



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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: Ephrata Area School District

Initial Effective Date: **November 15, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **November 15, 2021**

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?

The Ephrata Area School District will review updates from the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) monthly regarding guidance on how to maintain a healthy and safe school environment for in-person learning. Updates to plan guidance will be made in accordance with the current requirements and presented to the Board of Directors for approval. If changes are necessary, we will update our plan as needed. At a minimum, our plan will be reviewed at least every six (6) months. The Ephrata Area School District will adhere to any existing, undisputed, valid, and clearly binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health.

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?

The Ephrata Area School District will continue to offer all academic, social emotional, mental health, physical health, and food services to all students for the entire school year. Additionally, food services are available throughout the summer. These comprehensive services are offered to all students (K-12), regardless of the chosen instructional mode.

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
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<p>In the absence of an existing, undisputed, valid, and clearly binding order, mask usage will not be required but left up to the individual in accordance with the COVID-19 Dashboard and the building-level case thresholds. Thresholds include a five (5) percent level of cases within the 14-Day Rolling Count for a building to temporarily move to online instruction for up to fourteen (14) days and a three (3) percent level for a building to have a temporary mask requirement for a 2-3 week period or until cases drop below the three (3) percent count.</p> <p>It is acceptable for someone who wishes to wear a facial covering, as defined by the PA DOH, regardless of vaccination</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>Universal and correct wearing of masks (continued)</p>	<p>status, to do so in our schools and at activities. Special attention will be placed on supporting all individuals in exercising their own personal decision when it comes to mask usage, provided there is not an existing, undisputed, valid, and clearly binding order to the contrary.</p> <p>We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our student/district needs.</p>
<p>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</p>	<p>The District goal is to resume pre-COVID measures in our schools and during school activities (classrooms, cafeterias, buses, athletic events, musical performances, etc.) to the greatest extent practicable and in consideration of recommendations from the CDC.</p> <p>The Ephrata Area School District will adhere to any existing, undisputed, valid, and clearly binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health regarding physical distancing. In nearly all classroom situations, the recommended 3-feet of social distance is regularly achieved, as was the case prior to the pandemic. Additionally,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with parents and outside partners will be offered digitally to the greatest extent practicable. • Large ensembles will be scheduled in auditoriums, cafeterias, gyms, or other large spaces when existing rooms are insufficient to the greatest extent practicable. • Outdoor space will be utilized, following school district policy for security when applicable. • Physical Education courses will be conducted using the following guidance when possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilize outdoor spaces (weather permitting) to the greatest extent practicable ▪ Utilize multiple class spaces (gym, weight room, health room) to the greatest extent practicable <p>We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our student/district needs.</p>
<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer will be available and be used as part of the normal routines within in all buildings. • Students will wash hands before meals, as well as, before and after recess each day.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily on school days. • As needed, classrooms, hallways, offices, and common areas will be disinfected with applicable disinfectant and/or electrostatic foggers. • All HVAC systems will be set to maximize airflow and ventilation. • The transportation companies will utilize EPA-approved surface disinfectants effective for the use against COVID-19.
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments</p>	<p>The Ephrata Area School District will adhere to any existing, undisputed, valid, and clearly binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health regarding contact tracing, isolation, and quarantining.</p> <p>We will review any guidance from the CDC to determine if we can implement additional prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our student/district needs. In nearly all classroom situations, the recommended 3-feet of social distance is regularly achieved, as was the case prior to the pandemic.</p>
<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<p>The Ephrata Area School District will continue to work with students, parents, staff, visitors and our community to support a healthy and safe school environment. Specific actions regarding Diagnostic and screening include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student screening for symptoms will be completed by all parents/guardians at home before the start of each school day. • All District staff will perform a symptom screening on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill. • Staff, parents/guardians, and volunteers will be encouraged to self-report COVID-19 symptoms or exposure to the school nurse or designee. • Any individual on school property who develops COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for COVID-19, or may be a probable COVID-19 will be directed to an isolation room/area until dismissal is possible. • The school district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
Diagnostic and screening testing (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any individual exhibits symptoms while in a school building, a screening will be completed by the school nurse or designee. • All staff have been trained to look for the appropriate signs to monitor for symptoms.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	The District will continually share local and regional options for vaccinations for families and students from our partners with the county and the Intermediate Unit.
Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Individualized health and safety plans will be developed in collaboration with families, as needed, for any students requiring additional accommodations regarding health and safety measures.
Coordination with state and local health officials.	Ongoing communication will be maintained with local health experts and state contacts with the DOH.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for the Ephrata Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on November 15, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 8 **Yes**

 0 **No**

Affirmed on:

By: 

 (Signature of Board President)

Rick Gehman

 (Print Name)