

# Health and Safety Plan Review

School Board Meeting  
December 13, 2021



# Wallingford- Swarthmore School District

## Mission and Vision Statements



### **MISSION**

The Wallingford-Swarthmore School District is committed to assuring the academic achievement and personal growth of all students within an environment that promotes:

- Respect for self and others
- Active engagement in learning
- Leadership in the global community
- The pursuit of excellence

### **VISION**

Our vision is to develop a world-class school district that provides students with the skills to succeed in a changing global environment. This vision will be realized through a commitment to high-quality programs and continuous improvement based upon careful analysis and integration of the most effective practices.

## Topics for Review

Health and  
Safety Plan



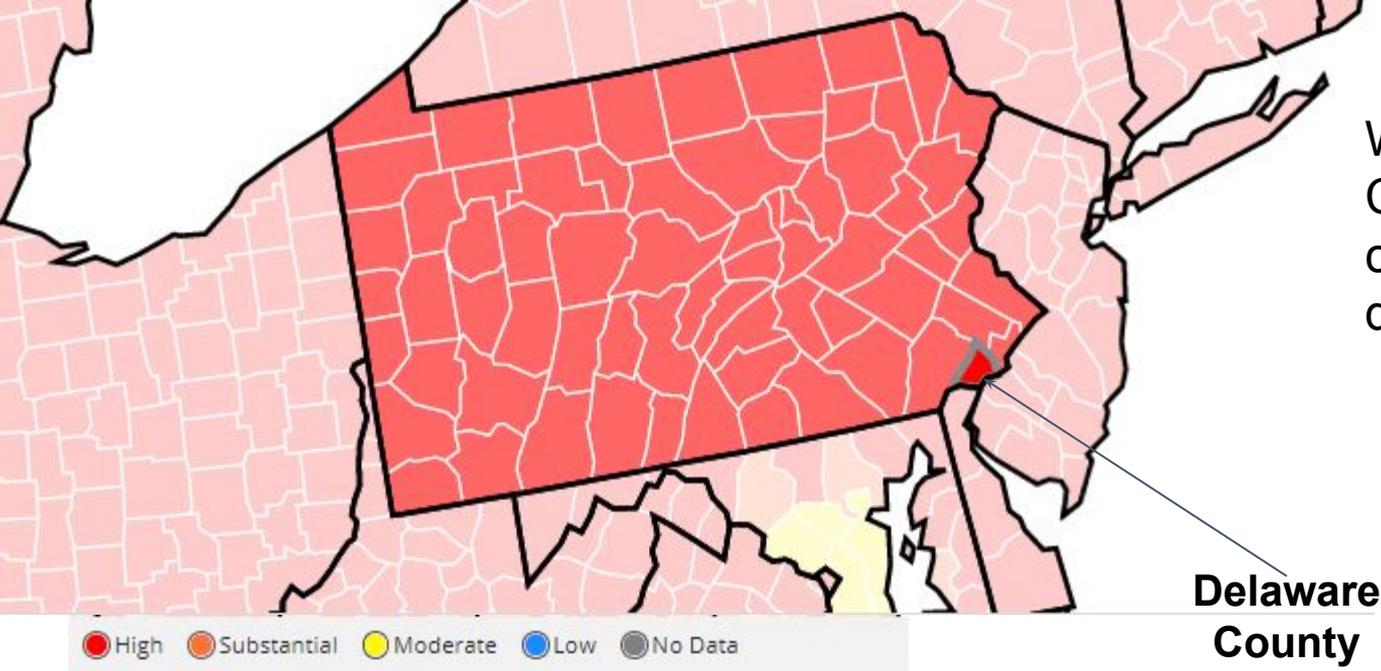
- ❖ Masking Mandates Expiration
- ❖ Historically and Current County Data
- ❖ Historically and Building Covid Data
- ❖ Proposed Changes to Health and Safety Plan
- ❖ Next Steps - Transition to Mask-Optional - Effective February 7, 2022

## Health and Safety Plan



# Pa. Supreme Court strikes down school mask mandate imposed by Wolf administration

- August 31, 2021 Acting Health Secretary signed an order requiring universal mask coverings to be worn in all schools.
- November 10, 2021 Commonwealth Court ruled that the Acting Health Secretary lacked the authority to require mask and failed to comply with state laws and the mask mandate would end December 4, 2021
- Governor Wolf filed an appeal to the PA Supreme Court
- December 10, 2021 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld the lower court ruling and stroke down mask mandates imposed by the Acting Health Secretary.
- The court ruling pushed back mask requirements to local control



We have been relying on County data to make community/district level decisions.

- As a result of the districts inability to receive community level data we have been using County level data to guide our communities Health and Safety Strategies
- Since the opening of school Delaware County has been in sustained a **HIGH** level of transmission
- We must begin using our own building/district level data to make better informed decisions regarding our Health and Safety Plan

**Low Transmission Threshold:** Counties with fewer than 10 total cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days, and a NAAT percent test positivity in the past 7 days below 5%;

**Moderate Transmission Threshold:** Counties with 10-49 total cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days or a NAAT test percent positivity in the past 7 days of 5.0-7.99%;

**Substantial Transmission Threshold:** Counties with 50-99 total cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days or a NAAT test percent positivity in the past 7 days of 8.0-9.99%;

**High Transmission Threshold:** Counties with 100 or more total cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days or a NAAT test percent positivity in the past 7 days of 10.0% or greater.

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
Incidence Rate per 100,000 people in last 7 days	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
% Positive Tests in last 7 days	<5%	5-7.9%	8-9.9%	≥10%

# Hospitalizations in Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Data through Thu Dec 09 2021

<b>New Admissions (last 7 days)</b>	87
Rate of New Admissions per 100 beds (last 7 days)	10.81
Rate of New Admissions per 100k people (last 7 days)	15.35
% Change (last 7 days)	8.75

<b>% Beds Used (last 7 days)</b>	11.2
% Change (last 7 days)	2.86

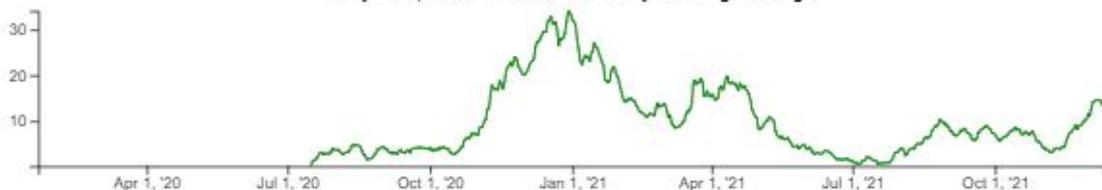
<b>% ICU Beds Used (last 7 days)</b>	15.01
% Change (last 7 days)	0.69

Tue, Jan 21st 2020 - Fri, Dec 10th 2021

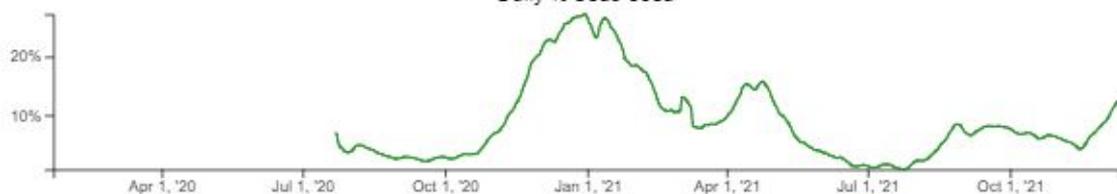
Use slider to update time series chart



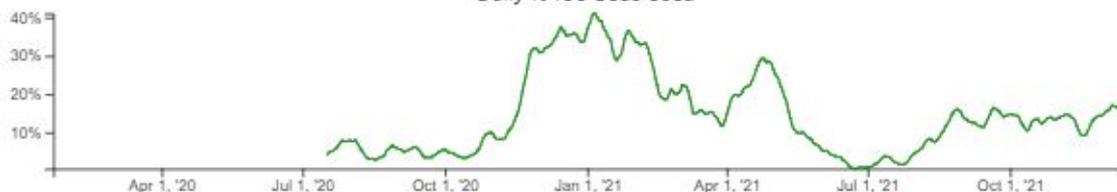
Daily Hospital Admissions - 7-Day Moving Average



Daily % Beds Used



Daily % ICU Beds Used



# Cases & Deaths in Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Data through Fri Dec 10 2021

<b>Total Cases (last 7 days)</b>	1463
Case Rate (last 7 days)	258.14
% Change (last 7 days)	21.71

<b>Total Deaths (last 7 days)</b>	<10
Death Rate (last 7 days)	suppressed
% Change (last 7 days)	100

Tue, Jan 21st 2020 - Fri, Dec 10th 2021

Use slider to update time series chart



# Testing in Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Data through Wed Dec 08 2021

**% Positivity (last 7 days)** 8.75

**% Change (last 7 days)** -0.73

Data through Sat Dec 04 2021

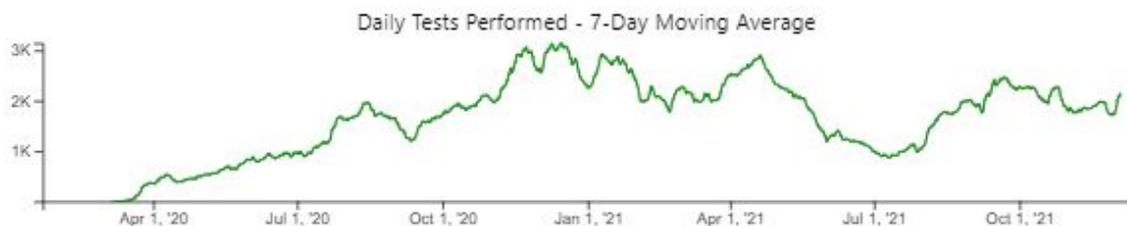
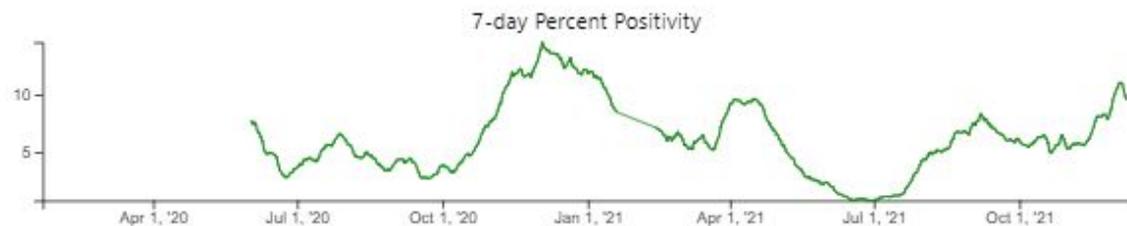
**Tests Performed (last 7 days)** 13673

**Test Rate (last 7 days)** 2412.51

**% Change (last 7 days)** 23.7

Tue, Jan 21st 2020 - Fri, Dec 10th 2021

Use slider to update time series chart



# Delaware County Community Transmission

## Health and Safety Plan

*7 Day Metrics as of Oct 24 , 2021*

**Level of Transmission: High**

**Cases: 721**

**Positivity: 4.21%**

**Deaths: <10%**

**Eligible Population Fully**

**Vaccinated: 76.3%**

**New Hospital Admissions: 47**

*7 Day Metrics as of Dec. 9, 2021*

**Level of Transmission: High**

**Cases: 1386**

**Positivity: 8.49%**

**Deaths: <10%**

**Eligible Population Fully**

**Vaccinated: 76.1%**

**New Hospital Admissions: 93**



# District Level Cases

## September 9 - December 12

	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Population: District/Building</b>	<b>Percent of Positive case</b>
Total District Cases	<b>107</b>	4,688	2.28%
Total SHHS	<b>30</b>	1,465	2%
Total SHMS	<b>8</b>	1,002	0.7%
Total WES	<b>21</b>	631	3.32%
Total SRS	<b>15</b>	638	2.3%
Total NPE	<b>18</b>	578	3.1%



# District Level Incidence Rates

Since the Beginning of the School Year  
Looking at School Buildings Only (HS, MS, WES, SRS, NPE)

**4,688 staff/students = 2.28%**

Over the last 4 weeks

**11/15-11/28/21**

**7 cases = 0.015 %**

**11/29-12/12/21:**

**20 cases = 0.47%**



# Building Level Incidence Rate

*SHHS*

*SHMS*

Health and  
Safety Plan

**9/5-9/18/21: 5 cases= 0.34%**

**9/5-9/18/21: 0 cases=0%**

**9/19-10/2/21: 4 cases= 0.27%**

**9/19-10/2/21: 0 cases= 0%**

**10/3-10/17/21: 7 cases= 0.47%**

**10/3-10/17/21: 0 cases= 0%**

**10/18-10/31/21: 9 cases= 0.61%**

**10/18-10/31/21: 1 case =0.09%**

**11/1-11/14/21: 1 case= 0.07%**

**11/1-11/14/21: 2 cases = 0.19%**

**11/15-11/28/21: 2 cases=0.16%**

**11/15-11/28/21: 0 cases= 0%**

**11/29-12/12/21: 1 case=0.13%**

**11/29-12/12/21: 4 cases= 0.39%**



# Building Level Incidence Rate

## Health and Safety Plan



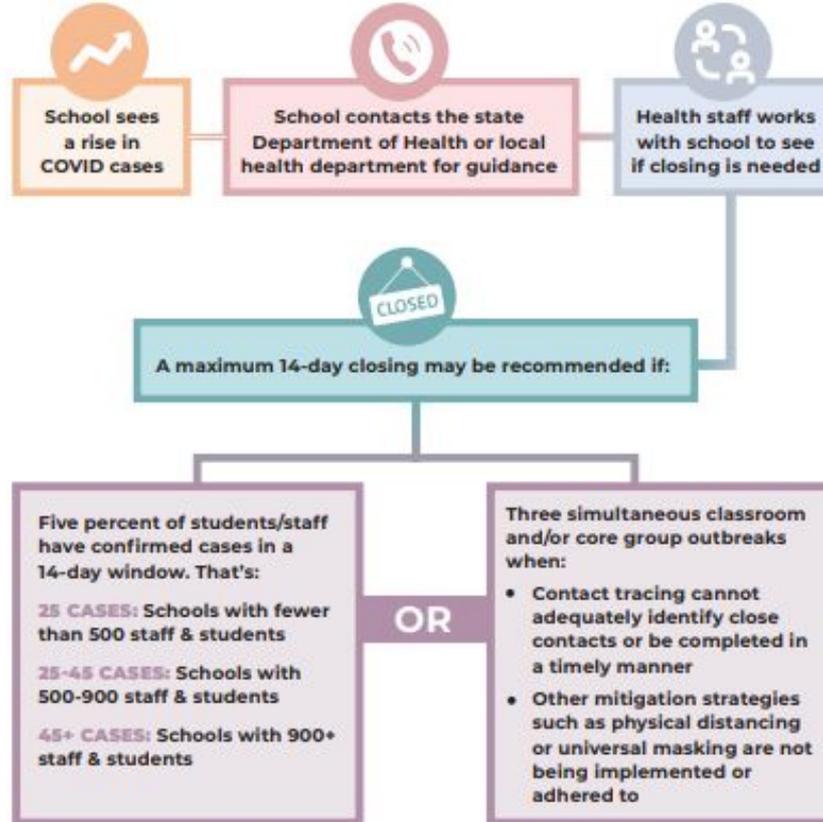
WES	SRS	NPE
9/5-9/18/21: 1 case= 0.17%	9/5-9/18/21: 0 cases=0%	9/5-9/18/21: 1 case=0.17%
9/19-10/2/21:5 cases= 0.89%	9/19-10/2/21: 4 cases= 0.63%	9/19-10/2/21: 1 case=0.17%
10/3-10/17/21:6 cases= 1%	10/3-10/17/21: 1 case=0.16%	10/3-10/17/21: 4 cases=0.69%
10/18-10/31/21: 3 cases= 0.53%	10/18-10/31/21: 0 cases=0%	10/18-10/31/21: 3 cases=0.58%
11/1-11/14/21: 2 cases= 0.36%	11/1-11/14/21: 1 case= 0.16%	11/1-11/14/21: 1 case=0.17%
11/15-11/28/21: 1 case=0.17%	11/15-11/28/21: 3 cases=0.47%	11/15-11/28/21: 0 cases=0%
11/29-12/12/21:2 cases= 0.3%	11/29-12/12/21: 5 cases=0.78%	11/29-12/12/21:10 cases=1.7%

# Health and Safety Plan

## Responding to Covid-19 Case(s) in Schools



# How To Respond To A COVID-19 Outbreak



## Responding to COVID-19 Case(s) in Schools

# Health and Safety Plan



PA Department of Health  
Threshold to Close Schools is 5%  
in a 14 day period

Proposed: Mask Option to be  
Lifted at Proposed 2% to  
Mitigate Spread in 14 day  
Period

## Numerically that means:

**SHHS: 73**

**SHMS: 50**

**WES: 32**

**SRS: 32**

**NPE: 29**

## Numerically that means:

**SHHS: 29**

**SHMS: 20**

**WES: 13**

**SRS: 13**

**NPE: 12**

# Health and Safety Plan



## COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Recovery, Even as U.S. Approaches Peak Seasonal Transmission

- The average PCR test positivity rate across the 812 counties in our model increased to 10.4% this week from 9.4% last week. Most counties are above 9%, and the rate of positivity is growing in nearly 75% of counties.
- Nationally, adult hospital census continues to grow—daily hospital admissions have grown 50% (from 5,000 to nearly 7,500) in the last month. Pediatric hospital census had remained flat in November at 600 children but jumped to 800 children this week, with nearly half of all states showing increasing pediatric admissions and census.
- We are now forecasting at least a doubling of case incidence in the New York City boroughs and their collar counties through December. Similar growth is occurring in Boston, Providence, New Haven, Conn., and down the I-95 corridor into Philadelphia and Baltimore.

# COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Recovery, Even as U.S. Approaches Peak Seasonal Transmission

## Health and Safety Plan



- Similar to a phenomenon we observed last year, we are seeing rising transmission risk in metropolitan centers throughout the country. The reasons for this are likely many but are undoubtedly related to gatherings.
- We are hopeful that continued commitment to increasing vaccination coverage, including booster dosing, and immunity from natural infection may blunt the duration or magnitude of these post-Thanksgiving urban and suburban impacts in some locations.
- For the second half of the school year, education leaders will need to consider both local case incidence data and changes in local government mandates.
- Despite rising risk in southeastern Pennsylvania, we are seeing a declining positivity rate from the testing we're doing in schools through **Project: ACE-IT**, potentially attributable to increasing numbers of vaccinated students. The weekly test positivity rate among schools in our region who are using "test-to-stay" has been cut in half (1.2% this week, down from 2.7% last week)
- Continued vaccination of children in the coming weeks will serve to help sustain reductions in transmission over time, which will benefit schools in the new year as they transition to less restrictive mitigation strategies.

[COVID-19 Outlook: Preparing for Recovery, Even as U.S. Approaches Peak Seasonal Transmission](#)

Health and  
Safety Plan



Transitioning back to pre-pandemic ways of life can feel uncomfortable, but it is a necessary part of our collective recovery. It is also a recognition that we'll enter a new phase of this pandemic in the new year, one of recovery and moving toward the conclusion of a pandemic that will never fully recede, but whose impacts we must accommodate to over time in the course of our normal lives.



WSSD  
Student & Staff  
Percentages



## Health Department

Delaware County Health Department to open sometime in January

For now, we remain under the PA DOH

The Delaware County Health Department may issue guidelines that will impact the WSSD Health and Safety Plan

## Proposed Date of Adopted Changes

- February 7, 2022
- Allows for post winter breaks transmission spikes from gatherings
- Allows for the worst of the Flu season to pass
- Allows 5-12 years of age who received the vaccine to move to the fully vaccinated status



## Vaccination Data



# Vaccination Rates

County Data 75.6% of eligible 12 and older are vaccinated

## **Vaccination for 12 and under**

- Student clinics were conducted with Every Child Counts on Dec 12, and the WSSD clinics will continue on Dec. 20 and Jan 12 with support from Springfield Pharmacy
- Every Child Counts vaccinated 98 individuals under 12 years of age
- The Nov. 29 clinic at WSSD vaccinated 218 individuals

WSSD  
Student  
Vaccination  
Percentages



Oct. 25, 2021 Data:

12th Grade: 73%

11th Grade: 59%

10th Grade: 55%

9th Grade: 54%

8th Grade: 59%

7th Grade: 59%

Dec 9, 2021 Data:

12th Grade: 73%

11th Grade: 61%

10th Grade: 59.2%

9th Grade: 55.3%

8th Grade: 62%

7th Grade: 62%



## Sharing Vaccination Status with the District

1. Upload the information onto PowerSchool
2. Scan and email to the Mrs. Sweeney, Lead Covid Nurse
3. Take a Picture and send to our Lead Covid Nurse
4. Bring in to your school nurse

# Health and Safety Plan Test-to-Stay

## Test-to-Stay

### A COVID-19 Strategy to Help Maintain In-Person Learning

**TEST-TO-STAY PROGRAM** allows students and staff who are identified as **in-school close contacts** during COVID-19 contact tracing and are **asymptomatic** to continue to remain in school for work or learning. Staff or students will not be required to quarantine from school by taking routine COVID-19 rapid antigen tests [BinaxNOW] over the course of ten (10) days. Students and staff will test:



- Students and Staff remain at school as long as each test returns negative.
- If a positive test occurs, students or staff must isolate for 10 days.
- BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Test is administered by a trained proctor.
- Program participation is **OPTIONAL** for students, and parent/guardian permission needed.
- If feasible, provide an alternative location for meals for those participants.



# Impact of Mask Optional

## Health and Safety Plan

- **Close Contacts**

The K-12 exception will no longer apply

**Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.



WSSD  
Student & Staff  
Percentages



## Proposed Changes to the Health and Safety Plan

- 1. Replace County transmission rates with incident rates in each building
- 2. Align masking practices in K-12 now that the vaccine is available to 12 years of age and under
- 3. Close contacts will need to complete COVID testing

# Health and Safety Plan



# Health and Safety Plan

1. Replace County Transmission rates with Positivity rates in district schools

## *Current Health Plan*

If Delaware County, according to CDC data (or the Wallingford Swarthmore School District catchment area, if that data becomes available), rises above the threshold of 50 or more cases per 100,000 over a 7- day period, as reflected in weekly reporting by the PA Department of Health, WSSD will institute universal indoor masking within all District buildings. This mandate would be lifted if we fall below this threshold and sustain reduced rates for a two-week period.

## *Proposed Changes*

Effective February 7, 2022, the District will move to mask optional requirements based on building level Incidence rates remaining below 2% for a 14 day period. The District will monitor building level positivity rates to determine if or when mask optional will be lifted.

# Health and Safety Plan



# Health and Safety Plan

2. Align masking practices in K-12 now that the vaccine is available to 12 years of age and under

## *Current Health Plan*

During the 2021-2022 school year, the District will monitor community transmission and positivity rates in Delaware County to determine when universal masking will be lifted.

Once threshold levels decrease to moderate and remain stable for 2 weeks, students and staff in grades K-6 will still be required to be masked while indoors on campus

## *Proposed Changes*

The District has seen a historical incidence rate of a little over 2% since the beginning of this school year. Using this rate, the District will determine our masking guidelines. We will continue to review the guidelines and use the mitigation strategies.

If masking, masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps. Additional masking information can be found on the CDC website.

While on campus, individuals are not required to wear masks outdoors.

# Health and Safety Plan

3. Close contacts will need to complete COVID testing

## Health and Safety Plan

### *Current Health Plan*

**Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

### *Proposed Changes*

Any individual named a close contact will need to provide a negative PCR test 5-7 days after contact or participate in the Test to Stay program.



Health and  
Safety Plan

**Board Questions/Comments**

