



# 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 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: **Peters Township School District**

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

Date of Last Review: **December 11, 2023**

Date of Last Revision: **February 16, 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 CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

**Peters Township School District staff will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC, review the District Health and Safety Plan at least every six months, and update the District Health and Safety Plan as needed. The Health and Safety Plan will be presented to the Board for approval when changes are necessary. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the use of PPE when required, the District will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff. The District will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to reduce close contacts to the extent practicable.**

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 Peters Township School District will continue to implement academic and support programing as outlined in the District Comprehensive Plan. Modifications, as outlined in the Health and Safety Plan, will be made to ensure that programing and support efforts address the needs of District students, staff, and families. Educational models will be adapted to the needs of students as appropriate, including remote learning if needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers, and other specialists as needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate, including the availability of free meals if needed.**

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective February 22, 2022, masks are strongly recommended in all District facilities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum capacities will be determined for all educational spaces.</li> <li>Unused desks and furniture in classrooms will be removed to maximize physical distancing to the extent practicable.</li> <li>Students and staff will be encouraged to maximize physical distancing to the extent practicable.</li> <li>Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums and outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing.</li> <li>Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff.</li> <li>Modifications to facilities to allow for physical distancing will be made as appropriate in response to levels of community transmission.</li> <li>Use of dividers and barriers as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings when required.</li> <li>Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol, cleaning wipes/disinfectant spray, tissues, and paper towels in all classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.</li> <li>Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>Teach and encourage good respiratory etiquette.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily cleaning of schools/facilities with soap/water/EPA approved disinfectants <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19</a></li> <li>Throughout the day cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects.</li> <li>Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch or routinely used.</li> <li>Ensure ventilation systems operate properly with increased rates of air</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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;</li> </ul>	<p>exchange. Increase circulation of outdoor air as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators/Supervisors will conduct regular inspections to ensure appropriate COVID-19 protocols are being followed.</li> <li>• District staff will follow Department of Health Guidance related to the isolation/quarantining of students/staff in the event a student or staff member becomes sick in the school setting.</li> <li>• Isolation rooms have been identified and equipped in all schools.</li> <li>• School nurses will use Standard Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick individuals.</li> <li>• Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.</li> <li>• Contact the local health authority for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.</li> <li>• The Pandemic Coordinator or designee will complete and submit the Self Report and Line List forms provided by PDE and PADOH Joint Task Force for contact tracing as required.</li> <li>• Send out notifications to building staff and students with the appropriate information as needed.</li> <li>• Work closely with the DOH/community health center nurses to follow-up and complete contract tracing.</li> <li>• Follow DOH guidance related to isolation/quarantine to ensure that staff and students meet all requirements before returning to the school setting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate families and staff regarding COVID-19 symptoms and the importance of symptom screening prior to arriving at school each day.</li> <li>• Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home.</li> <li>• Thermographic temperature screening may be used as appropriate in response to higher levels of community transmission.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with community health centers and hospitals to either provide on-site vaccine clinics or provide information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at community sites.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws will be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures. Accommodations will be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with state and local health officials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District will continue to work collaboratively with the Joint Task Force, PADOH, community health agencies and County Emergency Management Agencies to coordinate resources in support of the District Health and Safety Plan.</li> </ul>