



# 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: Nittany Christian School

Initial Effective Date: July 23, 2021

Date of Last Review: January 11, 2022

Date of Last Revision: January 14, 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?

**Based on community transmission and presence of positive COVID cases in the school building, the school administration will monitor guidelines and adopt additional mitigation efforts.**

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 main priority of the School Board and Administration is to continue with in-person learning and adopt additional mitigation efforts to support the overall goal while still keeping in view the overall well-being of the school community. We will continue to monitor students' growth, including in the area of academics, and provide appropriate support services when deemed necessary. Based on collected data from the school community, in comparison with community transmission rates, the School Board and Administration will adapt the mitigation strategies to target the areas of greatest 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 <a href="#">masks</a> ;   | Regular reminders about correct mask wearing during times of required masking.   |
| b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);          | Limit cross-grade interaction through use of grade-grouping teams for recess, lunch, etc.  |
| c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;  | Strategically placed hand-sanitizer stations.  |
| d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a> ; | Maintain frequent disinfection at the building level, provide increased ventilation of outside air, and regular changing of air filters. |

| ARP ESSER Requirement   | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures   |
|---|--|
| 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; | Follow guidelines as much as is possible for isolation in conjunction with regular reminders of staying home when sick, as well as regular reminders for families to monitor students using the list of COVID-19 symptoms, and report positive cases to school administration. |
| f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;  | Request that symptomatic students seek medical advice on whether testing is warranted prior to return to school.   |
| g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;  | Allow students to miss class(es) to receive COVID vaccinations.  |
| h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and  | Allow for students to wear an alternative face covering that still meets the requirements and/or accept a doctor's note as an acceptable exemption from wearing of a face covering during times of required masking.   |
| i. Coordination with state and local health officials.  | Communication with state and local health officials to determine best practice; monitor and follow guidelines as much as possible for case reporting to the state.   |