



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 Through 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: **2/22/22**

Date of Last Revision: **2/22/22**

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?

Update 2/22/22:

Using the CDC guidelines from Jan. 9, 2022, The School will base closures, quarantine and precautions according to the information in that document. Currently, 88% of staff are fully vaccinated.

Documentation of confirmed school outbreaks will be posted on the school page of the McGuire website.

The strategies outlined in the CDC document entitled “How to Protect Yourself and Others” (1/20/22) will be implemented to limit possible outbreak unless alternate strategies are suggested specifically for schools. Strategies include:

- **Get Vaccinated and stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines**
- **Wear a mask**
- **Stay 6 feet away from others**
- **Avoid poorly ventilated spaces and crowds**
- **Test to prevent spread to others**
- **Wash your hands often**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes**
- **Clean and disinfect**
- **Monitor your health daily**

Key Takeaways for CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (1/13/22):

- **Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction continues to be 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.**
- **CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all* students (ages 2 years and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.**

- *New CDC guidance has reduced the recommended time for isolation and quarantine periods to five days. For details see CDC's page on [Quarantine and Isolation](#).*
- *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 re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple 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 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).*

Strategies related to temperatures over 100.4 degrees will continue to be implemented:

- *children are to remain at home if they have a temperature over 100.4*
- *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 return to school*

The following restrictions will be lifted:

- *observations will be permitted within the following parameters:*
 - *prior arrangements must be made for observations*
 - *only one set of visitors in an observation room at a time*
 - *observation room must be cleaned/disinfected between observations*
 - *visitors must wear masks while in the building*
- *Community based instruction to outdoor venues will be considered on a class by class basis*
- *The Daily Living Skills kitchen will be reopened for use by classrooms*
- *Whole group activities within a classroom will resume (i.e. multiple students seated around a table)*
- *While we will continue to position desks 3 feet apart in classrooms, we will remove dividers that have maintained physical space.*
- *Large group activities will be phased in as follows:*
 - *Pod activities involving all classrooms in the pod*

- **2 pods**
- **whole school**

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?

No Changes

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p><i>Update 2/22/22 - the mask mandate for staff and visitors will remain. As has been policy since the beginning of the pandemic, students that can wear masks will do so; students who cannot wear masks will continue with mask</i></p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<i>tolerance training program</i>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p><i>Update 2/22/22 - CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. However, we will remove dividers that have maintained physical space. Desks will continue to be positioned 3 feet apart.</i></p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p><i>2/22/22 - Handwashing recommendations/practices will continue as outlined in this section. Appropriate and frequent handwashing will continue to be reinforced regardless of COVID status. Lessons on respiratory 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>2/22/22 - Cleaning recommendations/practices will continue as outlined in this section. 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 will be 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>Update 2/22/22 - Protocol established in 12/13 update remains appropriate. 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>Update 2/22/22 - with the availability and acceptance of home testing kits, there is little need for referrals to outside testing facilities. Staff will</i></p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<i>provide information if needed.</i>
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<i>Update 2/22/22 - 87% of staff are now vaccinated. Information on the role of vaccinations will continue to be available.</i>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<i>2/22/22 - no changes 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>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<i>Update 2/22/22 - until directed otherwise by PDE/DOH, the school nurse will continue to complete weekly COVID updates for DOH.</i>

THE SCHOOL AT MCGUIRE MEMORIAL

Health and Safety Plan Review

Review Date: 2/22/22

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