



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: **Wilson School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 17, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 16, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **August 16, 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 strategies outlined in this document have been implemented over the course of the past school year and proven to be both practical and effective in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. As the district demonstrated by opening the doors to in-person learning on the first day of school, these practices contribute to the safe and effective operation of our programs.

The district team will continue to monitor current levels of transmission in the local community and across the state, and will reconvene to review and recommend adjustment to the plan in response to significant increases in cases, outbreaks, or additional local concerns. We will seek guidance from local medical professionals for input and feedback on any updates or changes. The Superintendent and cabinet will recommend and implement program and operational changes as needed.

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 return to full in-person learning will provide our staff with the access and connection to students who may not have been able to access the full complement of supports and services while receiving remote or hybrid instruction in the 2020-21 school year. The district will continue to utilize new technology and expanded funding from ESSER and from the USDA to ensure that all students have access to the programs and services that they need.

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	
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;	Berks County in Low/Moderate Transmission <i>(0-49 total new cases per 100,000 people/past 7 days)</i>	Berks County in Substantial/High Transmission <i>(50-100+ total new cases per 100,000 people/past 7 days)</i>

	<p>All staff and students will be expected to follow current CDC and PA DOH mandates for universal masking – specific to vaccination status.</p> <p>As of June 28th, 2021 the Universal Mask Mandate from the governor's office was lifted for all Pennsylvanians, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>In accordance with CDC guidelines, the district <i>recommends</i> face coverings for unvaccinated staff when physical distancing is not feasible.</p> <p>In accordance with CDC guidelines the district <i>recommends</i> face coverings for unvaccinated students when physical distancing is not feasible.</p> <p>Follow the current Governor's order regarding masking for individuals based on vaccination status.</p> <p>*After consideration of current CDC guidelines, masks will be <i>recommended but optional</i> on all district school buses.</p>	<p>All staff and students will be expected to follow current CDC and PA DOH mandates for universal masking – specific to vaccination status.</p> <p>As of June 28th, 2021 the Universal Mask Mandate from the governor's office was lifted for all Pennsylvanians, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Universal indoor masking required in all district buildings regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Universal masking required on all district buses and conveyances regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Outlined in PA HAN 583 of July 30, 2021</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Strategies will be implemented to maintain safe physical distancing in classrooms and on school provided transportation, including modified seating arrangements and reduced class sizes when feasible.</p> <p>Students will return to school maintaining our heightened safety procedures to provide protection against the spread of COVID-19. Some of these considerations could include schedule modifications, the availability of PPE, and limited transitions when possible.</p> <p>Reduce class sizes to allow for social distancing when possible.</p> <p>Provide plexiglass barriers in any areas that host interactions between staff and the public.</p> <p>Maintain adjusted start times to allow for staggered arrival and dismissal.</p>	

	<p>Implementation of a staggered opening, alternating groups of students in attendance for grades K-5 for the first week of the school session.</p> <p>Arrival through designated doors and staggered dismissal.</p> <p>Students eat in cafeterias with reduced lunch sizes when possible; provide additional large group spaces.</p> <p>Consider opening the HS campus to allow flexible service times and locations for food service, or to allow students to go off campus for lunch in order to reduce gathering sizes in large group spaces.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to maintain healthy hand washing habits and respiratory etiquette throughout the school day.</p> <p>Encourage hand washing and classroom wipe down at times throughout the day</p> <p>Hand sanitizer dispensers in rooms without sinks.</p> <p>Teach students how to disinfect their personal spaces properly.</p> <p>Teach/remind students of coughing/sneezing etiquette</p> <p>Signs for healthy measures posted in restrooms, and all classrooms as well as key locations across the building.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Increased frequency of cleaning routines and sanitization procedures will be maintained across all buildings. Custodial staff will clean high touch surfaces throughout the day. District vehicles and kitchen areas will also undergo increased cleaning and sanitization routines.</p> <p>Frequently (multiple times throughout the day) clean and disinfect regularly touched surfaces and objects within the school including door handles, sink handles, railings, and supplies.</p> <p>Daily, whenever students are switching classes, desks will be sanitized by students and staff using provided wipes prior to use.</p> <p>Provide filter changes to exceed normal operating guidelines to ensure that all ventilation systems are operating at maximum capacity.</p> <p>Daily cleaning and sanitization of prep, serving areas, and cafeterias.</p> <p>Vehicles sanitized nightly and between bus runs.</p> <p>Encourage ventilation with fresh air by opening windows when feasible.</p>

	<p>Consider utilizing outdoor spaces for instruction when feasible.</p> <p>Additional protocols specific to child care and athletics/extracurriculars included in those respective approved plans or addendums to this plan.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Students and staff will undergo symptom self-screening prior to entering the instructional spaces in the buildings each day. Students who are symptomatic will be isolated and evaluated, and then returned home with a requirement to follow DOH and CDC guidelines prior to returning to school.</p> <p>Revised/Updated guidance about home monitoring/when to stay home; provide contact information for ongoing reporting of potential exposure</p> <p>Temperature screening prior to entering the building by staff for both students and staff.</p> <p>If secondary symptoms are exhibited; student is sent to a school nurse for monitoring/temp check.</p> <p>Revise/Update Health History form to include information about potential exposure.</p> <p>Follow required reporting process for all communicable diseases when a positive case is identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nursing Staff contacts DOH for guidance - Information from DOH provided to family and notification provided to those potentially exposed - The district will follow DOH guidance following the reporting of a COVID-19 case, similar to the process employed for any communicable disease. <p>Current guidance on quarantine when a positive case of COVID-19 is reported in the school setting and potential close contacts are:</p> <p>Asymptomatic, Fully Vaccinated: If a known exposure to a positive case occurs, a fully vaccinated individual should be tested 2-5 days after the known contact, and wear a mask in public for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. No quarantine necessary.</p> <p>Asymptomatic, Unvaccinated: If a known exposure to a positive case occurs, an unvaccinated individual should quarantine for 10-14 days and monitor for symptoms. Individuals may end the quarantine period after Day 7 with a negative COVID test result (same process as 2020-21).</p> <p>*EXCEPTION: In the K-12 school setting, individuals are NOT CONSIDERED close contacts to a positive case if both parties were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks.</p>

	<p>Symptomatic, Regardless of Vaccination Status: Any individuals experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate and consult their medical provider for evaluation and testing.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The district will continue to communicate with DOH regarding statewide efforts to provide diagnostic screening and COVID-19 testing within the school setting.</p> <p>Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms will be referred to their primary care physician or to local providers for rapid testing.</p> <p>Return to school protocols for students who have tested positive, demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms, or who are awaiting test results will continue to be followed.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The district will maintain close communication with community partners who can provide updated information on vaccine distribution efforts in the county.</p> <p>The district will provide notifications to the school community regarding vaccination clinics and updated requirements.</p> <p>The district will partner with local providers to support vaccination efforts for both students and community members as requested.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>All staff and students will be expected to follow current CDC and PA DOH guidelines for masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene practices.</p> <p>Universal protocols will be implemented to ensure safety. Offer alternative options as needed, and relaxed requirements for students who cannot fully follow guidelines.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The district will continue to maintain close communication and coordination with officials at the BCIU and state Department of Health for any changes or updates to requirements and recommendations.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Wilson School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 16, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 16, 2021**

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.