



## Health and Safety Plan

**Initial Effective Date:** 7/20/2020

**Date of Last Revision:** 4/15/2024

**Date of Last Review:** 2/17/2025

The WASD will follow the most up-to-date guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) (PDOH) and the [Erie County Department of Health](#) (ECDOH) to enable the District to operate and provide services as normally and effectively as possible with minimal academic and economic losses.

The goal of the WASD is to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional and mental health along with other needs.

### Operations

- Continue the essential core operations of the Wattsburg Area School District in the event of increased staff/student absences or school closure.
- Maintain a coordinated command system to enable effective, timely, and sensitive decision-making regarding continuity of student learning needs.
- Adjust and maintain a communications plan to ensure that students, parents, and staff receive timely information regarding disease prevention and infection control strategies.
- Provide resources for mental health/crisis service needs of staff, students, and families.

### Mitigation

New respiratory virus guidance released by the [CDC on 3/1/15](#) and the [PDOH on 3/15/2024](#):

- **Recommends** people ill with COVID-19 stay home and isolate from others until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication) and their symptoms are improving overall.
- This is a significant change from previous COVID-19 guidance, which recommended 5 days of isolation regardless of fever or symptom status.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
1) Universal and correct wearing of masks;	<i>Recommend</i> individuals most at risk wear well-fitting masks.
2) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Increasing physical distancing considered/instituted as conditions warrant.
3) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	<p>All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices.</li> <li>• Instruct students and staff to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and COVID-19, are spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands.</li> <li>• Post CDC Wash Your Hands</li> </ul>
4) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	<p><b>Cleaning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools</li> <li>• Cleaning and Custodial Staff will receive refresher training on CDC guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting Facilities.</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses at least daily, including</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.</p> <p><b>Ventilation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air by setting the HVAC system air turnover rate at maximum.</li> <li>All District facilities meet the Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines for indoor Air Quality.</li> </ul>
5) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p><b>Respiratory Illness – <a href="#">CDC Guidance</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommends people ill with COVID-19 stay home and isolate from others until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication) and their symptoms are improving overall.</li> <li>Contact tracing not recommended at this time.</li> <li>Isolation and quarantine not recommended at this time.</li> <li>Report positive cases of COVID-19 to the Erie County Department as per Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27.</li> </ul>
6) Diagnostic and screening testing;	<p>WASD <i>may</i> provide free voluntary COVID testing for students and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parental consent is required for student testing.</li> <li>Medical aide assigned to assist with COVID mitigation through 23-24 SY.</li> </ul>
7) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	<p><i>Recommend</i> individuals stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination.</p>
8) Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>The district will continue to provide FAPE utilizing the following strategies to serve students with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective communication and collaboration between educators</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation in instructional practices and provision of related services</li> <li>• Planning to provide students with compensatory services when needed.</li> <li>• Strong school-parent communication and partnership</li> <li>• Effective use of funding to support the most vulnerable learners.</li> </ul>
9) Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Pandemic Coordinator and nursing staff will attend meetings as organized by the Pennsylvania Department of health, Erie County Department of Health, and Northwest Tri-Count intermediate Unit #5 to coordinate mitigation strategies and other COVID-19 related activities.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Wattsburg Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 17, 2025**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

<u>8</u>	Yes
<u>0</u>	No

Affirmed on: 2/17/2025

By:



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Board President)

Brian Young

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(Print Name of Board President)