

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

# Health and Safety Plan



## 2021-2022

Revised	January 14, 2022
Reviewed:	January 2022
Revised:	March 4, 2022

*Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21*  
**Health and Safety Plan**  
**2021-2022**

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# Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022

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## Mandate

The CLIU will create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and which will serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the 2021-2022 school year.

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

## Purpose

The CLIU Health and Safety Plan outlines our Intermediate Unit's Guidelines for ongoing prevention measures in response to COVID-19. Specifically the Plan is developed:

- to support prevention and mitigation for the operation of CLIU facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;
- for continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, physical and mental health; and
- to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

## Development

- The 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan was developed in consultation of the CLIU Executive Director, CLIU Cabinet, Pandemic Committee, Lehigh Valley Health Network, and PA Department of Health.
- The Health and Safety Plan is tailored to the unique needs of CLIU programming and services and takes into account public comment related to the development of, and subsequent revisions to, the Health and Safety Plan through District Representatives.

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### **Changing Environment**

- The Health and Safety Plan accounts for changing conditions to ensure fluid transition from more to less restrictive conditions as the 2021-2022 School Year evolves.
- As long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies to eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to continue in-person school activities safely.

### **Board of Director Approval and Public Posting**

- The Health and Safety Plan will be approved by the CLIU Board of Directors.
- The Health and Safety Plan will be posted on the CLIU website.
- The Health and Safety Plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Alteration of Health and Safety Plan**

- The Health and Safety Plan will be altered at the discretion of the Executive Director or designee to ensure compliance with federal, state, county, or local mandates or considerations applicable to CLIU programming or services and submitted for approval to the CLIU Board of Directors, if necessary.
- The Health and Safety Plan will be monitored, revised, and updated as federal, state, county and local orders or circumstances evolve throughout the school year.

### **Framework of Health and Safety Plan**

- The Health and Safety Plan will provide guidelines for the following segments/locations of CLIU programming and services.
  - Programs/Services provided in District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the community or business setting.
  - Programs/Services provided in CLIU Leased Facilities
  - Student Transportation Services
  - Driver Education Program
  - CLIU Central Office or Transportation Office

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## Health and Safety Plan Summary

- Local Education Agency Entity: Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit
- Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021
- Date of Last Review: January 2022
- Date of Last Revision: March 4 2022

## Health and Safety Plan Guidelines

### *Prevention and Mitigation for the Reopening and Operation of School Facilities*

- The CLIU has and will continue to review recommendations from the CDC, State and Local Agencies and monitor regional and local community spread. In response, the CLIU will adapt our protocols, facilities and support systems to prevent and mitigate the community spread at the regional and local levels to the greatest extent practicable. Decisions will be informed by CDC, PA Department of Health and/or PA Department of Education (PDE) recommendations.
- The CLIU will follow the Health and Safety Plan of the District, Nonpublic or State Facility where our programs or services are provided to students unless unique circumstances of CLIU Programming require different measures.
- The CLIU dependent upon regional/local community spread will reference PDE's and PA Department of Health guidance related to closure of a classroom or school building due to COVID-19 transmission rates. While the goal is for all CLIU programs to remain in-person for instruction, COVID-19 transmission levels will be monitored regionally and locally on a regular basis to promote the health and safety of staff and students.

### *Continuity of Services, Including but not limited to Services to Address the Students' Academic Needs, and Students' and Staff Members' Social, Emotional, Physical And Mental Health.*

- The CLIU serves students with special needs. Students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs are reviewed and addressed by support teams, which may be comprised of teachers, related services staff, social workers, mental health professionals, school psychologists, parents/guardians, district representatives and other pertinent staff throughout the school year.
- The CLIU will follow the Continuity of Service plan of the District, Nonpublic or State Facility where CLIU programs or services are provided unless unique circumstances of

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CLIU Programming require different measures or that which is required for a specific student.

- The CLIU will continue to operate extended school year programming.
- Social workers and other pertinent staff may seek financial assistance from the Carbon Lehigh Special Needs Children's Foundation to support students' basic needs such as access to medical providers, clothing, shelter and food.
- The CLIU collaborates with our constituent districts and state agencies as Office of Child Development and Early Learning to respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.
- Students and Guardians may access the Safe2Say reporting tool when needed.
- Employees have access to an Employee Assistance Program and Behavioral Health Support through the applicable employee health benefits plan.

### *Maintenance of the Health and Safety of Students, Educators, Other Staff and Visitors in Accordance With Protocols and Safety Recommendations Established By the CDC.*

- The CLIU protocols will be informed by the CDC, Pa Department of Health and/or PDE recommendations to the greatest extent practicable unless such recommendation counters specific state or local government requirements in CLIU Leased Facilities. In that case, state or local requirements will be reviewed and may be followed dependent upon the specific circumstances.
- Students, educators, other staff and visitors will follow the Health and Safety Plan or protocols of the District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the community or business setting where the CLIU programs or services are provided to students unless unique circumstances of CLIU Programming require different measures.

### *Strategies, Policies and Procedures*

Below are measures and strategies informed by the CDC, PA Department of Health or PDE recommendations for the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

All measures and strategies may be adjusted by the Executive Director or her designee dependent upon changes in CDC, PA Department of Health or PDE recommendations or regional or local data regarding spread of COVID-19 or unique circumstances of CLIU Programming that require different measures, mitigation efforts or maintenance of health and safety.

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### Measures and Strategies

#### Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting: Programs/Services provided in District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the community or business setting : Programs/Services provided in District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting **will follow the masking protocols of the entity where they are located** unless specific needs of a classroom or program dictate otherwise.

CLIU Leased Facilities: **Masks will be optional for all students and staff** except as required by state or federal mandates. State orders and/or regional/local case data or program circumstances may result in modifications to the CLIU's masking practices. In addition, this measure may be altered dependent upon CDC, PA Department of Health and/or PDE recommendations.

CLIU Vehicles: **Masks will be optional for all students and staff** except as required by state or federal mandates. State orders and/or regional/local case data or guidance may result in modifications to the CLIU's masking practices. This measure may be altered dependent upon CDC, PA Department of Health and/or PDE recommendations.

CLIU Central or Transportation Office: **Masks will be optional for all students and staff** except as required by state or federal mandates. State orders and/or regional/local data may result in modifications to the CLIU's masking practices. This measure may be altered dependent upon CDC and/or PDE recommendations.

#### Modifying Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting: Programs/Services located in District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting will follow the physical distancing practices of the entity where they are located unless specific needs of a classroom or program dictate otherwise. However, students, staff and visitors will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the greatest extent practicable.

CLIU Leased Facilities: Students, staff and visitors will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the greatest extent practicable at Programs/Services located in CLIU Leased Facilities. This measure may be altered dependent upon CDC and/or PDE recommendations.

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**CLIU Vehicles:** Students will be seated on CLIU vehicles to maintain physical distance to the greatest extent practicable. This measure may be altered dependent upon CDC and/or PDE recommendations.

**CLIU Central or Transportation Office:** Staff and visitors at CLIU and Transportation Office will be encouraged to maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable while eating. This measure may be altered dependent upon CDC and/or PDE recommendations.

### **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

**General:** Staff and Students are expected to adhere to hygiene practices set forth by CDC and PA Department of Health to the greatest extent practicable. Hand soap and hand sanitizer will be provided with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas in CLIU Leased Facilities.

**CLIU Leased Facilities:** Guidelines for hand washing will be posted in highly visible locations that promote everyday proactive practices in CLIU Leased Facilities.



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### Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities including Improving Ventilation

District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting : Programs/Services located in District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting will be cleaned and ventilated in accordance with those entities protocols. Classroom staff will be expected to disinfect surfaces and materials throughout the school day.

CLIU Leased Facilities: Programs/Services located in CLIU Leased Facilities will be cleaned with approved disinfectant and a cleaning process that ensures proper dwell time, cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and horizontal surfaces, focusing on common gathering and public areas. Classroom staff will be disinfecting surfaces and materials throughout the school day. The CLIU will monitor and carry out maintenance to optimize ventilation to greatest extent practicable.

Student Transportation Services and Driver Education Service: These services will have school vehicle/Driver Education staff clean and sanitize all major touch points on the school vehicle (i.e., all handrails, tops of student seats, etc.). This will occur after the drop off and before the pickup of each group of students. When a school vehicle is being used the school vehicle windows will be slightly opened to improve ventilation in the vehicle and to circulate more fresh air for both students and staff where conditions permit.

CLIU Central and Transportation Office: These offices will be cleaned with CDC approved disinfectant and a cleaning process that ensures proper dwell time, cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and horizontal surfaces, focusing on common gathering and public areas. The CLIU will monitor and carry out maintenance to optimize ventilation to greatest extent practicable.

### Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine in Collaboration with the State and Local Health Departments

The CLIU **will rely on the PA Department of Health to carry out** case investigation/contact tracing regarding positive cases. The CLIU will follow isolation, and quarantine procedures for COVID-19 positive cases as established by the PA Department of Health until otherwise deemed unnecessary by the PA Department of Health.

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### Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Individuals will be expected to monitor symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if symptomatic, being tested or having tested positive for COVID-19. Staff, students and families will be provided information to reference for screening.

Students and staff are required to notify if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or being tested. The CLIU will reference the PA Department of Health guidance (PA-HAN) regarding quarantining and isolation.

### Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

The CLIU will encourage staff and students to obtain the vaccination. The CLIU will share vaccination opportunities in the school community and general community with staff and students.

### Appropriate Accommodations for Students with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Measures

Districts as the Local Educational Agency are responsible to ensure that students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations detailed within their IEP or 504 plan based on their individual needs.

### Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

The CLIU will collaborate with state and local health officials as needed or through our facilitation of the established Emergency Preparedness Council.

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**Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement**

The Board of Directors for Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 19, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

  8   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **July 19, 2021**

By:

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

Mary L. Ziegler  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(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 needed.

Revision December 13, 2021: Revisions documented with tracked changes. Communicated to CLIU Board of Directors at December 21, 2021 Board. Health and Safety Plan provides for the following authority:

- The Health and Safety Plan will be altered at the discretion of the Executive Director or designee to ensure compliance with federal, state, county, or local mandates or considerations applicable to CLIU programming or services and submitted for approval to the CLIU Board of Directors, if necessary.

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Revision January 14, 2022: Revisions documented with tracked changes. Communicated to CLIU Board of Directors at January 26, 2022 Board. Health and Safety Plan provides for the following authority:

- The Health and Safety Plan will be altered at the discretion of the Executive Director or designee to ensure compliance with federal, state, county, or local mandates or considerations applicable to CLIU programming or services and submitted for approval to the CLIU Board of Directors, if necessary.

Revision March 4, 2022: Revisions documented bold format. Communicated to CLIU Board of Directors at March 21, 2022 Board. Health and Safety Plan provides for the following authority:

- The Health and Safety Plan will be altered at the discretion of the Executive Director or designee to ensure compliance with federal, state, county, or local mandates or considerations applicable to CLIU programming or services and submitted for approval to the CLIU Board of Directors, if necessary.