



## Health and Safety Plan Summary: Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Revised: September 2023 and reapproved with no changes on March 21, 2024.

Revised: September 2024

- 1. How will the Local Education Agency (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?**

GMCS will layer strategies to help prevent infectious disease. Masks will be optional unless mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. GMCS will continue to have routines and opportunities for proper handwashing.

In addition to cleaning and disinfecting, Electrostatic Spraying is done each evening.

As necessary, we will check for updates on the CDC guidance on the prevention of infectious diseases. We will only use chemicals from CDC chemical lists and approved by EPA Virex Tb and Oxivir are chemicals to be used along with the Electrostatic Sprayer. In order to meet OSHA requirements, all our chemicals are properly labeled, and SOS are available for everyone who needs them.

We have divided the school in multiple areas. Our disinfecting frequencies vary from one area to another. For example, most common areas such as door handles, restrooms are disinfected at least 3 times a day.

The classroom wings at Gettysburg Montessori School are ventilated by a new dedicated outdoor air rooftop HVAC system which provides outdoor air directly to each classroom, while exhausting all bathrooms and common spaces. The system operates anytime the building is occupied during the school year. The outdoor air is filtered and conditioned to maintain humidity levels throughout the building as well as improving indoor air quality. In addition, all classrooms and most hallway windows are operable to provide fresh outdoor air as needed.

- 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?**

GMCS will be open for in-person learning unless limited closure is needed in response to local outbreak and current CDC & Department of Health recommendations.

Throughout the school year, we will provide additional academic support to students in need.

GMCS will contract with a local counseling agency to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students and staff.

GMCS will continue to assess student health as required by law, such as vision and hearing screenings. If families request more health services for their students, they may reach out to the school nurse for resources.

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**

(The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act allocated \$5 billion to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund for use by local education agencies (LEAs).)

**Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

**Universal and correct wearing of masks.**

Masks in school will be optional unless we are mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If we are mandated, GMCS will provide information to all families and staff about the correct wearing of masks.

Masks may be required by the students' home districts while transporting students on buses or vans.

- b. **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing:**

If an outbreak occurs, we may use our clear shields in the classroom and in the cafeteria.

- c. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.**

Classroom teachers and school nurse will teach students how to properly wash their hands as well as respiratory etiquette. They will also establish routines and times for handwashing.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, improving ventilation;

How will you ensure the building is including cleaned and ready to safely welcome staff and students?

Response: In addition to cleaning and disinfecting, Electrostatic Spraying is done each evening.

How will you procure adequate disinfection supplies meeting OSHA and CDC requirements for COVID-19?

Response: As necessary, we will check for updates on the CDC requirements for COVID-19. We will only use chemicals from CDC chemical lists and approved by EPA Virex Tb and Oxivir are chemicals to be used along with the Electrostatic Sprayer. In order to meet OSHA requirements, all our chemicals are properly labeled, and SOS are available for everyone who needs them.

How often will you implement cleaning, sanitation, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols/procedures to maintain staff and student safety?

Response: We have divided the school in multiple areas. Our disinfecting frequencies vary from one area to another. For example, most common areas such as door handles, restrooms... are disinfected at least 3 times a day.

The classroom wings at Gettysburg Montessori School are ventilated by a new dedicated outdoor air rooftop HVAC system which provides outdoor air directly to each classroom, while exhausting all bathrooms and common spaces. The system operates anytime the building is occupied during the school year. The outdoor air is filtered and conditioned to maintain humidity levels throughout the building as well as improving indoor air quality. In addition, all classrooms and most hallway windows are operable to provide fresh outdoor air as needed.

**e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments.**

GMCS' school nurse will continue to work with the State and local health departments regarding contact tracing, and isolation and quarantine requirements.

**f. Diagnostic and screening testing.**

Diagnostic and screening testing are not appropriate for GMCS.

**g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.**

The school nurse screens anyone presenting symptoms of illness. The nurse determines whether the individual may stay at school or be sent home with referral for further evaluation and/or diagnostic testing by PCP.

GMCS will not provide vaccinations to our school community. However, if a family requests information about the vaccines or where to get them, the school nurse will provide them with resources.

**h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and**

All appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities will be determined by the IEP/school team based on the individual needs of the student within the construct set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Gettysburg Montessori Charter School's approved Health and Safety Plan.

**i. Coordination with state and local health officials.**

GMCS' school nurse is available to coordinate with state and local health officials as needed.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Gettysburg Montessori Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(July 29 2021)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of: ALL IN FAVOR

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **(July 29 2021)**

By:



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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Thomas Hockensmith

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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.