



Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts

Whereas, the commonwealth is experiencing its highest daily case counts since the beginning of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, resulting in increased hospitalizations, nearly 10,000 deaths, and heightened risk to the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians;

Whereas, the Wolf Administration has identified new mitigation efforts, including an attestation process for public school entities that elect to continue in-person instruction for students in counties designated as exhibiting "Substantial" transmission of COVID-19 for two or more consecutive weeks based on a disease incidence rate of 100 or more cases per 100,000 residents and/or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) percent positivity rate of 10 percent or greater;

Whereas, as of November 23, 2020, 59 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties met one or both of these standards;

Whereas, Pennsylvania recommends that school entities in counties with Substantial disease transmission transition to remote-only instructional models;

Whereas, as of November 20, 2020, many public school entities have exercised their local discretion to continue in-person instruction for all or some students;

Whereas, the resurgence of COVID-19 across the nation, region, and commonwealth requires more consistent and intensive implementation of disease mitigation efforts;

Whereas, these mitigation efforts include an attestation process for any public school entity (a "public school entity" is defined as a school district, intermediate unit, charter school, cyber charter school, or a career and technical education center) that elects to continue in-person instruction as of November 30, 2020 while the county in which it is located is under a Substantial disease transmission designation for at least two consecutive weeks; and

Whereas, this attestation process supplements and does not supplant existing public health guidance issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education;

AND NOW, THEREFORE, the president/chair of the school entity's governing board and chief school administrator, in accordance with the Order of the Secretary of Health dated November 24, 2020, entitled *Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Public School Entities in Counties with Substantial Community Transmission to Attest to Health and Safety Protocols*, attest to one of the following (SELECT ONE OPTION):



All or some of the students within the public school entity are currently receiving in-person instruction and:

1. We have read the Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, effective November 18, 2020, including necessary exceptions and associated guidance, and affirm the public school entity is complying and will continue to comply with and enforce the Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania

Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, including necessary exceptions and associated guidance; and

2. We have read and agree to follow the Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19, when cases of COVID-19 occur within the public school entity.

OR

- The public school entity has transitioned to a fully remote learning model and will continue to use a fully remote learning model until the county (or counties) in which the public school entity is located is no longer experiencing Substantial disease transmission for two consecutive weeks.

*** A public school entity in a county with Substantial level of disease transmission that is currently providing a fully remote learning model and that elects to transfer to in-person instruction must resubmit this attestation prior to providing in-person instruction.

Mount Carmel Area School District affirms that it has

(Name of Public School Entity)

attached this signed Attestation to its Local Health and Safety Plan (the "Plan") in order to reflect provisions above, and that, by doing so, this attestation becomes part of the Plan and has been or will be fully implemented by November 30, 2020, or three business days after the county in which the public school entity is located has been designated as exhibiting Substantial disease transmission for the first time, should the public school entity in a county with Substantial level of disease transmission for two or more consecutive weeks elect to offer or continue offering in-person instruction for all or some students; and

Further, the Local Health and Safety Plan, inclusive of this attestation, has been posted on the public school entity's publicly accessible website and filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Education by email submission at RA-EDCONTINUITYOFED@pa.gov.

Signed:



(Signature of Governing Board President/Chair)



(Signature of Chief School Administrator)

President, Governing Board

Chair, Governing Board

Chief School Administrator

(Printed Name of Governing Board President/Chair)

(Printed Name of Chief School Administrator)

Date Signed:

Date Signed:

11-24-20

Addendum and Explanation of Attestation Form

The Mount Carmel Area School District would like to add the following addendum to our Attestation form.

In the November 16, 2020 "Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings" the following items are discussed:

- **Physical Distancing:** Mount Carmel Area School District makes every effort possible to keep students at least 6 feet apart during the school day but inevitably there will be times during the school day, and during bus transportation, that maintaining 6 feet physical distance is not possible due to the size of busses, classrooms and our physical school buildings.
- **Ability to offer full virtual instruction:** Mount Carmel Area will continue to give all students and families the option of a full virtual option with their Mount Carmel Area teachers for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic school year. Mount Carmel Area will also attempt to schedule optional times for special education students to attend in person instruction even during virtual days.
- **Masking and Athletics:** Mount Carmel Area athletes and coaches will wear masks at all times while not actively participating in a vigorous activity as defined in the order. Mount Carmel Area will continue with the expectation that all students and athletes are screened at home before coming to school each day. Students are expected to stay home if sick or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms. As an extra layer of precaution we will also screen (temperature check and symptom screen) all students that attend extracurricular activities prior to any practice or athletic contest.