Dear DCIU,

Last years’ successes were because of you! Your diligence in pivoting to an everchanging, unknown environment due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus was truly amazing. We ended the year on a high note and was hopeful the virus was going to be in our past. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The Delta Variant has hit our country and Delaware County pretty hard. The CDC has stated, the Delta Variant:

- Is more contagious than other strains of the virus.
- Might cause more severe illness in unvaccinated persons.
- Is of greatest concern in unvaccinated people and children.
- Shows fully vaccinated people with Delta Variant can have breakthrough infections that can spread the virus to others.

With the rapidly increasing rates of COVID-19, DCIU has updated our Health and Safety Plan. It is important for all staff and contractors to be familiar with the health and safety protocols so that we can all do our part to foster safe school and work communities. The DCIU Website has a copy of the DCIU and DCTS Health and Safety Plan, effective on August 23, posted as well as other important information. Please take some time to review. As we begin the upcoming year, we ask for your cooperation and support with the following:

**Masks:** All individuals will be required to wear masks when in a DCIU and DCTS location. We are making this change because Delaware County is in the substantial COVID-19 transmission category. DCIU and DCTS is implementing the latest CDC guidance for indoor masking. DCIU and DCTS will require masks for all students, staffs, and contractors while our county is in the moderate, substantial, and high levels of transmission. The only exception to this rule is during outdoor play and recess whereby students and staff will have the option of removing their masks.

While we understand that all staff and contractors may not agree with masks at school and work, we ask for your support and cooperation. Our top priority is to put into place key mitigation strategies for the safety of all individuals.

**Visitors:** DCIU and DCTS will allow visitors and parents on-site. All visitors and parents shall wear a mask while in a DCIU or DCTS facility.
**Stay Home if Sick:** You should continue to screen for symptoms each morning and should not come to work with COVID-19 symptoms. This helps to keep you, your coworkers, students, and clients safe.

**Rapid Antigen Testing Program:** DCIU will continue to implement the mandatory Rapid Antigen Testing Program throughout the organization for all DCIU and DCTS staff and contractors through October 1, 2021. Students whose parents provided permission may also participate in the weekly Rapid Antigen Testing Program.

Beginning October 4, 2021, all unvaccinated staff and contractors shall participate in the Rapid Antigen Testing Program two (2) times per week.

Beginning October 4, 2021, vaccinated individuals may volunteer for the weekly Rapid Antigen testing program. If a vaccinated individual volunteers for assurance testing, he/she must commit to weekly testing.

DCIU and DCTS will implement a Rapid Antigen Testing Program for individuals (staff, students, contractors) who become symptomatic during the program, school or working hours.

**DCIU Employee Health Self-Reporting:** DCIU will continue to require all staff and contractors to report if they are COVID-19 positive or have been in close contact with an individual who has COVID-19. The form is on the DCIU website or one can access the by using this link, [Employee Health Self-Reporting Form](#).

**Vaccinations:** DCIU strongly encourages all staff, contractors, and eligible students to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine helps to protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response that is highly effective in fighting COVID-19. DCIU will be requiring staff and contractors to fill out the [Delaware County Intermediate Unit Employee Vaccine Reporting Form](#). If you have already completed the form, thank you! If you have not yet completed the form, please take a few minutes to fill it out. All staff and contractors are being requested to complete this form no later than Friday, September 17, 2021. The form can be accessed from the DCIU website or the hyperlink above.

DCIU and DCTS will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to monitor community transmission and implementation of best practices for COVID-19 mitigation. Please be aware the DCIU and DCTS Health and Safety Plan is a fluid document. New guidance from the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health may require our plan to change. If there are changes, the program supervisor/principal will communicate any future modifications of our health and safety plan.

Thank you in advance for your support in promoting safe and healthy school and work communities. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your program supervisor or principal.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 2021-2022 year.

Sincerely,

Maria Edelberg

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*Delaware County Intermediate Unit*