



Intermediate Unit 1

PARENT/GUARDIAN

COVID-19 RESOURCE GUIDE

2020-2021 School Year

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GENERAL INFORMATION

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Wolf developed a [Process to Reopen Pennsylvania](#). Reopening is categorized into three phases: **Red**, **Yellow**, and **Green**. Schools are included in this process. According to the county designations of these phases, schools are to operate as follows:

- **The Red Phase:** Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning, whether using digital or non-digital platforms. Provisions for student services such as school meal programs should continue. Large gatherings are prohibited.
- **The Yellow Phase and Green Phase:** Schools may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health and Safety Plan, to be approved by the local governing body (e.g. board of directors/trustees) and posted on the school entity's publicly available website.

The Intermediate Unit 1 (IU1) developed a Health and Safety Plan utilizing input from our stakeholders, including surveys completed by parents/guardians. Thank you for your participation in this process. The IU1 Health and Safety Plan is subject to change based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) guidelines, local/state guidelines, and any applicable laws. Furthermore, the specifications in this plan are designed to support the Health and Safety Plans of our member school districts. You will be notified of any changes to the plan if/when they occur.

This document provides detailed information concerning the IU1 plan for school reopening, instructional models, safety protocols, procedures, and additional parent/guardian resources. As school begins, student and staff safety remain the priority. Our goal is to provide optimal educational and related services to your child in a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS

The following scenarios are proposed for school reopening. The scenario will be selected at the discretion of the Executive Director while considering the number of COVID-19 cases in the communities of Fayette, Greene, and Washington counties:

Yellow/Green Phases

Scenario A: Full Reopening Model-Students participate in five days per week of face-to-face instruction (Distance learning option for students with health/safety concerns).

Scenario B: Blended Reopening Model-Students participate in face-to-face instruction two days a week and engage in distance learning the remaining three days a week until October 1, 2020. At that date, the instructional model and circumstances will be reevaluated, based on community and county COVID-19 transmission rates. Staff assigned to the IU1 Campus Schools and Early Intervention programs will teach from their classrooms or program assignment for four days per week and work one day remotely (Distance learning option for students with health/safety concerns).

Scenario C: Distance Learning Model-Students participate in remote learning from home until October 1, 2020. At that date, the instructional model and circumstances will be reevaluated, based on community and county COVID-19 transmission rates. Staff assigned to the IU1 Campus Schools and Early Intervention programs will teach from their classrooms or program assignment for four days per week and work one day remotely.

Red Phase

Distance Learning Model-Students participate in remote learning from home. Staff assigned to the IU1 Campus Schools and Early Intervention programs will teach remotely.

One-to-One Initiative

The IU1 is also implementing a one-to-one initiative to provide equitable access to technology and learning opportunities to all students. Students will have instructional lessons and materials readily available using an online learning platform, despite being present in the classroom or participating in distance learning. A Chromebook will be issued to each student enrolled in an IU1 Campus School, IU1 classroom operated within a school district, and IU1 classrooms at the Fayette County Career and Technical Center. The Chromebook will be provided at the start of each school year.

Two learning platforms will be utilized as part of the one-to-one initiative: Fusion Cyber Solutions and Unique Learning Systems. Fusion Cyber Solutions will be used in conjunction with the following learning platforms according to grade level and program of enrollment:

- Google Classroom- Grades K-8
- Moodle-Grades 9-12
 - Comprehensive Therapeutic Emotional Support (CTES)
 - Therapeutic Emotional Support (TES)

Unique Learning Systems will be used by students in the following grades and programs of enrollment:

- Grades K-12
 - Autistic Support
 - Life Skills Support
 - Multiple Disabilities Support

Additional information concerning the IU1 one-to-one initiative can be located in the Intermediate Unit 1 Issued Devices Student and Parent Handbook.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Cleaning

- High touch surfaces, materials, and equipment will be cleaned daily.
- At least daily, schools and transportation vehicles will be disinfected using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19.
- Routine cleaning practices will be used for indoor areas or outdoor equipment that has not been used for 7 or more days.
- Standard protocols will continue to be used to clean surfaces that are not high touch.

General Safety Protocols

- Good hygiene practices will be reinforced with students and staff.
 - Examples: Hand washing, covering your cough, sneezing in your elbow, etc.
- In Classrooms and frequently trafficked areas the following will be provided:
 - Hand Soap
 - Hand Sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol
 - Cleaning wipes/disinfectant spray
 - Tissues
 - Paper towels
- Signs will be posted to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.
 - Examples: Good hygiene practices, staying home when sick, symptoms of COVID-19, etc.

Classroom

- Student desks will be separated by 6 feet to the maximum extent feasible.
- Partitions for student desks are being made in Fab Lab.
- Desks will be turned in the same direction
- Students will sit on one side of tables.
- Any excess/unused furniture will be removed from the classrooms.
- Staff will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other adults to the maximum extent feasible.
- Staff will maintain at least 6 feet from students, whenever possible and when not disruptive to the educational process.
- Physical interactions between students will be limited.
- Sharing of student materials will be limited.
- Large spaces will be considered for instruction to promote social distancing.
 - Examples: Gymnasiums, outside spaces – as weather permits.

Physical Education Class and Recess

- Large spaces will be considered for Physical Education (PE) Class and recess to promote social distancing.
 - Examples: Gymnasiums, outside spaces – as weather permits.
- Equipment and materials will be cleaned between PE classes, recess, etc.
- Students will wash their hands or use hand-sanitizer before/after PE class and/or recess.
- The same student groups will stay together during recess.
- Activities will be used that do not require sharing equipment.

Cafeteria

- Students will wash their hands before and after meal service.
- Students will eat meals in their classrooms.
- Sharing foods and utensils will be avoided
- Spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines will be implemented, to the extent practicable.
- The cafeteria and high-touch surfaces will be cleaned throughout the school day.

Communal Spaces and Hallways

- Clear traffic patterns with visual supports, including arrows, signs, etc., will be implemented.
- Communal spaces will be closed.
 - Example: Water fountain-Bottled water will be provided instead.
- Groups of students congregating together will be avoided.
- Movement will be limited throughout the building.
- Mixing groups of students and staff will be restricted to the greatest extent possible.

Transportation

- Hand sanitizer will be provided to students and bus drivers on the bus/van.
- Loading the Bus
 - Seats will be filled from the back to the front to limit students walking past students to find a seat to the maximum extent feasible.
 - Students will not be seated in the front row of the bus to the maximum extent feasible.
- Windows will be opened, if the weather allows, to improve ventilation.
- Students will be assigned seats and a seating chart utilized to allow any exposed individuals to be more easily traced.

- Frequently touched surfaces on the bus will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.

Entry/Dismissal Procedures

- One van/bus will load/unload at a time.
- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before or immediately entering the school, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Students will report directly to their assigned classroom after washing hands or using hand sanitizer.
- Students are not permitted to congregate in a lobby, hallway, or cafeteria before school starts.

Visitors

- Non-essential visitors will be restricted.
- All meetings will be held virtually or via phone conference.
- Face coverings, such as masks or face shields, must be worn by all non-students, including parents and guardians, while on school property, including during student drop-off and pickup.
- Individuals must wear a face covering (mask or face shield) unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.
- All visitors must report to the school/building entrance with photo identification.
- The School Police Officer or designee will meet the visitor outside at the entrance, check the photo ID and confirm the identity.
- The student will then be admitted to the school building or released to the visitor.
- If a late arrival or early dismissal, the School Police Officer or designee will document the date, time, name of student, and name visitor bringing or picking the student up from school.

Monitoring Student Health

- Students will be checked for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 daily upon arrival.
- Parents/guardians are also encouraged to check your child for symptoms of COVID-19 at home prior to arriving at school.
- If your child is sick, please keep him/her at home.

Unique Safety Protocols for Students with Complex Needs

- A student's ability to following social distancing guidelines will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- If a student is unable to follow social distancing or other health and safety guidelines, collaboration with parents/guardians, medical provider(s), the school nurse, and school administrators will occur to develop an appropriate educational plan of care for the child.
- IEP meetings will be reconvened, as necessary.
- For medically fragile and high-risk students, a symptom screening will be completed at school on a daily basis.
 - It is requested parents/guardians also complete a symptom screening at home prior to arriving at school.

Isolation and Quarantine

- An isolation room has been designated in each school building and program location to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- If your child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick-up your child from school.
- Any area used by the sick person will be closed off and not used before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Measures will be taken to allow for exposed individuals to be more easily traced.
 - Examples: Use assigned seating for each class when feasible; Maintain accurate records of any persons other than students and staff that enter the building, their reason for being there, the locations in the building they visit, and the names of close contacts they visit in the building if possible.
- If your child has a fever or symptoms associated with COVID-19, you should seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions before returning to school.
- If your child has symptoms and direct exposure to COVID-19, he/she will be considered a probable cases and should not return to school until release from isolation criteria has been met.
- If your child has been quarantined, he/she may not return to school until cleared to do so by the Department of Health or the appropriate local health authority. A negative test prior to the end of quarantine does not clear a return. The entire quarantine period must be completed.
- For additional information, please review the *Procedure for Student Exhibiting COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure* on page 11.

Face Coverings

- In accordance with the Secretary of Health's Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings issued July 1, 2020, all students are required to wear a face covering.
- A student is not required to wear, if:
 - Diagnosed with a medical or mental health condition or disability that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school.
 - If the medical condition or mental health condition is not documented in the student's IEP/504 plan, documentation will need to be provided by the parent/guardian.
- Face coverings may be removed when:
 - Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
 - Seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart;
 - Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart; or
 - Situations where wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition to operate equipment or execute a task.
- Students are required to wear face coverings when:
 - Any time when less than 6 feet apart from another student or adult.
 - Walking to and from the cafeteria.
 - PE class or at recess.
 - On the bus/van.
- Face covering breaks will be provided for students while maintaining social distancing of 6 feet during the break.

The following face coverings are permitted:

Disposable Surgical Mask	Cloth Mask	Neck Gaiter	Face Shield
			

- If your child is using a cloth face mask or neck gaiter, please wash it daily after each use.
- If you need assistance in acquiring a face covering for your child, please contact your respective building administrator or program supervisor.

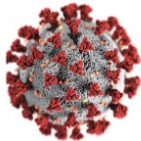
PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT EXHIBITING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR EXPOSURE

- When a student exhibits symptoms or communicates potential exposure to COVID-19, the student will be taken to the designated isolation room within the school building.
- The student will participate in a Wellness Check by the School Nurse, including a temperature screening.
- The student's parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the student from school.
- The parent/guardian will be encouraged to take the student to a health care provider for further medical attention and evaluation.
- Areas used by the student will be closed off and will not be used before cleaning and disinfection.
- A student with fever (i. e., 100.4 degrees or higher) or symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 and no known direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 may return to school when asymptomatic and have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine or have confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that explains the COVID-19-like symptom(s).
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student must self-quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days from the date the symptoms started. The student may return to school if fever free for three days, respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared. During the self-quarantine, student will participate in distance learning.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, but has no symptoms, the student must self-quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days from the date the student tested positive. The student may return to school if fever free for three days, continues to exhibit no symptoms, and 10 days have passed since the positive test. During the self-quarantine, student will participate in distance learning.

- If a student has symptoms, but no COVID-19 testing took place, the student must self-quarantine at home for a minimum of 10 days from the date the symptoms started. The student may return to school if fever free for three days, respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared. During the self-quarantine, student will participate in distance learning.
- If a student has been exposed to COVID-19, the student must self-quarantine at home for 14-days after the date of the last exposure to the positive person. If the positive person lives in the same household as the student, the student's self-quarantine must include the isolation period of the positive person, plus 14-days.
 - If symptoms develop, the student may return to school if fever free for three days, respiratory symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.
 - If no symptoms develop, the student may return to school after the self-quarantine. During the self-quarantine, student will participate in distance learning.
- The Executive Director or designee will notify the local health officials, staff, and families of any potential and confirmed case of COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

ADDITIONAL PARENT/GUARDIAN RESOURCES

What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



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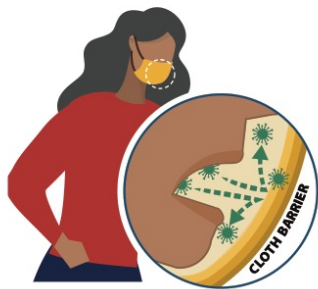
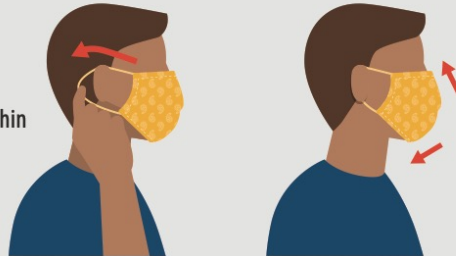
cdc.gov/coronavirus

How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

Accessible: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

WEAR YOUR FACE COVERING CORRECTLY

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than 2



USE THE FACE COVERING TO HELP PROTECT OTHERS

- Wear cloth face coverings in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands

FOLLOW EVERYDAY HEALTH HABITS

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTH FACE COVERING CAREFULLY, WHEN YOU'RE HOME

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine
- Wash your hands with soap and water



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Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, see:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

10 things you can do to manage your COVID-19 symptoms at home

Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

1. **Stay home** from work and school. And stay away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



6. **Cover your cough and sneezes.**



2. **Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



7. **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



3. **Get rest and stay hydrated.**



8. As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.



4. If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



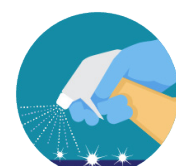
9. **Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



5. For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



10. **Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



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cdc.gov/coronavirus