

CHARTER ARTS

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ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan July 2021

Initial Effective Date: July 23, 2021
Date of Last Review: July 22, 2021
Date of Last Revision/Approval: April 2021

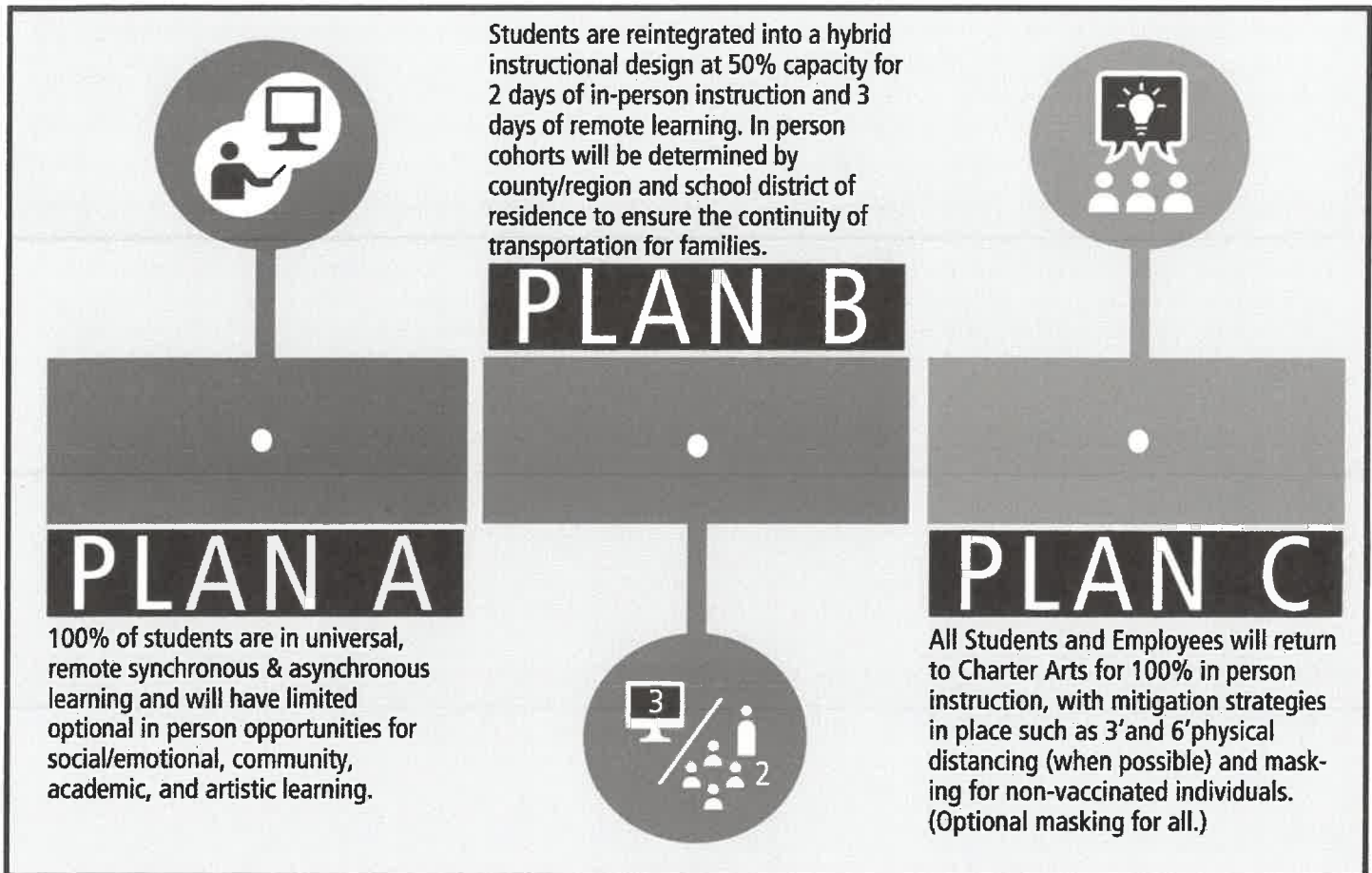
Since March of 2020, the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts (Charter Arts) has been operating within a three-phase Health and Safety plan to address the rapidly changing needs and evolving guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our first Continuity of Education plan was approved in April 2020, and our first official Health and Safety plan was School Board approved in August. The Charter Arts School Board of Directors approved an updated version of our Health and Safety Plan in April 2021 before launching Plan B - our transition plan to move from fully remote to hybrid learning. These plans are linked below in the Resources section of this document. **This document is our third Health and Safety Plan, outlining Plan C, a 100% return to in-person school for students and employees this fall 2021.**

How will the LEA, 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 to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

The health and safety of all Charter Arts students, employees, families, and the community at large remain a top priority for our School Board and school leadership. We plan to continue implementation of our three-phased approach as outlined in the graphic below, and we will continue to collaborate with our partners at St. Luke's and Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 (IU20), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), and the Bethlehem Health Bureau. Additionally, we plan to continue to monitor the websites, guidance, and resources these partners and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) provide to ensure that we are making decisions in the best interest of our students, employees, and community.

Our team will continue to monitor conditions and guidance related to COVID-19 as they are ever-evolving, and Charter Arts mitigation protocols are subject to change and will be revised accordingly by Administration when needed. Additionally, at any time during this school year, should the Charter Arts Administration recommend moving from one phase to another within our Health and Safety Plan, that will require School Board approval and resubmission of this plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). However, the School Board grants School Administration permission to adjust our day-to-day procedures to align with updated guidance, regional COVID case counts, and in consultation with our healthcare partners, without resubmission of this plan. In the event that our Administration recommends implementation of Plan B, the District of Residence attendance assignments will be revised and communicated to all stakeholders. Further, we will continue to keep our stakeholders informed as changes to this plan or schoolwide procedures are implemented.

To continue to keep our Charter Arts community safe, we respectfully request that all students and employees get a COVID vaccine and provide confirmation to our school nurse via email: nurse@charterarts.org.



Charter Arts Plan C Updated Details

On July 9th, 2021, the CDC released new guidance for K-12 schools, reflected in our updates below.

- All students and employees will return to Charter Arts for in-person instruction five days a week.
- Charter Arts will not offer a hybrid or online option for school attendance in Plan C. All students and employees will be expected to be in person for teaching and learning.
- Masking is optional for all building occupants and encouraged for unvaccinated individuals. Guidelines may change based on evolving guidance from the CDC and DOH as we approach the start of the school year. The Administration reserves the right to update masking requirements as needed.
- Administration may opt to require universal masking in school due to any of the following considerations:
 - Increased or substantial community transmission of COVID-19 or a COVID-19 variant that is spread among children/adolescents or is causing a more severe COVID-19 illness in our local/regional area
 - Low vaccination rates among students, teachers, and/or staff
 - Response to community input from students, teachers, staff, and parents that masking for in-person instruction is preferred
- On district transportation, district bus drivers will monitor and enforce mask requirements.
- We will:
 - strive to maintain 3 feet of physical distancing in all spaces when possible
 - strive to maintain 6 feet physical distance between unvaccinated individuals when participating in physical activity (i.e., dancing, singing, or playing instruments) when possible

- strive to maintain physical distancing during lunch periods to the maximum extent possible; depending on case counts and evolving guidance, students may eat in classrooms (as was the case during Plan B) or in the Commons.
- Charter Arts will resume Open Campus Access for 11 & 12th grade students in good standing as outlined in the Student/Family Handbook and per our parent/guardian written approval form. We reserve the right to amend Open Campus to include 10th-grade students in the second half of the school year.
- If they have not already done so, we encourage all students and employees to get a COVID-19 vaccine and, if they are vaccinated, to provide their vaccine records to our school nurse. Vaccines will keep our community safe and streamline contact tracing and communication efforts.
- Public performances will be held in person, both at Charter Arts and in the local community. Physical distancing for audience members and performers is encouraged. We plan to offer performances in a variety of formats, including live in-person, pre-recorded, and in some cases, live-streamed based on the nature of the event to maximize viewership when possible.
- Masks will be optional at performances and strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals.
- Field trips and travel may resume. Departments will coordinate when applicable.
- When riding on Charter Arts school bus/van or other transportation service contracted by Charter arts, masks are required.
- In-person visiting artists, classroom speakers, and master classes may resume; distancing will be encouraged. Classroom visitors will be required to use the self-screener tool, and masks will be optional for visitors.

How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs and students' and employees' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

For the summer and 2021-2022 school year:

- All teaching employees have been approved for 10-15 hours of curriculum revision time to utilize this summer to address learning loss in their curriculum due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The school counseling team will continue to implement Suite 360, an interactive social and emotional wellness program for all students, and will track student completion and needs based on these learning modules.
- We will include an Advisory period in our daily schedule to implement a custom curriculum for students, based on Suite 360 data from 20-21 and the needs of our students gathered through written and oral feedback to allow for community building and discussion of topics introduced in the Suite 360 lessons related to mental health, wellness, executive functioning, and coping skills, etc.
- We have established a new Student Activities Coordinator position to focus on school spirit, culture, community, and wellness as we return to in-person instruction and interdisciplinary and school-wide student social interaction.
- We will continue to partner with outside organizations, including, but not limited to:
 - The Center for Humanistic Change (CHC) and Shanthi Project will provide family education at Back to School night and at other family engagement sessions to be scheduled throughout the year.
 - CHC will continue to be the supporting organization for our Student Assistance Program (SAP), which aims to identify and support students referred for additional support.
 - Established partnership with Lehigh University to provide a school psychologist and counseling intern as placements and need allow.
- We will maintain our partnership with CIU20 and regularly attend the administrative regional Emergency Preparedness meetings where conversations and solutions surrounding student mental health and wellbeing have become a top priority.

The table below further explains how Charter Arts will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other employees by aligning our procedures to guidance established by the CDC and PA DOH.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Masking is optional for all building occupants and encouraged for unvaccinated individuals. Cloth face coverings are recommended and encouraged for all building occupants as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and/or onto other people when the person wearing the cloth face-covering sneezes, coughs, talks, or raises their voice. ● Correct mask-wearing will follow the CDC’s most current guidelines, PA DOH, St. Luke’s Health Network, and the City of Bethlehem Health Bureau. ● Charter Arts administrators may implement and require universal masking in schools if necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 based on data and guidance.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building occupants will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing when possible. ● In Dance, Vocal, and Instrumental Music classes, students and employees are encouraged to maintain a 6’ distance for non-vaccinated individuals when possible. ● Teachers and students will attempt to maintain 3-6’ physical distancing whenever possible to ensure maximum student participation and safety. ● Students will be permitted to wear masks if they choose to do so. ● We will outline 6’ spaces on the Dance and Acting Studios floors to provide a visual for students and teachers to represent 6’ distance so they can maintain spacing as needed. ● Whenever possible, Vocal and Instrumental students will limit the number of individuals participating in aerosol-producing activities simultaneously (i.e., singing, playing woodwinds). If this is not possible, alternate locations may be used for this purpose, and masks may be worn. ● Students are encouraged to wear specialized masks with slits for playing instruments (if applicable) and see-through masks for singing and acting. These are available in the school’s Main Office for purchase if a student or family is interested. ● Depending on classroom space, music students may have the opportunity to use PVC barriers between themselves and their peers when participating in aerosol-producing activities. ● Students will continue to eat in smaller groups, in the Commons Cafe, classrooms, or in other assigned locations.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Building occupants are encouraged to routinely utilize the hand sanitizer stations installed in every classroom and other work and public space. ● Proper handwashing technique signage has been posted in all restrooms. ● Paper towels and sanitizing spray are provided in each classroom to clean student desks and chairs and teacher workstations.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HVAC units exceed standards for air circulation per hour per room. ● Cleaning & disinfecting occurs during the school day and after school hours. ● Electrostatic sprayer and Halo disinfectant machine will be utilized during and after the school day and performances as needed. ● Large mops & disinfectant cleaner will be used in the Dance studios periodically during the school day.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-educate employees, students, and families on the self-screener tool before sending students to school or reporting to work. ● All employees, students, families, and visitors must conduct a daily self-screening to monitor symptoms before reporting to school or work (see screener in the resources section below).

<p>the State and local health departments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If an individual is exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms. ● Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after being exposed (within 6 ft for 15 minutes or more) to someone with COVID-19. Individuals must self-monitor for any possible symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after exposure and report to the school nurse if symptoms occur. ● Unvaccinated individuals are recommended to quarantine at home for 14 days when they have been in close contact (less than 6 ft for 15 minutes or more) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 unless they have had a positive case of COVID-19 in the past three months. ● Quarantine time can be shortened to 10 days if the individual no longer shows symptoms within 24 hours or seven days with a negative COVID 19 test result on day five or later. ● Students required to quarantine per the PA DOH must provide sufficient documentation to the nurse and attendance coordinator. Instructional access will be discussed with the family on a case-by-case basis. ● We will request that students and employees carry a mask with them during the school day. (Charter Arts will also keep a supply of disposable masks for community members if they need one for any reason). ● If a student or employee exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, they will immediately mask (if not already masked) and report to the school nurse's office. ● Students will immediately isolate until dismissed. Students will only be released to parents/guardians, or student drivers may drive. Students presenting COVID symptoms will not be permitted on school/district transportation or go home via carpool to ensure the health and safety of others. Parents/guardians will be instructed to seek medical evaluation and testing for COVID-19. ● Symptomatic employees will be instructed to seek medical evaluation and testing. ● An area of the Nurse's Office will be designated as the sick room (room with resting cots). The door will remain closed while symptomatic students are in the room. Spaces will be cleaned immediately upon vacancy using the electrostatic sprayer and disinfectant. ● The certified school nurse, or their designee, will monitor the temperatures of any symptomatic students and employees. ● Symptomatic students who do not receive a COVID-19 test can return to school when fever-free (without medication) for three full days. ● When a student or employee, who has been in the building within two weeks, is diagnosed with COVID-19, Charter Arts will notify close contacts and possible exposures of the confirmed positive case according to the CDC guidelines.
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Diagnostic testing is available at multiple local locations and is recommended for all persons with symptoms of COVID-19 (see resources below). ● Charter Arts is not currently utilizing random or direct screening testing for employees or students at the time of the approval of this document. ● On July 16th, 2021 the PA DOH announced their plans to implement a free, K-12 school-based testing program that will include several testing options at no cost to the school or families. Charter Arts plans to explore this option when more information is available and to opt-in to the testing program. We will communicate this information with our community as soon as we have more information about the DOH testing program.
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Charter Arts promoted three opportunities to receive COVID vaccinations through the Bethlehem Health Bureau and notified families via our weekly eblast. ● The vaccine has been promoted to employees and students. ● In partnership with CIU20, Charter Arts employees were provided the COVID-19 Vaccine during the 20-21 school year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charter Arts respectfully requests that all students and employees get their COVID vaccination before the start of the 2021 school year and provide proof of immunization to the school nurse.
Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities concerning health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who are quarantined per the PA DOH must provide sufficient documentation to the school nurse and Attendance Coordinator. Access to instruction will be discussed with the family on a case-by-case basis. Students with complex needs should schedule a meeting with the school nurse or their IEP/504 team to discuss their diagnosis and/or special needs. Accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the need, diagnosis, and decision of the IEP/504 team members. Counseling and mental health-related services will be available as needed for students, and our new advisory period will address overall wellness. Employees at high risk for contracting COVID and with documentation that they cannot perform their job responsibilities as outlined in their job description in person should contact the Superintendent/CEO immediately to initiate the interactive ADA process.
Coordination with state and local health officials	<p>As previously outlined, Charter Arts will continue communicating with and following guidance and recommendations from the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colonial Intermediate Unit 20 (IU20) Bethlehem Health Bureau St. Luke's University Health Network PA Department of Health (PA DOH) PA Department of Education (PDE) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Resources:

[Charter Arts Health and Safety Plan - August 2020](#)

[Charter Arts Revised Health and Safety Plan - April 2021](#)

[Charter Arts Self-Screener Checklist](#)

[Charter Arts School Counseling Resource Page](#)

[CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting Protocols](#)

[CDC Contract Tracing Resources](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Vaccine for Children and Teens](#)

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

[CDC Guidance for Unvaccinated People](#)

[CDC Guidance for Wearing Masks](#)

[CDC Hand-hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette](#)

[CDC Interim Guidance for Diagnostic and Screening Testing](#)

[CDC Isolation if you are Sick](#)

[CDC Vaccine Toolkit for Schools](#)

[CDC Ventilation for Schools](#)

[CDC When to Quarantine](#)

[PA Covid-19 Vaccine Information](#)

[PA Unites Against COVID: Safe Workplace Checklist](#)

[PA Unites Against COVID: Isolation Information](#)

[PA map of available testing sites](#)

[St. Luke's University Health Network Guidance for Schools](#)

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 22, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **July 22, 2021**

By:



Mario Acerra, Board President (*Signature* of Board President*)

Mario Acerra

Mario Acerra, Board President (*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 is needed.