Health and Safety Plan Summary: PA Virtual Charter School

Initial Effective Date: July 30, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 31, 2026

Date of Last Revision: August 31, 2026

This revision adds a Vaccine Preventable Disease Outbreak Response section addressing measles, issued in response to joint guidance from the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education dated August 19, 2026.

Health and Safety Team

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented	Health and Safety Team Roles and Responsibilities (Options Above)
Richard Costa	School Safety Security Coordinator & Facility Manager	School Safety Security Coordinator, Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Nate Achey	Director of Information Technology	Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Dr. Debra Heath-Thornton	Chief Executive Officer	Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Dr. Shaikha BuAli	Chief Academic Officer	Crisis Response Team
Jason Fitzpatrick	Principal, Pupil Services	Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Crystal Widmann	Assistant Principal of Pupil Services	Crisis Response Team

Christina Woltjen	Elementary School Nurse, K-4	Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Victoria Roache-Lelli	Lead Nurse	Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Kinet Becker	Director of Special Education	Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team
Kiel DeCarlo	Assistant Director of Special Education Support Services & Compliance Monitoring	Crisis Response Team
Laura Matjasic	Principal, Student Achievement and Development	Crisis Response Team
Steven Schutt	Principal, K-4	Crisis Response Team
Richard Verga	Principal, 5-8	Crisis Response Team
Sherri Tate	Chief Human Resources & Marketing Officer	Crisis Response Team

Summary

PA Virtual shall follow CDC guidelines as well as applicable state and federal recommendations for all staff that physically return to work in the King of Prussia administration building. The health and safety of all PA Virtual's students, families, staff and independent contractors remains the top priority of PA Virtual. CDC K12 School Guidance on Preventing the Spread of Infections

Forehead temperature reading kiosks will be deployed at each entrance of the facility during an elevated CDC recommendation. If a staff member or guest is not feeling well, that individual is asked to leave the building immediately and if a staff member, contact their supervisor.

The facility will be electrostatically disinfected when a staff member reports having symptoms of infectious diseases and if heavier staff, student, parent, vendor and contractor traffic is observed.

There will be disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer at locations near workstations for staff to wipe down any surfaces in their work area and practice hand hygiene. There are multiple hand sanitizer stations located throughout the building in the common areas.

The Facility Manager will ensure that all HVAC units are operating at optimal levels for proper ventilation and air filters are changed on a regular preventive maintenance quarterly schedule. Filters have been upgraded and air purifiers were added to all nine HVAC units for improved air quality.

School Community

Overall, for the majority of our students, instructional delivery and most services are able to be provided virtually. PA Virtual will continue hosting in-person school events. If conditions change, such as cessation of in-person events and state testing, email communication will go out to the entire school community and will be updated as new information becomes available. PA Virtual follows recommended CDC, PDE and local guidelines to host safe in-person community events. All in attendance at in-person school community events or home visits, health screenings or in-person related services are expected to follow guidelines and procedures. Protocols for students with disabilities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate accommodations will be considered to fully support their safety and learning to the extent consistent with this Health and Safety Plan and applicable laws and applicable health and safety guidelines. PA Virtual is continually evaluating the parameters to ensure the safety of staff, students, parents, contractors, vendors and guests.

1. **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 in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

For the majority of our students, all instructional delivery and services are able to be provided virtually. Protocols for students who are high risk or have disabilities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate accommodations will be considered to fully support their safety and learning to the extent consistent with this Health and Safety Plan and applicable laws and applicable health and safety guidelines.Each school implements a class coverage plan for staff who are absent and when substitute teachers are unavailable.

Decisions regarding in-person services for students with a disability shall be made on an individual basis by each student's IEP/504 plan. In-person services shall be permitted, however, unless the health and safety guidelines of this plan together with applicable state and federal mandates regarding health and safety are followed during the provision of any in-person services.

All students, siblings and adults must adhere to CDC guidelines conducting home visits, attending outings or providing related services.

2. **How will the LEA 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?**

For the majority of our students, all instructional delivery and services are able to be provided virtually. Protocols for students with disabilities are addressed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate accommodations will be considered to fully support their safety and learning to the extent consistent with this Health and Safety Plan and applicable laws and applicable health and safety guidelines. PA Virtual provides all support services to students and staff through our online model of education. Virtual support sessions for both students and staff, mental health clubs, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and virtual teacher office hours for families will continue to address and proactively support our student and staff population.

PA Virtual employs approximately 300 staff, the majority are remote employees. Limited staff report to the King of Prussia office on a weekly basis. If any of the limited staff who report to the office are at higher risk of serious illness from infectious diseases, he/she should contact their Supervisor and Chief Human Resources & Marketing Officer and arrangements may be made for continuing telework. Employees with face to face or main office responsibilities that demonstrate symptoms and/or history of exposure to infectious diseases, they should contact their supervisor and plan to telework. All employees should make arrangements to be tested for infectious diseases and follow the isolation and quarantine recommendations of the CDC regardless of vaccination or booster status. CDC Respiratory Virus Recommendations; Protect Yourself and Others from Flu, COVID-19, and RSV

They should continue to practice all necessary and appropriate Department of Health recommended safety precautions listed on the school guidance page of the Montgomery county website: Public Health Respiratory Viruses Updates

3. **Use the table below to explain how the LEA 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.**

*The school will continue to follow **CDC** and **DOH** recommended practices.*

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. **Universal and correct wearing of masks;**	Masks and Respiratory Viruses Protection **What to Know** Wearing a mask is an additional prevention strategy that you can choose to further protect yourself and others.
b. **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);**	Physical Distancing and Respiratory Viruses **What to Know** Additional prevention steps and strategies can be layered on to further protect yourself and others.
c. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;**	Hygiene and Respiratory Viruses Prevention **What to know** ● Hygiene (practices that improve cleanliness) is a core prevention strategy to lower risk from respiratory viruses. ● Core prevention strategies are important steps you can take to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses.

d. **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;**	**Cleaning** - The facility will be electrostatically disinfected when a staff member reports having symptoms of infectious diseases and if heavier traffic is observed for staff, student, parent, vendor and contractor. **Ventilation** – The Facility Manager will ensure that all HVAC units are operating at optimal levels for proper ventilation and air filters are changed on a regular preventive maintenance quarterly schedule. Filters have been upgraded and air purifiers were added to all nine HVAC units for improved air quality. Taking Steps for Cleaner Air for Respiratory Virus Prevention **What to know** ● Taking steps for cleaner air is a core prevention strategy to lower risk from respiratory viruses. ● Core prevention strategies are important steps you can take to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses.
e. **CDC Isolation & Quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;**	Any staff member that reports to the office and reported testing positive for infectious diseases will be mandated to follow CDC and Local County Health Department recommendations for isolation and quarantine. Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When Your Sick **What to know** ● Taking steps to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses when you are sick is a core prevention strategy to lower risk from respiratory viruses. ● Core prevention strategies are important steps you can take to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses.

f. **Diagnostic and screening testing;**	Forehead temperature reading kiosks will be deployed at each entrance of the facility during an elevated CDC recommendation. If a staff member or guest is not feeling well, that individual is asked to leave the building immediately and if a staff member, contact their supervisor. Testing and Respiratory Viruses **What to Know** Testing is an additional prevention strategy that you can choose to assist in making decisions to further protect yourself and others.
g. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;**	Vaccination Trends and Respiratory Illnesses
h. **Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and**	Decisions regarding appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities shall be made on an individual basis, collectively agreed to by each student's IEP/504 team. Respiratory Virus Resources for People with Disabilities **What to Know** ● In addition to CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance, there are several special considerations for people with certain risk factors for severe illness, including people with disabilities.

i. **Coordination with state and local health officials.**	Respiratory Viruses: COVID, Flu, RSV PA Virtual will follow best practices recommended by the CDC and local county health department guidance.

4. Vaccine Preventable Disease Outbreak Response

This section responds to joint guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education on August 19, 2026 regarding the statewide rise in measles cases, and applies to PA Virtual's in person school events, home visits, health screenings, and in person related services.

4a. Student Immunization Documentation

PA Virtual maintains documentation of student immunization status and exemptions as part of its standard enrollment and & Pupil Health yearly compliance process. This existing record allows the school to quickly identify students who are not immune in the event of a case in the school community.

4b. Exposure Response Plan

- In the event of a suspected or confirmed measles case connected to an in person event, home visit, or in person related service, PA Virtual will work with the local health department to identify individuals without documented immunity who may have been exposed
- Individuals identified as susceptible (no proof of immunity) will be notified promptly so that timely action, such as quarantine or post exposure prophylaxis, can be taken in coordination with the local health department
- The Health and Safety Plan Development & Crisis Response Team will coordinate the school's internal response and serve as the point of contact with public health officials

4c. Recognizing Symptoms and Isolation Procedures

Staff at in person events, home visits, and related services should watch for fever, cough, runny nose, red and watery eyes, and rash, which are signs and symptoms of measles.

- A symptomatic individual will be isolated in a designated area away from others until they can be picked up or leave the location
- Families and staff will be instructed to call ahead to their health care provider or urgent care center before arrival, rather than walking in, so the provider can prepare to receive them safely

4d. Exclusion Criteria

- An individual with a confirmed measles diagnosis will be excluded from all PA Virtual in person activities until four days after the onset of rash

- An individual who is not immune (no documented vaccination or prior infection) and who has had a known exposure to measles will be excluded from in person activities for up to 21 days following their last exposure

4e. Communications Strategy

- The Office of the CEO will serve as PA Virtual's primary point of contact for coordinating public information releases with local and state public health officials
- In the event of a confirmed case connected to a PA Virtual event or activity, the school community will be notified by email, consistent with PA Virtual's existing practice for communicating health and safety updates
- Families and staff will be reminded, as needed, about MMR vaccination and where it can be accessed, including primary care providers, urgent care, pharmacies, federally funded health centers, state health centers, and the local health department

4f. Case Notification and Reporting

- PA Virtual will notify the local health department or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at **877 PA HEALTH** (877 724 3258) immediately upon learning of a suspected or confirmed measles case connected to a school activity
- PA Virtual will share required data, such as attendance records, contact information, birth dates, and immunity or vaccination status for potentially exposed individuals, with public health officials to support case investigation and outreach
- Exposure locations to be reviewed with public health officials may include shared classrooms, shared spaces such as lunchrooms, shared transportation, and shared extracurricular activities. Outdoor settings, such as a shared recess period, are typically not considered exposure locations
- PA Virtual will contact public health officials before making any decision to close a location or cancel an event connected to a case. School closure is generally not recommended and will only be considered in consultation with public health officials

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **PA Virtual Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **October 17, 2026**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_x__ Yes

_____ No

Affirmed on: **October 17, 2026**

By:



(*Signature* of Board Chair*)

Carl Schwartz

(*Print Name of Board Chair*)

*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.