



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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 Pa DOH 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 DOH:

- 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 DOH 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:

- [DOH 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: (Northwest Area School District)

**Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: January 3, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: January 3, 2022**

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 DOH for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

**The district will continue to follow the guidance of DOH and PDE to the greatest extent possible throughout the 2021-22 school year. Mitigation strategies will be entered below.**

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 district has in place an educational plan to return to school five days a week in the fall of 2021. The district will continue to offer a Virtual form of education in the Northwest Virtual Academy. In the event that the pandemic would change the manner in which we were able to educate our students traditionally the following plan would be in affect:**

**Hybrid Model to limit the number of student in a building.**

**Synchronous Live Instruction if the buildings had to close completely.**

**Curriculum delivered online via Zoom**

**Special Services delivered online (Speech, OT, PT)**

**Guidance Counselor/Social Work/Psychologist available through technology**

**Asynchronous Instruction via our Virtual Academy**

**Flash Drives/Recorded Lesson/Paper and Pencil offerings**

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 DOH.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	In order not to jeopardize five day a week in-person learning, the district Recommends and encourages universal masking for all teachers, staff, students,

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Northwest Area Board of Education and school district has approved to allow parents to choose the option for masking or no masking, but reserved the right to change this based on circumstances that may arise.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <p>In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. In this case a student would not be asked to quarantine.</p> <p>The district will continue to follow the Pa DOH recommendations</p> <p>Mandated on school buses, regardless of vaccination status, per federal order. Order has been extended to March, 2022.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The district will create physical distancing of three to six feet where feasible throughout all of the educational settings.</p> <p>The district will have elementary students sit in similar arrangement when they change classrooms.</p> <p>If the conditions would change the district would consider hybrid models of schooling to limit numbers</p>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p>The district installed hand sanitizer units throughout all hallways and classrooms within the district and they will still be in use.</p> <p>The district is installing no touch sinks and dryers throughout all school to increase safety.</p> <p>The district will continue to educate students on the importance of handwashing and how to correctly wash your hands.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>Maintenance will continue to deep clean buildings and common areas everyday with approved cleaning solutions that kill viruses.</p> <p>The district invested in ionization units for all heating units, as well as, stand-alone units in larger areas.</p> <p>The district is replacing older heating/ventilation units with new units to increase fresh air flow.</p> <p>The district updated their environmental control unit to better monitor all situations with air flow and quality.</p>
<p>e. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>In alignment with requirements in Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27 (relating to communicable and non-communicable diseases), schools <b><u>must</u></b>:</p> <p>Report positive cases of COVID-19 to DOH for case investigation, contact tracing, and issuance of quarantine and/or isolation orders; and Exclude school children and staff from having contact with other school children or staff showing symptoms of a communicable disease.</p> <p>School officials have the authority to restrict people who are at risk of spreading COVID-19 from entering the school building. Schools do not need, and should not require, a quarantine order to take this action to protect the health and safety of students and staff.</p> <p>How long does a person with COVID-19 need to isolate? <b>If you Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)</b></p> <p><b><u>THE ISOLATION PERIOD IS STILL TEN (10) DAYS</u></b></p> <p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home for 5 days.- From onset of symptoms or date of positive result (day zero)</li> <li>• If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.</li> <li>• Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days until day 10.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p> <p><b>If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)</b></p> <p><b><u>QUARANTINE PERIOD IS STILL TEN (10) DAYS</u></b> (Day zero is the date of last exposure)</p> <p><b>IF a student was identified on a close contact of a positive case and the student is not exhibiting any symptoms:</b></p> <p><b>Contact the Parent.</b></p> <p><b>Recommend/Require a mask for ten days from the point of contact of a positive case.</b></p> <p><b>Contact date is day zero.</b></p> <p><b>If student begins to experience symptoms in the ten day cycle:</b></p> <p><b>Contact Parent</b></p> <p><b>Recommend follow up with PCP</b></p> <p><b>Require the student to be tested and results shared with the school.</b></p> <p><b>If positive, follow the positive student isolation guidelines.</b></p> <p>The most recent exposure date should be counted as day zero.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The district will continue to screen students for multiple symptoms of COVID19 recognized by the DOH.</p> <p>The district will continue to educate our community on the symptoms and to be safe and keep their children home if they are exhibiting any of the symptoms.</p> <p>The district will investigate the new Test to Stay Program if it is accessible and beneficial to our district.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>The district has completed one clinic and will remain open to further clinic availability if needed.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>In addition to all of the mitigation strategies that are in place:</p> <p>The district will continue to meet the needs of our IEP students by offering all services in person or through technology to meet all of their educational, social, physical, or mental needs.</p> <p>If in person instruction is not available: Zoom therapy in Speech, PT and OT. Connections to our classroom teacher and aide via zoom.</p> <p>Packet presentation</p> <p>Video lessons from teachers uploaded to flash drives.</p> <p>Continue to arrange for in person remediation and services when student body is not in the building. (Asynchronous Days)</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>If a school is experiencing an outbreak or a rise in cases, the school can contact DOH or their local CMHD if additional guidance on outbreak response is needed. To preserve safe in-person learning to the greatest extent possible,</p>

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	<p>The schools will follow this strategy:</p> <p><b><u>School Closure</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If schools are experiencing an outbreak or a rise in cases that reaches the level of 5% of total population of the school, the district can require universal masking for a period of time to mitigate the risk of spread and maintain in-person instruction.</li> <li>• If schools are experiencing an outbreak or a rise in cases that reaches the level of 10% of total school population, the district will look at the possibility of remote learning.</li> </ul> <p>The decision to close for any length of time remains a local decision. Schools may use other criteria to determine if a suspension of in-person learning is necessary for their local school community.</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:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.