ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

Dear DCIU Staff:

Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. DCIU Strong is something we are collectively! Your steadfast adherence to the health and safety plan and unwavering commitment needs to be celebrated. Because of you – our staff, students, clients, and families remained as safe as possible while continuing to be educated and served during these unprecedented times. Words cannot appropriately convey my gratitude and appreciation to you for your support from March 2020 until now.

Beginning on Monday, June 21, 2021, DCIU will be implementing a revised Health and Safety plan for 2021-2022. The plan is attached for your review. Please take some time to read it thoroughly.

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers to further define aspects of the Health and Safety Plan.

Am I required to wear a mask?
Pennsylvania’s mask order lifts on June 28, 2021, or when 70 percent of adults get their second dose, whichever comes first. Further, both Pennsylvania and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) have stated that if an individual is fully vaccinated, he/she will not be required to wear a mask.

Between June 21, 2021 and June 27, 2021, individuals who are vaccinated can choose to wear or not wear a mask.

As of June 28, 2021, face coverings are optional for all individuals (staff, students, contractors, parents, and visitors).

Staff and contractors who travel to other locations to provide services must adhere to the Health and Safety Plan of the location of the service.

DCIU and DCTS will support all individuals who prefer to continue to wear a mask. Please note all face masks shall be free of political jargon and statements.

Am I required to be vaccinated?
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. Fully vaccinated individuals are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others.
Am I required to provide proof of vaccination?
Proof of vaccination is not required at this time for DCIU staff. DCIU encourages all staff members to fill out the COVID-19 Vaccine Report Form if you have received the COVID-19 vaccine. This can be found on the front page of our website.

Will volunteers be permitted to return to classrooms?
Yes. Volunteers will be allowed to return to classrooms beginning on July 1, 2021 if their clearances have been approved and they adhere to all DCIU mitigation strategies.

Will visitors/parents be permitted to enter buildings?
Yes. Parents and visitors will be permitted at all DCIU locations beginning July 1, 2021.

What will instructional models look like in the 2021-2022 school year?
DCIU programs and services will be full in-person. DCIU will continue to have an Emergency Instructional Time plan for 2021-2022 that will be posted on the DCIU website once it is Board approved in July.

Will DCIU continue to require social distancing?
No. The Governor lifted Orders on May 31, 2021, ending indoor and outdoor event and gathering occupancy requirements and social/physical distancing requirements. DCIU has ended social distancing requirements.

Will DCIU keep plexiglass barriers in place for the 2021-2022 year?
No. DCIU will begin to remove all plexiglass barriers during the months of July and August 2021. As a reminder, any individual can choose to continue to wear a face mask if this level of mitigation is one’s preference.

Will in-person meetings resume?
Yes. In-person meetings may resume the week of June 14, 2021. Virtual meetings may continue to be utilized when appropriate or at the discretion of program administrators.

Are programs able to resume field trips and Community Based Instruction (CBI)?
Yes. It is important to check where one is going to ensure our staff, contractors, and students adhere to any health and safety mitigation strategies that may be in place.

Will staff and contractors still be required to fill out the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Employee Health Self-Reporting Form?
Yes. If a staff member or contractor has tested positive for COVID-19 or was in close contact with an individual who has COVID-19 (defined as within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes or more), one must fill out the Delaware County Intermediate Unit Employee Health Self-Reporting Form. This ensures all proper protocols are implemented.

Will DCIU still require all staff to participate in the Rapid Antigen Testing Program?
DCIU will continue to implement mandatory Rapid Antigen Testing for all staff and contractors through August 13, 2021. Beginning August 16, 2021, all staff and contractors will be required to participate in the Rapid Antigen Testing program if they are at work or in program and have COVID-19 symptoms. This is to ensure someone is not at risk of spreading the COVID-19 Virus.
DCIU will continue to implement the modified quarantine which allows an individual to test out of quarantine on day 7, if the individual does not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

DCIU may implement mandatory Rapid Antigen Testing for all staff and contractors in the future if rates of COVID-19 increase.

Will staff, contractors, students be required to self-screen (take temperature and check for COVID-19 symptoms) prior to coming to work?
No. It is highly recommended staff, students, and contractors self-screen prior to coming to work, school or program and recommend one stay home if ill.

Will the Morton Campus and other DCIU locations be open to outside agencies for use for meetings or conference space?
No. The DCIU Morton facility and other locations will only be open for DCIU program use, for professional development led by our Teaching and Learning Department, and for use by our 15 public school districts. DCIU will reconsider this position for January 2022.

Will DCIU continue to publish the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) Dashboard?
DCIU will continue to publish a daily dashboard through August 13, 2021. Beginning August 16, 2021, DCIU will no longer publish a daily dashboard of COVID-19 cases among staff and students.

Again, THANK YOU for everything you have done this year to support the DCIU, children, stakeholders, clients, and families.

Sincerely,

Maria Edelberg