

July 13, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I am sharing the 2021-2022 Avonworth Health and Safety Plan with you for your review prior to its required adoption by the Avonworth Board of School Directors. The adoption and submission of the plan is a requirement of the District to participate in the American Rescue Plan and use ESSER Funds. The plan is required to be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by July 30, 2021.

I want to emphasize several things. First, the conditions with the pandemic have greatly improved. This is due to a successful vaccination program that began with those most vulnerable to serious disease and death, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions. Vaccinations are now available to all individuals age 12 and older. Drug manufacturers are currently working on a vaccine for young children.

The metrics in our region have indicated that case numbers have consistently been below 10 per 100,000 and the percent positivity rate at approximately 1%. Children in the 5-12 age range account for approximately 5% of new COVID cases over the last five weeks. This is very good news.

As we look to the fall and the start of the school year, the District will continue to review data related to cases and transmissions and make the necessary adjustments. You will notice in this plan that masks are recommended for those who are unvaccinated but not mandatory. If conditions change and the virus comes back with the veracity we witnessed last fall, the District will respond accordingly with masking and other mitigations needed to protect students, staff, and the community.

After reviewing the Health and Safety Plan, please feel free to share any thoughts or feedback regarding the plan using the Public Comment link below. I want to thank you for your continued support as the District has navigated the challenges of the pandemic.

With kindest regards,

Thomas W. Ralston, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Avonworth School District