

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21

# Health & Safety Plan



2023-2024

# Health and Safety Plan 2023-2024

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# Health and Safety Plan 2023-2024

## Mandate

The CLIU will create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it will support 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 2023-2024 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 measures in response to COVID-19 with the goal of providing in-person learning.

The Plan is developed:

- to support prevention and mitigation for the operation of CLIU facilities 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 support the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

## 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

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

## 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

## Health and Safety Plan Summary

- Local Education Agency Entity: Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit
- Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2023
- Date of Last Review: January 24, 2024
- Date of Last Revision:

## Health and Safety Plan Guidelines

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

- The CLIU will comply with all federal or state orders/requirements regarding the prevention and mitigation for operating school facilities.
- The CLIU will review recommendations from the CDC, State and Local Agencies and monitor regional and local community spread. Decisions may be informed by CDC, PA Department of Health and/or PA Department of Education (PDE) recommendations.
- The CLIU, dependent upon regional/local community spread, may reference PDE's and PA Department of Health guidance related to closure of a classroom or school building due to COVID-19 transmission rates. The goal is for all CLIU programs to remain in-person for instruction.
- The CLIU understands that if there are cases of COVID-19 in the community there are no strategies to eliminate transmission risk within a school population.

### *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 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.

### *Strategies, Policies and Procedures*

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Measures and strategies may be adjusted by the Executive Director or designee dependent upon changes in CDC or PA Department of Health or PDE recommendations, regional or local data regarding spread of COVID-19 or circumstances present in CLIU Programming.

### Wearing of Masks

District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or Community or Business Setting: Programs/Services provided in these locations will follow the masking protocols of the entity where the program/service is provided unless needs of a program/service are best served with different protocols.

CLIU Leased Facilities: CLIU Vehicles: CLIU Central or Transportation Office: The CLIU will comply with all federal or state orders/requirements regarding masks.

### Physical Distancing

District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting: Programs/Services located in these locations will follow the physical distancing practices of the entity where the program/service is provided unless needs of a program/service are best served with different protocols. Physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable may be encouraged.

CLIU Leased Facilities: CLIU Vehicles: CLIU Central or Transportation Office: The CLIU will comply with all federal or state orders/requirements regarding physical distancing. Physical distancing to the greatest extent practicable may be encouraged.

### Handwashing

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.

### Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities including Ventilation

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District, Nonpublic or State Facilities or in the Community or Business Setting: Programs/Services located in these locations 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

The CLIU will rely on the PA Department of Health to carry out case investigation/contact tracing regarding positive cases.

## Screening and Testing

The CLIU will comply with all federal or state orders/requirements regarding screening, testing, isolation, or quarantining of staff and students.

## 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

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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 June 19, 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

12 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: June 22, 2023

By:



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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

George Williams

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*(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.