety Plan](#).

**What are the cleaning protocols for students changing classrooms?**

Classrooms will not be cleaned between classes. Classrooms will have disinfecting wipes so students may wipe down desks upon entering the room, as appropriate. Rooms will also have hand sanitizer and/or classroom sink for washing hands.

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## Face Masks and Coverings

**Why is wearing a mask/face covering required?**

The universal masking requirement ordered by the PA Department of Health is in effect for all schools. See also [Universal Face Masking FAQ](#)

**What can my child wear as a mask/face covering?**

"Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth. "Face coverings" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.

**Will my child have to wear a mask at his/her desk?**

Yes. Teachers will schedule mask breaks.

**What if my child cannot wear a facemask?**

Children 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 school. Parents/guardians must provide documentation. Additional information for this process will be provided upon request.

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## Full-time in Physical Classrooms

**Why is the school district considering options other than back in physical classrooms five days a week for all students?**

There are several reasons why the district must consider alternatives.

- 1) Guidance indicates the District should have no more than 25 individuals in a classroom. This is difficult to meet in all grade levels due to the number of students and adults (i.e. teacher, co-teacher, ESL teacher, instructional assistants, and other service providers) in the learning environment;
  - 2) Six feet of social distancing is recommended between learners. This is difficult to provide in most classrooms across the grade levels.
  - 3) The classroom environment resulting with full implementation of the guidance provided is not ideal for creating a stimulating and engaging learning environment;
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## Health Protocols

**What are the protocols if a child is sick at school?**

The child will go to the school nurse and parents/guardians will be notified. The District will contact the PA Department of Health and/or St. Luke's for contact tracing.

**What are the protocols if a teacher is sick?**

The teacher will contact his/her healthcare provider. The District will contact the PA Department of Health and/or St. Luke's for contact tracing.

**What are the protocols if there is a confirmed Covid-19 case?**

The District will contact the PA Department of Health. We are awaiting guidance from PDE and the PA Department of Health.

**Will attendance policies be relaxed?**

We are waiting for guidance from PDE on possible changes in attendance requirements.

**Will students and staff be quarantined for 14 days if Covid-19 is suspected or confirmed?  
If so how will continuity of learning be maintained?**

We are awaiting protocols for quarantining from the Department of Health. Students will receive assignments from teachers as they would for any absence.

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## Lehigh Carbon Technical Institute (LCTI)

**What are the plans for students who attend LCTI?**

At this time, it is our understanding that LCTI students will attend LCTI on the days they are scheduled for in-school face-to-face instruction. LCTI will also provide online instruction for the students' "online" days. We will provide additional information as we receive it.

**What is LCTI's plan for health and safety?**

You can view the full [LCTI Health and Safety Plan here](#).

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## Social Distancing

**Why is the district using the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines instead of the Center for Disease Control (CDC)?**

The WHO Guidelines were supported by the Bucks County Health Department and other resources used to create the Health and Safety Plan. The latest guidance from the PA Department of Education (sent after the July 15th survey) directed schools to provide 6 feet of social distancing when feasible. We developed the plan in compliance with PDE's guidelines.

**Would it be possible for teachers to change classrooms instead of students at the middle school?**

No, learners go to different classes such as Algebra I, specials, reading support, special education, world language etc...

**How will movement be minimized during transition times such as entering/exiting the building, changing classrooms?**

Healthy and Safety Committees in each building will meet to provide input into protocols for entering the building, changing classes, and dismissal.

**How will social distancing be maintained in the cafeteria?**

Building leaders are looking at cafeterias and alternate spaces (hallways, gyms, etc) to ensure there is 6 ft between learners at lunch.

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## Social Emotional Learning

**If we are not back in school five days a week, how will the district support social emotional learning?**

The District has counselors and a Social Worker to support learners.

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## Special Education

**How will children with disabilities be provided with the support they need to be successful in a blended or online environment?**

Our Director of Special Education and leadership team are working to develop these supports. Supports will be tailored to students' IEPs.

**What about learners enrolled in a special education program operated by IU 21?**

CLIU 21 will provide information about their programs.

**Can parents opt for packets instead of using an iPad for learners with disabilities in a blended or online learning environment?**

The IEP team will determine accommodations and specially-designed instruction for learners with disabilities.

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## Virtual Academy of Salisbury Township (VAST)

**What is VAST?**

The Virtual Academy of Salisbury Township (VAST) is a fully supported online educational alternative for students residing in the district in grades Kindergarten to 12th grade. VAST students are enrolled as Salisbury students and therefore have access to its schools and resources. VAST students will be able to participate in all the activities, extracurricular programs, and athletics that STSD offers to traditional Salisbury students, as compared to students enrolled in non-district supported cyber schools. VAST students will be provided with laptops and technology support from within the district, a school counselor to provide guidance academically and emotionally, and the ability to use any other school resources, including school libraries and guidance services. The program allows students to grow academically, with support services provided by the district, and to grow socially while learning from their home environment.

Please visit our [VAST website](#) for more information. Also note there is a VAST Virtual Open House planned for **August 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm**. Please register at this [link](#).