



**COVID-19
HEALTH AND SAFETY
PROCEDURES
2021-2022**

Updated 8.1.2021



Dear Erie Day School Community,

In the spring of 2021, 16 eighth grade students and two staff members of Erie Day School completed an educational expedition into Boston, Massachusetts studying history, culture, music, and literature. Students navigated the Freedom Trail, whale watched, and set the scene for the Pilgrims arrival and the Natives' welcome from the Mayflower. They maintained their motivation to travel despite questionable times, unfamiliar circumstances, and health concerns. Over five days, they persevered and grew in resilience. At the end of the week, one of the members of our graduated Class of 2021 reflected on the meaning of her experience stating, "My belief in myself and those around me has taken me out of a difficult time."

Our school community has grown resilience in consequence of the challenges we faced throughout the pandemic. Through your diligence we had fewer student visits to the nurse's office and a single-digit number of children sent home from school exhibiting symptoms of illness. We negated head lice and annual sicknesses like strep throat that tend to trend in classrooms. Despite the coronavirus and mental health worries, our students grew through perseverance and resilience.

Motivated students completed the school year remotely or face-to-face. Creative teachers stretched themselves to ensure continuity of learning. Administrators and staff kept the practical affairs of the school in order. Committed Board members met virtually, advising and planning for the future. Generous donors responded to our annual giving campaign and participated in our online auction. Enthusiastic new students applied for and have become enrolled with EDS for the upcoming academic year anxious to join our thriving community. With deep gratitude for the gifts of your child(ren) as well as sacrifices and commitment to health and well-being, our school community is in solid position to move ahead together in 2021-22 with renewed strength and resilience. As we approach the school year, once again, we need your help to that end.

In the pages to come you will find the updated *Erie Day School COVID-19 Health and Safety Procedures*. We are maintaining our dedication to following the science through consult with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Erie County and PA Departments of Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics and our own Erie Day School parents specializing in medicine and/or science. Thank you in advance for your continued commitment to the health and wellness of our community.

Yours in education,



2021-22 COVID-19

SAFETY AND HEALTH PROCEDURES

Updated 8.1.2021

1. Erie Day School students and faculty will wear masks while indoors.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP, 19 July, 2021) issued new Covid-19 guidelines for schools recommending that everyone over age 2 wear masks this fall, even if they have been vaccinated. Exceptions may be made for those with medical or developmental conditions that complicate mask wearing.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, 28 July, 2021), even those vaccinated should wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission. At Erie Day School, the majority of our students are too young to be eligible for the vaccines, which are authorized only for those ages 12 and older. Universal masking could reduce overall transmission of the virus, including the pervasive nature of the variants which are wide and rapid-spread among children, helping to protect those who are unvaccinated. At EDS, not only is 2/3 of our student body ineligible for the vaccine, multiple age levels share connected space. When surveyed, 100% of our medical and science community members were in favor of masks among all students, toddler through Grade 8.

Masks will cover the nose and mouth.

Students that receive bus transportation must be masked during transit.

2. Erie Day School will continue its layered approach to mitigate contagion.

In reference to the CDC and AAP (July, 2021) recommendations for a "layered" approach, EDS will continue to combine a variety of measures to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission. In addition to universal masking, those measures include vaccination, improved ventilation, virus testing and cleaning and disinfection among others. Please review the preventative layers listed below (without preferential order).

Cohorting– Students will be limited in contact from other cohorts. Grade levels will travel/transition together and two lower school classrooms with 20-21 students (kindergarten and second grade) will be divided into two groups the majority of the day. With any larger events, cohorts will maintain 6’ distance from other cohorts and students will be masked.

Contract tracing– If a student is ill or exposed to a family member, friend or classmate that tests positive for COVID-19, contract tracing will occur in consult with the Erie County Health Department.

Food service will be provided with individually wrapped items. Snacks and lunches will be eaten outside as frequently as possible. Students will be seated 3’+ apart.

Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds will occur frequently among all students, faculty and staff.

Physical distancing– Students will be seated 3’ apart and adults will strive to maintain 6’ distance from students and other adults (CDC, July 2021). Morning Meetings, lunch and other large group events will maintain safeguards of physical distancing with masks. In large groups cohorts will maintain 6’ distance from one another.

Disinfecting high touch surfaces and shared classrooms /communal spaces will remain a priority.

Indoor space– Desks will face the same direction and students will be seated 3’ apart. Teachers will maintain 6’ distance from students and other adults.

Outdoor space will be utilized as much as possible. The bleachers, hoop house, gazebo, benches, easy-carry chairs, outdoor desks and yoga mats offer easy arrangements to outdoor classroom space.

Quarantining or isolation will occur when a student has become ill with or exposed to a positive case of COVID-19.

According to the CDC (July 2021), quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6’ of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even they don’t have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

What to do if issued a quarantine requirement:

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Isolation is used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area, and use a separate bathroom (if available).

What to do if isolation is recommended:

- Monitor your symptoms. If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.
- Stay in a separate room from other household members, if possible.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible.
- Avoid contact with other members of the household and pets.
- Don't share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils.
- Wear a mask when around other people if able.

Staggered arrival/dismissal times are as follows:

- Toddlers, PS, PK and Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 3:00pm.
- Bus riders, walkers and bike riders will be dismissed at 3:15pm.
- Lower School students will be dismissed to the rear of the school at 3:15pm.
- Middle School students will be dismissed to the front of the school at 3:25pm.
- Siblings are dismissed at 3:15pm. Lower School students with a Middle School sibling can depart from the front of the school.

Transportation – Masks are required in buses and among school event transportation among friends, cohort members, and other adults (e.g. field trip venues, Ski Club, Camp Fitch, etc.)

Vaccinations – Students in Middle School are welcome to submit their vaccination records to the school office. Parents are reminded of the state mandated vaccinations that need submitted to the school office on the first day of school and in seventh grade. 97% of faculty/staff are fully vaccinated. (See Appendix A.)

Ventilation – Our HVAC units are maximizing ventilation. Windows and doors will be open as much as possible.

Virus testing – If a child exhibits two or more symptoms of COVID-19 we recommend the PCR testing from the local pharmacies. These tests are free of charge. Rapid tests are also available over the counter. A child's negative test result is required for re-entry into school after exposure or exhibited symptoms.

Visitors – Non-essential visits and visitors will be limited (this includes delivery drivers -NO Door Dash or food deliveries). When visitors are on campus masks will be worn and physical distancing of 6' will be implemented. Events are planned but will be monitored with issued, timely guidelines for visitors.

Water systems – Students are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids and may carry along water brought from home, filled in the water bottle filling stations at school or purchased from the dining room services. The drinking fountains will be taped off again this fall/winter.

3. Parents will continue *At-Home Daily Student Health Screening* before sending children to school.

See Appendix B.

4. Students exhibiting two or more of the following symptoms will need to be tested.

- 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

Resources

Data Tracking: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

General Information: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Mask Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

Mental Health: <https://childmind.org/article/what-are-the-symptoms-of-depression-in-teenagers/>

<https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20210315/pandemic-has-harmed-mental-health-of-teens#1>

Pennsylvania Department of Health most recent recommendations: See Appendix C.

Quarantine Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Vaccine Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>