



# City of Bridges High School 2020-2021 Covid-19 Plan

## ***Our Mission***

*City of Bridges High School is a progressive, holistic, 9th -12th grade high school which believes that school should be transformational for the students, the community, and the world. It is the mission of the City of Bridges High School to graduate confident young adults who comprehend their own human dignity and inherent worth; who are prepared to assert their agency in the world; who have the lived-experience, knowledge, and skills to find and follow their passions; and who are dedicated to living with the empathy, compassion, and joy necessary to positively affect society and remake a measurably more just and peaceful world.*

## Overview of City of Bridges Approach

City of Bridges is committed to providing a learner centered learning community which supports young people in building the knowledge, skills and understanding that they need to bring about their preferable futures.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about monumental upheaval to our region, to our school and to education across the region and country. Since the start of the mandatory school closure on March 13, 2020 we have been working to provide learning in line with our values while maintaining policies and procedures to maximize the health and safety of our students, staff, families and our larger community.

As you read through our plans, please remember that this draft document will likely change as the situation in our region and state continues to evolve over the coming months leading up to the start of school in September 2020. We will be updating this plan in July and August as new information develops and new guidance is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Allegheny County Health Department.

If you have questions, comments or would like to discuss our plan further, please reach out to Dr. Randy Bartlett, Head of School, who is serving as the City of Bridges Pandemic Coordinator, a role outlined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He can be reached by email at [randy@cityofbridgeshighschool.org](mailto:randy@cityofbridgeshighschool.org).



# City of Bridges High School 2020-2021 Covid-19 Plan

## General Health and Safety Plans

City of Bridges will follow the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Allegheny County Health Department requirements for reopening schools and we will follow the CDC recommendations in the best way possible in order to support the learning of our students and the safety of the students, staff and their families. We are committed to returning to school in person full time in the fall unless we are unable to due to a state order or mandate. In order to maximize the safety of our community we will be taking the following actions:

### Monitoring of Symptoms in Students, Families and Staff

All students will go through a symptom check upon arrival that will include a checklist of symptoms which will be completed by staff and if necessary will include a temperature check.

Staff will go through a symptom check upon arrival that will include a checklist of symptoms which will be completed by their colleagues and will if necessary include a temperature check.

Any and all visitors, including parents, practitioners or community members will go through a symptom check which will be completed by staff and if necessary will include a temperature check.

Records of all symptom checks will be retained until the Covid-19 pandemic has been declared over and schools are able to return to pre-Covid operations.

If any student exhibits symptoms or has a temperature, they will be escorted to a comfortable but isolated place in the building and their family will be contacted to pick that child up from school. Students will be expected to wear a mask while they wait to be picked up.

We are still waiting to see how testing procedures will be conducted in the region and will determine the necessity of a negative test for a return to school as this information develops.



# City of Bridges High School

## 2020-2021

### Covid-19 Plan

#### Students with Symptoms at School

Staff in collaboration with self-reporting by students will monitor students for symptoms of Covid-19 throughout the day. If a student displays Covid-19 symptoms, they will be escorted to a comfortable but isolated place where they will be supported by the staff member until a parent is able to pick them up.

We are still waiting to see how testing procedures will be conducted in the region and will determine the necessity of a negative test for a return to school as this information develops.

#### Staff with Symptoms

Staff who exhibit symptoms will be quarantined at full pay for either two weeks or until a negative test result. Staff may continue to work with students virtually if their health permits.

#### Masks

Staff and students will be expected to wear masks or face shields while at school. Students will be asked to provide masks, but if they are unable to, City of Bridges will provide a dedicated reusable mask to each student. This is in alignment with current research recommendations provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and will be revisited as information changes. (<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midatlantic/pdf/ReopeningPASchools.pdf>)

#### Outdoor Learning

City of Bridges has secured an outdoor space to serve as a primary classroom in fall. This space which would be adjacent to our indoor space will provide students and staff with the ability to continue our learner centered relational school model while also maintaining safety. The outdoor space will be large enough to accommodate the entire school either in a large socially distant group or in a number of smaller socially distant groups. We will spend as much time as possible in this outdoor space as long as weather and temperature permit.

#### Internships



# City of Bridges High School

## 2020-2021

### Covid-19 Plan

Internships are a central component of the City of Bridges experience. We will continue to evaluate internship viability as the school year grows closer. If it is determined that it is not yet safe to have students present on site internships may be converted to externally mentored projects for the fall trimester.

If students are present at internships, they will be required to follow any and all Covid-19 safety protocols of that location.

Students will not be permitted to return to school on the day of their internship.

### Hand Washing

Students and teachers will be washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer, at least once every 60 minutes.

We will notify you of the hand sanitizer we are using as a school and if you prefer that your child use a different brand, you may send one into the school with your child's full name labeled on it.

We will ensure that each classroom is fully stocked with tissues and paper towels.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting

The school buildings will be cleaned every night using the recommended cleaning protocols during the time of COVID-19. We will be using child-safe and ecologically friendly products that meet state and licensing guidelines. All high touch surfaces and bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day, and any shared spaces will be cleaned between groups of students.

Common areas (sinks, bathrooms, doorknobs, table-tops, shared items, etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized at least twice daily.

### Bathrooms

The Bathrooms at City of Bridges will be recategorized as single user non-gendered bathrooms. (Recommendations on bathrooms are changing quickly and we will meet the standards laid forth by the middle of August):



# City of Bridges High School 2020-2021 Covid-19 Plan

Only one person may be in a bathroom at a time.

Students will continue to be allowed to use the bathroom during classes to ensure sufficient capacity during breaks, lunch and emergencies.

Students and staff will be expected to wear masks in the bathroom.

Touch surfaces of all bathrooms will be cleaned three times a day – after morning meeting, after lunch and after school. Students and staff will be asked to wash their hands after using the bathroom before returning to any activities.

## Lunch

Students and staff will be asked to eat lunch either outdoors or in one of the large spaces at City of Bridges.

We are still in the process of determining the expectations around students leaving campus to get lunch and these expectations will develop as guidelines are clarified.