

NOTICE OF RISKS, AGREEMENT, AND PERMISSION RELATED TO STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19

Given the current pandemic health emergency related to the highly contagious novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”), the Newtown Public Schools (the “District”) invites students to participate in person in certain school-sponsored activities under certain conditions and consistent with all applicable rules, regulations, federal and state orders and guidance, and guidance from public health officials (including, without limitation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) related to COVID-19. For any school-sponsored activity involving in-person student participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, participating students (“Student” or “Students”) and their parents or legal guardians (“Parents”) must review the information in this Notice of Risks, Agreement, and Permission Related to Student Participation in School-Sponsored Activities During COVID-19 (the “Notice”) and sign at the end of this Notice to indicate that they have been given ample opportunity to review this Notice and understand the contents herein.

This Notice relates to the Student’s participation in _____ which is expected to begin on or around _____ and continue until on or around _____. Additional information about the Activity is attached to this. **A signed version of this Notice must be returned by _____ and sent to:**

Name of Program: _____

Program Coordinator/Director: _____

Failure to do so may result in difficulties with the Student’s ability to participate in the activity.

I. Notice and of Risks Associated with In-Person Participation in the Activity

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person. Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and may include, among other symptoms, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, those at high-risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart conditions
 - People who are immunocompromised
 - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] ≥ 40)
 - People with diabetes
 - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - People with liver disease

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. The CDC also advises that individuals stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others; wear a cloth face covering in public settings that covers the nose and mouth; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. **Additional information regarding COVID-19 is available on the CDC's website at**
[**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html).

Although the District has implemented certain preventative measures consistent with applicable rules, regulations, federal and state orders and guidance, and guidance from public health officials (including, without limitation, the CDC) related to COVID-19, the District cannot ensure that students participating in person in the Activity and/or their families or others in the students' household will not become infected with COVID-19. Moreover, the District cannot protect against exposure to or infection by COVID-19 that occurs due to the actions, omissions, and/or negligence of students or others, including District staff members.

Students living in households with individuals who are 65 years of age and older and/or have higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (due to, for example, underlying medical conditions) are recommended to stay home and refrain from participating in the Activity.

II. Acknowledgements and Assumption of Risks Associated with In-Person Participation in the Activity

The Student and Parents acknowledge and agree that:

- *Participation in _____ is voluntary and is not an educational requirement of the District. _____ is offered as an accommodation to students who wish to participate and is not considered part of the District's curriculum. No grade, award, or academic advancement will be granted by the District as a result of a student's participation in _____.*
- *In-person participation in _____ is voluntary and is not an educational requirement of the District.*
- The CDC advises that the best way to prevent infection with COVID-19 is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. The CDC also advises that individuals stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others. As such, in-person participation in any activity, including the Activity, presents risks to the Student personally and to his/her family and others in the Student's household, some of which may result in serious illness or death, and that these risks can be a consequence of not only the Student's actions or negligence but also the actions or negligence of others.
- The Student and the Parents have been given ample opportunity to review this Notice and understand the contents herein. The Student and the Parents understand that it is their responsibility to read and review the CDC website (available at website [**https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html**](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)) concerning COVID-19 periodically for any updates and/or changes prior to the Activity.
- The Student and the Parents are responsible for evaluating the risks that the Student and/or his/her family or others in the Student's household may face and for taking any health precautions that they deem advisable or necessary and agree that the Student may participate safely in the Activity with or without reasonable accommodation. **If the Student requires a reasonable accommodation or if**

the Parents have concerns about the Student's participation in any aspects of _____, they agree to provide written notice to the District at least one week in advance of the start date, unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

- In voluntarily agreeing to the Student's in-person participation in _____, the Student and the Parents understand that they are assuming sole responsibility for any illness or injury, as described above, to the Student and/or his/her family or others in the Student's household, including serious illness, damage, loss, temporary or permanent disability, and death, that may occur as a result of the Student's participation in person in the Activity. The District is not responsible for any injury, illness, loss, or damage to the Student and/or his/her family or others in the Student's household, whether resulting from acts or omissions of third parties, or other persons not under the control of the District, from the operation or condition of facilities or premises, from acts of war or terrorism, or from acts of God or nature (including, but not limited to, COVID-19), except to the extent that the injury, loss, or damage is caused by the sole negligence or reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct of the District, its officers, trustees, faculty, employees, agents, or representatives.

III. Expectations for Students and Parents Regarding In-Person Participation in _____

The Student and the Parents understand and agree that:

- By participating in _____, the Student is subject to the policies, rules, and regulations of the District, and may be subject to District disciplinary action as provided in the District's Student Handbook and applicable student discipline policies for any violations of applicable policies, rules, and/or regulations.
- As a condition of participating in person in _____, the Student and the Parents must comply with the rules and requirements set forth below related to COVID-19.
- **Students will not be permitted to participate in _____, if any of the following applies:**
 - The Student or any individual in the Student's household has tested positive for COVID-19; is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19; or has experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days, including, but not limited to, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
 - The Student or any individual in the Student's household has recently had close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.
- **Students participating in the Activity (and parents/guardians, as applicable) must comply with the following, with or without reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities:**
 - Students are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - Students who tested positive for COVID-19 or experienced signs or symptoms of COVID-19 may only participate in/return to _____ with a documented negative COVID-19 test result or a note from a healthcare provider clearing such student to safely participate in/return to _____.

- Students, unless exempt, are required to use a face mask during _____ and/or while on District property. This requirement also applies to parents/guardians dropping off and/or picking up students. Face covering includes cloth face covering or masks. The District will provide face coverings to any student who does not have one.

The following individuals are exempt from this requirement per CDC guidelines:

- Anyone for whom use of a face mask would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition.
- A child whose parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child is unable to remove the face mask safely from the child's face.

Students with special healthcare needs who may require suctioning, nebulizer treatments, high-flow oxygenation, or conditions that aerosolize secretions or conditions that create uncontrolled respiratory secretions, must provide medical and treatment authorizations from their healthcare provider on how to provide their safe and effective care while participating in the Activity, including the personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be used by school staff.

- Students are required to adhere to cleaning and hygiene protocols recommended by the CDC and communicated by the District. Such protocols include, but are not limited to, regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow.
- Students are required to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from other individuals during the Activity and/or while on District property.
- Students are required to refrain from sharing materials with other individuals during the Activity and/or while on District property, including, but not limited to, books, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies.
- Visitors (including, but not limited to, parents/guardians) will not be permitted into school facilities unless required by law, or otherwise required by a student's individualized educational program or Section 504 plan.
- Students should not consume food during _____. Bottled water will be available for students.

By signing below, the Student and the Parent(s) each affirmatively states that he/she has been given ample opportunity to review this Notice and understands the contents herein, and that the Student is expressly permitted to participate in the Activity in light of the information, and under the conditions, set forth herein.

Student signature _____ Date

Parent/Legal Guardian signature _____ Date

Parent/Legal Guardian signature _____ Date