The Central PA Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) has created a Health and Safety Plan which will serve as the local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional activities during the 2024-2025 school year. The Health and Safety Plan developed for CPI is tailored to our unique needs and was done using current CDC guidelines. CPI will operate normally and implement prevention measures as necessary. If data (including cases at the local and district level), indicates additional mitigation measures are necessary, CPI, in consultation with our sending districts, will determine protocols and prevention strategies.

This version of CPI's Health and Safety Plan was reviewed/approved by Joint Operating Committee on January 13, 2025 and was posted on the CPI website (cpi.edu) on January 14, 2025. We will continue to monitor our Health and Safety Plan and update as needed.

Level of Community Transmission

CPI will employ Layered Prevention and Mitigation Strategies for the 2024-2025 school year. CPI expects to operate in-person schooling in a safe and continuous manner following a normal operating schedule unless the COVID-19 pandemic indicates a need to phase in or add additional layers of protection for students and staff. Such Prevention Strategies and Mitigation Efforts will be based on Levels of Community Transmission as well as building and classroom data, reviewed as needed by the CPI Pandemic Team and School Leadership Team.

Face Coverings/Masks

Face Covering/Masks are optional for all students, staff, and visitors. Face Coverings/Masks may be required for students and staff identified as close contacts to positive cases or after returning from a quarantine as a result of testing positive for COVID-19.

If data indicates, face coverings/masks may be required for all students, staff, and visitors at CPI, in a specific building or program area, or within a specific section of the facility. Such decisions will be made in consultation with the sending districts, building data, the PA Department of Health, or as a result of CDC guidelines.

Physical Distancing

Classrooms and labs will be seated as normal unless otherwise required/ordered to do so within the confines of the law. Teaching staff may continue to use physical distancing in classrooms and labs as they deem necessary to maintain the health and safety of students.

Handwashing, Sanitizing, Cleaning, and Respiratory Etiquette

All classrooms, labs, offices, and public areas are equipped with hand sanitizer or hand washing facilities.

Handwashing/Hand Sanitizing is recommended to all staff and students upon entering the facility and/or classroom, during transitions between activities, after food/beverage consumption, after using the restroom, and before exiting the classroom/building. Staff and students will be reminded of the proper etiquette on handwashing/sanitizing and how to cover mouths when sneezing/coughing.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine

CPI will not contact trace unless required to do so within the confines of the law. Should the requirement be placed upon the school, the CPI Leadership Team and School Nurse have been trained in contact tracing. Parents will however be asked to help identify and inform both close contacts and the school nurse of any positive case.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

CPI will follow all IEP's, 504's, and board policies, procedures, and lawful orders.

Additional Information

Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19/respiratory virus, regardless of symptoms, can go back to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, their symptoms are getting better overall and they have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

Students or staff who come to school with symptoms or develop symptoms while at school may be asked to wear a well-fitting mask while in the building and could be sent home. The CPI administration will decide how to manage exposures based on the local context and benefits of preserving access to in-person learning.