

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School

Initial Effective Date: September 8, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 21, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 21, 2021

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

In accordance with the July 9, 2021 CDC Guidance on School Operations, FACTS will open 100% in person for the 2021-22 school year. This guidance notes that *“because of the importance of in-person learning, schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures (in addition to masking and other prevention strategies), but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.”*

FACTS will implement a layered prevention strategy. FACTS will continue to monitor and evaluate COVID conditions throughout the school year and may make modifications to our prevention and mitigation practices based on conditions and guidance from local health authorities.

Distancing: The FACTS facility and size of our student body will not accommodate the minimum distance requirement. However, FACTS has taken the following steps to increase distancing to the extent possible:

- Replaced student tables with desks in most classrooms and placed desks at the maximum distance possible within the space.
 - Removed excess furniture and supplies to maximize space for distancing
 - Increased the size of one classroom
- Created at least six feet of distance between the teacher and the student desks.
- Installed additional hand washing stations and closed off use of some sinks and bathroom stalls
- Removed lockers to create additional passing space in the middle school hallways
- Placed distancing stickers on all instructional hallways

Cohorting:

- FACTS has suspended choir as well as our folk arts ensembles and electives programs for this school year because they bring together students from across multiple classrooms
- Breakfast and lunch will be served in classrooms; the cafeteria will not be used for food service
- Recess has been structured to reduce the mixing of different classes
- Classroom bathroom breaks and handwashing times will be scheduled to avoid congestion in the hallways
- In-person assemblies which gather more than one class will be suspended
- Visiting artists and other guest teachers must show proof of vaccination in order to teach inside FACTS
- Non-essential visitors will not be allowed to enter FACTS

Masking:

Given that FACTS is a K-8 school and vaccinations are not yet available to children under the age of 12 and given the recent uptick in cases and the spread of new variants, FACTS will maintain the requirement for all students and staff to wear masks while at school:

- At all times indoors with the exception when removing masks for eating and drinking
 - There will be a designated area in classrooms for masks breaks that is six feet apart from other students and staff
- At all times on school buses.
- Outdoors when physical distancing cannot be assured.
 - During recess, unstructured play, and on walks/field trips, masks must be worn
 - During outdoor structured activities where distance can be created, masks may be removed at the discretion of the teacher. Examples of times when masks may be removed are:
 - Snack time with students and staff spaced three feet apart
 - Mask breaks with students spaced and staff three feet apart
 - Reading or other quiet activities with students and staff spaced three feet apart
 - Structured movement activities where students and staff are spaced three feet apart

Staying Home When Sick:

Student and Staff Screening: Parents (on behalf of students) and staff must sign a form agreeing to conduct a daily symptom check prior to coming to the school building and to stay home (or keep their child home) if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or if they have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19. Parents (on behalf of students) and staff will self-screen at home every day before coming to school. Parents will record the results of the daily student screening on a card that is carried by each student in a lanyard; each morning the student is in school, the student's teacher will check to make sure the screener has been completed. Any student whose screener is not completed will be sent to the Nurse's office; before joining their class, they must have their temperature taken and the

Nurse must complete the screening questionnaire with a parent/guardian by phone. If a parent (on behalf of a student) or a staff member answers yes to any of the screening questions, they should not report to the school building. Staff will also use the lanyard system for recording their daily symptoms check; this will create a visual cue to remind staff of this responsibility, and it will demonstrate to students that we are all participating in this important community safety measure together. If community transmission of COVID-19 in Philadelphia increases, FACTS may be directed by the Philadelphia Department of Health to switch to another form of active symptom monitoring.

Plan for illness at the school:

FACTS has hired an additional nurse who can help with staffing the nurse's office; checking students' self-screeners and contact families; assisting with contact tracing, record keeping, and PDPH and parent communication regarding positive and presumed positive cases; and being a second nurse to provide first aid when the other nurse is engaged in conducting screenings and testing. In addition, the second nurse will assure the school that we will have nurse's office coverage in the event that one of the nurses calls in sick.

FACTS has designated the nurse's office as an isolation room for anyone who experiences COVID-like symptoms. In the nurse's office, this isolation area will be at least six feet apart from the area where other children or staff use the nurse's office. Room dividers will create barriers between individuals who are ill and others. Anyone entering the nurse's office will be provided with a disposable surgical mask prior to entering and will immediately apply hand sanitizer. Staff who develop symptoms of COVID-like illness will immediately be sent home. If they need to be picked up, they should wait in the designated isolation room while waiting. If a student develops symptoms, they will be brought to a designated isolation room while waiting to be picked up. The staff member waiting with the child should wear a surgical mask.

In case of a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19: Parents (on behalf of their student) must immediately notify the Principal and staff must notify the Executive Director if they have been diagnosed with Covid-19. The Principal and ED will share this information with each other and the school nurse so that appropriate steps can be taken with regard to contact tracing and communication. If a student or staff member has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the school nurse will report it on the Daily Survey to the Philadelphia Department of Health for further instructions. FACTS will follow the guidance of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health in determining which individuals should quarantine by staying at home for 14 days as well as guidance for individuals' return to the building.

Upon return to school, the affected individual will report to the Nurse's office for an intake screening to assure that the conditions for return have been fulfilled.

Training and Communications: Communications regarding FACTS's requirements for self-screening and remaining home when sick will be communicated with staff and parents in August, prior to the return to the school facility. These communications will be sent out in multiple forms including email, mail, text messaging, and live remote trainings/meetings with parents and staff. FACTS will use the multilingual skills of our language access team (Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish, Indonesian) and the contracted services of Language Line and other interpreting services (Arabic and other languages) to reach families. Staff will begin work two weeks prior to the first day of school for students. An extra week has been added to

our usual summer Professional Development in order to train staff on new policies, procedures and protocols required by the pandemic plans. Staff will have opportunities to collaborate on how to operationalize the new policies and procedures.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette:

Teachers will teach, reinforce, and practice proper hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and distancing with their students on a daily basis.

Students and staff will wash hands: upon entering and departing the school, before eating, after recess or other outdoor activities, after using the toilet, after coughing, blowing one's nose or sneezing. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed in all instructional and administrative spaces. When hand washing is impossible or impracticable, hand sanitizer may be used instead.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

FACTS implemented a new cleaning and hygiene protocol that includes color coded hygiene, a switch to microfiber cleaning supplies (and the installation of a washer/dryer to keep the rags and mopheads clean), and increased staff training. FACTS also increased the amount of daily cleaning that our contracted cleaners conduct in our building Mondays through Fridays.

We are setting the expectation that staff and students will play a role in cleaning their areas (not just custodial or building staff). The participation of the entire school community will be necessary, to create a sense of shared responsibility, to teach students and staff good infection control practices, and to practically accomplish the level of cleaning and disinfecting that must happen. For example, teachers will use wipes or spray bottles to disinfect high touch areas like doorknobs, shared technology, and the teacher desk when they are entering a space previously used by another staff member. Students will use a safe solution such as dish soap and water to clean their own personal desk and chair prior to eating lunch each day. Operations staff and our contracted cleaners will use disinfectants at least daily on common and high touch surfaces like handrails, elevator buttons, and door handles.

There will be a clear delineation between the roles of students, teachers, and custodial staff in terms of which cleaning, sanitizing, or disinfecting procedures and supplies each is to use. Students, staff and teachers will be trained in the approved and effective use of whichever type of cleaning or disinfecting supply they are to use. FACTS has increased our fall training and planning for staff to full two weeks of training and planning days. During this time, training on cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures will be conducted, and teachers will have an opportunity to plan and trouble shoot for how to implement teaching and expectations related to students' roles.

To protect student and staff health, FACTS will balance the need for disinfection with the recognition that over-use of disinfectants brings its own health risks. FACTS is following the evolving science and CDC guidance that, *"In most situations, the risk of infection from touching a surface is low. The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer."* *"When no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility."*

Screening/Testing

July 9, 2021 Guidance from the CDC states that *“Screening testing may be most valuable in areas with substantial or high community transmission levels, in areas with low vaccination coverage, and in schools where other prevention strategies are not implemented. More frequent testing can increase effectiveness, but feasibility of increased testing in schools needs to be considered.”*

Given the considerations listed above, FACTS has not established a testing program. FACTS is implementing many other prevention measures and we are located in an area where vaccination rates are not low. In addition, we are a small single school site and do not have the capacity to implement a testing program locally.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff members’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

Assumptions and Pre-conditions:

- It is assumed that pandemic conditions during the 2021-22 school year will allow for a 100% return to in-person schooling.
- It is assumed that COVID-19 spread either within our school or in our region will lead to periods of school closure and remote or hybrid learning followed by periods of in-person learning.
- FACTS will provide all students a Chromebook and internet access for the 2021-22 school year so that all students are able to access remote instruction during periods of school closure.

FACTS’s excellence as a school is built on the recognition that students’ ability to learn and thrive is strengthened when they are supported by a community of caring and when the school attends to their social and emotional as well as their academic needs. Our excellence is also built on the recognition that teachers’ and staff members’ ability to teach with creativity and rigor, serve our students and families, and thrive as professionals is strengthened when they are supported by a community of caring and a culture of collegiality, sharing, reflection, and continuous growth.

FACTS’s values and priorities during this pandemic are:

- To support the well-being of students and staff
- To maintain our school culture to the extent possible under current conditions
- To create equity in access to education that recognizes the limits of families’ home technology and the varying degrees of parents’ and caregivers’ capacities to assist and support their students’ learning
- To continue to provide Special Education, ELD, and therapeutic supports to the fullest extent possible under current conditions
- To maximize student learning and growth including: academic content and skills as well

- as social and emotional content and skills
- To equip FACTS students with life skills and the skills of learners
- To continue to advance FACTS's mission

FACTS recognizes that this is a period of stress and anxiety for everyone in our community and the broader society. We are therefore applying four core priorities for trauma informed learning:

1. Predictability: creating new routines and adapting old routines to the new situation
2. Flexibility: recognizing that different students have different needs as they cope with this pandemic and to focus on what is really important at this time
3. Connection: continued emphasis on building relationships and building community which are keys to resilience
4. Empowerment: giving students the tools to think about real world problems such as, "how am I impacting the world around me?"

The school has used these four priorities as we developed our school schedule and instructional model, and staff are using these four priorities as touch points as they structure their instruction and child interactions.

Preparing for a switch to 100% remote model:

Recognizing that COVID-19 cases in our school or a spread in community transmission may require sudden and episodic school closures, during the 2020-21 school year, FACTS will continue to provide every student with a Chromebook, a GoogleClassroom account and access to the internet. All students will be trained on the use of their Chromebook, GoogleClassroom, and internet safety. This preparation will ease the transition to remote learning should the need arise.

Students' remote learning schedules will be entered onto their GoogleCalendars in order to minimize confusion and to maximize flexibility in scheduling.

Internet Access:

- The school will assist households in gaining internet access. FACTS participates in a collaboration with the City of Philadelphia and the School District of Philadelphia to provide free internet access (broadband or hotspot) to all Philadelphia students. Students who were enrolled in FACTS for the 2020-21 school year should already be set up with adequate internet access. FACTS will work in the first weeks of school to ensure that new FACTS families are also able to access internet at a speed and quality needed for their student(s) to access remote instruction.

Technology Distribution:

- Students in Grades 5-8 will bring their Chromebook to and from school every day.
- There will be an emergency Chromebook distribution for students in Grades K-4 in the event of an unexpected school closure.
 - All students in Grades K-4 will have an emergency paper packet that they can use until we are able to switch to using Chromebooks.

- Teachers and instructional staff will be issued a school laptop which will serve as their work computer while at school and at home. This will provide for a more seamless switch between teachers using the same classroom as well as between periods of in-person and remote instruction.

Tech Support:

A Help Ticket system allows students and their families to request help with their technology, and it helps the school track technology problems and patterns.

A bilingual technical support staff member can respond to parent requests for help in Mandarin, Cantonese or English.

Teaching staff are instructed to note students who are having internet connectivity issues or who would benefit from the use of a headset and microphone and to forward these concerns to admin for resolution.

Delivery of Instruction:

During a switch to remote learning, every student will begin their school days with a live Morning Meeting. This Morning Meeting time will:

- Provide a source of stability in the students' school day,
- Create time to build and maintain connections among students and teachers,
- Allow for a preview of the day's schedule and expectations, and
- Clearly denote a time for taking and submitting school wide attendance.

FACTS will continue to align our lessons with the PA core standards and teach the essential skills at all grade levels. FACTS literacy, math, science and social studies coordinators and teams will be reviewing all units and lessons and revising the Scope and Sequence and/or Unit Plans and making adjustments for the 2021-22 school year where necessary.

All K-8 students will also have:

- Morning meeting - daily
- WIN (What I Need - Intervention, extra support, and/or Enrichment) - 4 days per week
- Art, PE, Mandarin Chinese, and Music - weekly
- Qigong - 1x per week

All efforts will be made to provide a continuity of related services; sessions will be delivered remotely if the therapist deems it appropriate and if the parent agrees. Sessions which cannot be delivered remotely will be made up when

Delivery of food support:

FACTS will work with our food service staff and our contracted school lunch provider to pivot to the distribution of prepackaged school lunches for families to pick up on a weekly basis in the event of an extended school closure.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of

students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>All FACTS students and staff must wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose at all times while indoors on school property and on school buses.</p> <p>While outdoors and distancing can be assured, masks may be optional. Teachers and staff will give clear instructions to students about when masks may be taken off while outdoors.</p> <p>A mask is defined as a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured with straps that loop over the ears or tie around the back of the head. Neck gaiters are not acceptable forms of masks. Face shields or goggles may be worn for extra protection in addition to face masks but may not be worn as a substitute for face masks.</p> <p>FACTS’s rules on masks may change as COVID-19 pandemic conditions change.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>FACTS has taken the following steps to increase distancing to the extent possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Replaced student tables with desks in most classrooms and placed desks at the maximum distance possible within the space. ● Removed excess furniture and supplies to maximize space for distancing ● Increased the size of one classroom ● Created at least six feet of distance between the teacher and the student desks. ● Installed additional hand washing stations and closed off use of some sinks and bathroom stalls ● Removed lockers to create additional passing space in the middle school hallways ● Placed distancing stickers on all instructional hallways <p>Cohorting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FACTS has suspended choir as well as our folk arts ensembles and electives programs for this school year because they bring together students from across multiple classrooms ● Breakfast and lunch will be served in classrooms; the cafeteria will not be used for food service ● Recess has been structured to reduce the mixing of different classes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom bathroom breaks and handwashing times will be scheduled to avoid congestion in the hallways • In-person assemblies which gather more than one class will be suspended • Visiting artists and other guest teachers must show proof of vaccination in order to teach inside FACTS • Non-essential visitors will not be allowed to enter FACTS
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>FACTS installed additional handwashing stations on every instructional floor as well as on the play yard.</p> <p>FACTS has placed hand sanitizer dispensers in every instructional room and administrative area.</p> <p>Teachers will teach, reinforce, and practice proper hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and distancing with their students.</p> <p>Students and staff will wash hands: upon entering and departing the school, before eating, after recess or other outdoor activities, after using the toilet, after coughing, blowing one's nose or sneezing. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed in all instructional and administrative spaces. When hand washing is impossible or impracticable, hand sanitizer may be used instead</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p><u>Cleaning:</u> FACTS implemented a new cleaning and hygiene protocol that includes color coded hygiene, a switch to microfiber cleaning supplies (and the installation of a washer/dryer to keep the rags and mopheads clean), and increased staff training. FACTS also increased the amount of daily cleaning that our contracted cleaners conduct in our building Mondays through Fridays.</p> <p>We are setting the expectation that staff and students will play a role in cleaning their areas (not just custodial or building staff). The participation of the entire school community will be necessary, to create a sense of shared responsibility, to teach students and staff good infection control practices, and to practically accomplish the level of cleaning and disinfecting that must happen.</p> <p><u>Ventilation:</u> Windows in instructional spaces and shared offices will be open whenever practical.</p> <p>FACTS installed a new exhaust fan in the kitchen.</p>

	<p>FACTS installed new exhaust fan/air purifiers in classrooms without windows.</p> <p>FACTS is keeping our HVAC fans in the “on” position in order to keep active circulation of air going.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>In the event of positive school-based case, FACTS will take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean and disinfect locations visited by the individual who tested positive. ● Identify individuals who had close contact with the infected person and communicated directly with them on their next steps, which could include a 14-day quarantine if they are not vaccinated. ● Notify the Philadelphia Department of Public Health using our daily reporting form. ● Follow the guidance of PDPH on action steps. <p>Personal information about the individual(s) who test positive is kept confidential to protect patient privacy.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and <u>screening testing</u>;</p>	<p>July 9, 2021 Guidance from the CDC states that <i>“Screening testing may be most valuable in areas with substantial or high community transmission levels, in areas with low vaccination coverage, and in schools where other prevention strategies are not implemented. More frequent testing can increase effectiveness, but feasibility of increased testing in schools needs to be considered.”</i></p> <p>Given the considerations listed above, FACTS has not established a testing program. FACTS is implementing many other prevention measures and we are located in an area where vaccination rates are not low. In addition, we are a small single school site and do not have the capacity to implement a testing program locally.</p>
<p>g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>FACTS is promoting vaccination for staff and eligible students by using vaccine information resources from the CDC and other sources. FACTS is providing information in families’ home languages to the extent possible.</p>
<p>h. <u>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</u>; and</p>	<p>Students are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such students should be made in partnership with the student’s health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team. Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to</p>

	<p>remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings.</p> <p>Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, should use a clear mask or another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>FACTS submits the COVID-19 Pediatric Surveillance Daily Survey to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH). This ensures the close coordination and communication between FACTS and our local health officials. In our experience from the Spring of 2021, the PDPH follows up our submission of Daily Survey with a phone call and/or email with recommendations for the actions the school should take as well as to answer any questions the school has.</p> <p>FACTS closely monitors the guidance being issued by the PDPH as well as the PDPH's assessment of the local risk of transmission.</p>