



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

Based on ARP requirements, 90 percent of ARP ESSER funds will be distributed to school districts and charter schools based on their relative share of Title I-A funding in FY 2020-2021. **Given Federally required timelines, LEAs eligible to apply for and receive this portion of the ARP ESSER funding must submit a Health and Safety Plan that meets ARP Act requirements to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) by Friday, July 30, 2021, regardless of when the LEA submits its ARP ESSER application.**

Each LEA must create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and which will serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. The Health and Safety Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each LEA and its schools and must take into account public comment related to the development of, and subsequent revisions to, the Health and Safety Plan.

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;
2. How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;

3. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
 - a. Universal and correct wearing of [masks](#);
 - b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
 - c. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
 - d. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
 - e. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with State and local health departments;
 - f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;
 - g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#);
 - h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
 - i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

The LEA's Health and Safety Plan must be approved by its governing body and posted on the LEA's publicly available website by July 30, 2021.* The ARP Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each LEA will upload in the eGrants system its updated Health and Safety Plan and webpage URL where the plan is located on the LEA's publicly available website.

The ARP Act requires LEAs to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

LEAs may use the template to revise their current Health and Safety Plans to meet ARP requirements and ensure all stakeholders are fully informed of the LEA's plan to safely resume instructional and non-instructional school activities, including in-person learning, for the current

school year. An LEA may use a different plan template or format provided it includes all the elements required by the ARP Act, as listed above.

* The July 30 deadline applies only to school districts and charter schools that received federal Title I-A funds in FY 2020-2021 and intend to apply for and receive ARP ESSER funding.

Additional Resources

LEAs are advised to review the following resources when developing their Health and Safety Plans:

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **The School at McGuire Memorial, Beaver County**

Initial Effective Date: 8/2/2021

Date of Last Review: This plan will be reviewed at least every six months

Date of Last Revision: 12/13/21. All updates made are in green.

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

It is the intention of The School at McGuire Memorial, Beaver County to safely operate full time in-person learning for the 21-22 school year. Administrators will monitor both the PDE and CDC websites for updates and recommendations regarding on-going threats from COVID and its variants.

*On Nov. 5, 2021, the CDC published a document entitled **Guidance for COVID 19 Prevention in K-12 Schools**. Key takeaways are:*

- *Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.*
- *Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.*
- *Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.*
- *In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully reopen while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing.*
- *Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.*
- *Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.*
- *This guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.*
- *Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening*

testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

It is the intention of The School at McGuire Memorial to adhere to these recommendations as much as possible.

The School will continue to monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, testing and outbreaks. Specifically, we will:

- Monitor community transmission levels by checking the PDE Early Warning Dashboard and the CDC Community Transmission Table weekly and documenting levels on the Instructional Model Survey that was put in place during the 2020-21 school year.*
- Maintain a voluntary database of employees and eligible students who are fully vaccinated*
- Provide information to families and staff regarding local testing facilities and*
- Monitor outbreaks in the 5 counties served by the school via the PDE COVID-19 Early Warning System Dashboard. In addition, documentation of confirmed school outbreaks will be posted on the website.*

The School will implement prevention strategies as outlined by the CDC on July 9, 2021 in the document titled "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools. Those strategies include:

- Promoting vaccination for eligible stakeholders*
- Consistent and correct mask use*
- Physical distancing*
- Screening testing to promptly identify cases, cluster and outbreaks*
- Ventilation*
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette*
- Staying home when sick and getting tested*
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine*
- Cleaning and disinfecting*

Additionally, parents and staff will be reminded to monitor symptoms and temperatures. Individuals with symptoms related to COVID or its variants or who have temperatures over 100.4 degrees are to remain at home. Students who come to school with a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be sent home and must be temperature free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication prior to returning to school.

Symptomatic students and staff are expected to be tested for COVID-19 and its variants. If testing is not completed, the individual must isolate and quarantine according to procedures established last year.

Restrictions implemented during the height of the COVID pandemic will be lifted based on:

- recommendations/guidelines from PDE and CDC*
- level of community transmission of COVID in the counties served by The School*
- COVID outbreaks in the counties served by The School*
- percentage of eligible students and staff who are fully vaccinated*
- cooperation of staff and families in implementing strategies to minimize disease transmission and prevention strategies*

Non-essential visitors will continue to be restricted. However, access to the school for families, school districts and essential visitors will be allowed if visitors agree to comply with school policies regarding masks, social distancing, etc. for non-vaccinated individuals.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

Continuity of Services for student academic needs: As a result of the COVID crisis, The School implemented a number of virtual learning platforms including Zoom, Boom Learning, SeeSaw, Teach Town, Quick Schools and VizZle. These platforms will be maintained for the 21-22 school year for use with any instructional model (in-person, hybrid, virtual). It is recognized that the instructional model may need to be fluid and shift to more or less restrictive settings depending on local COVID outbreaks.

Address students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health and other needs: According to CDC guidelines, school administrators will ensure that students and staff have access to resources to support physical and mental health. School administrators will monitor the social, emotional and mental health needs of students and staff via observation, discussion and surveys. Issues that can be addressed internally will be handled by administrators (i.e. providing monetary support for tangible items through the Student or Staff support fund; providing additional breaks for staff, etc.). Consultation with McGuire Senior Leaders for outside resources will occur for Issues that require professional intervention (i.e. mental health concerns).

Address student health and food services: Student health issues will be addressed by

the school nurse. Food service (National School Lunch breakfast and lunch) which was discontinued for the 2020-21 school will be reinstated as soon as possible. Appropriate accommodations including physical distancing in the cafeteria line, frequent cleaning of surfaces, handwashing and improved ventilation will be implemented in the cafeteria as recommended by CDC and/or PDE.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p><i>The mask policy for The School at McGuire Memorial will reflect the most current recommendations of CDC and/or PDE. It is expected that the mask policy will change throughout the year. Stakeholders will be notified of the policy before the first day of school and will be notified if/when the recommendations change.</i></p> <p><i>Update 12/13/21 – Although the state school mask mandate was reversed on 12/10/21 due to a lawsuit, the School will continue to require masks to protect the health and safety of the vulnerable students and staff.</i></p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p><i>According to current guidance, schools should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students. Classrooms will therefore be returned to pre-Covid arrangements with all students from a homeroom housed within that one room. Staff will maintain 3 feet of physical distance when closer distance is not required for the safety or assistance of students. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated. If there is a resurgence of COVID or a variant, CDC and PDE recommendations for increasing physical distancing will be implemented.</i></p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p><i>Appropriate and frequent handwashing will continue to be reinforced regardless of COVID status. Lessons on respiratory</i></p>

	<p><i>etiquette will continue to be implemented regardless of COVID status. Training for universal precautions will be provided to all staff and an emphasis on universal precautions will continue regardless of COVID status. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available.</i></p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p><i>Staff will continue to clean materials and surfaces throughout the day as needed. Thorough daily cleaning and disinfecting of the facility will occur after school by a contracted service provider. Portable air purifiers were purchased through grant funding for use in improving classroom air quality. Teachers will be encouraged to improve ventilation by leaving classroom windows open as weather permits.</i></p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p><i>If COVID cases are confirmed, existing policies for isolation and quarantine will be implemented. The local department of health will be notified of confirmed cases and will be responsible for contact tracing. Individuals who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after exposure to COVID.</i></p> <p><i>Update 12/13/21 – Vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID will be required to get tested. They will also be required to wear an N-95 mask but they do not need to quarantine if fully vaccinated.</i></p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p><i>Information will be provided to staff and families regarding local facilities capable of conducting diagnostic and screening testing.</i></p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p><i>Information regarding vaccination clinics and/or providers for vaccinations will be shared with staff and students. Information regarding the role of vaccinations in the COVID pandemic will be shared with staff and families by the school nurse.</i></p>

<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p><i>The School at McGuire Memorial – Beaver County is a special education facility. Accommodations for our students have been considered and incorporated into all COVID policies and procedures.</i></p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p><i>The school nurse will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials for COVID and all transmittable/infectious diseases.</i></p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **(INSERT NAME OF LEA)** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.

THE SCHOOL AT MCGUIRE MEMORIAL MEMORIAL
Health and Safety Plan Review

Review Date: 12/13/21

Reviewed By: Kim Lieb, Director

Isaiah Foust, Positive Behavior Supports Intervention Coordinator

Ana Gonzalez, Education Program Coordinator

Terri Herge, School Nurse

Damon Krynicki, Chief Operating Officer