



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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Hatboro-Horsham School District**

Initial Effective Date: January 23, 2024

Date of Last Review: July 25, 2023

Date of Last Revision: July 25, 2023

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?

Consistent with CDC guidance, we will prioritize in-person learning during the 2022-23 school year.

We will adhere to the CDC suggested actions:

- Regularly encouraging individuals in our community eligible for vaccines and boosters to receive them,
- Routine symptom monitoring and exclusion of ill individuals, and consideration of contact tracing for high-risk activities when incidence rates in the community are sufficiently high and when staff resources permit,
- Consideration of physical distancing strategies where feasible when incidence rates in the community are high,
- Recommending or mandating use of masks when conditions require it for mitigation or when directed by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health as a condition of continued operation during an identified outbreak, except where health considerations preclude use, and
- Rigorous cleaning, sanitation, and ventilation protocols at the building level and rigorous standards for individual hygiene.

We routinely revise and update these general practices according to CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines and modify them at the recommendations of the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. They are routinely reviewed as levels of virus transmission within Montgomery County fluctuate.

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?

We will operate onsite 5-days per week, barring direction from the Montgomery County Office

of Public Health (MCOPH) or other authorized entity to make an emergency closure. A virtual program is available for families who choose not to return to onsite instruction for the duration of the 2022-23 school year. Our full complement of counseling, health, and support services will be available onsite, and students in virtual programs will have access to these services as well.

Operationally, we are emphasizing to all parts of our community that all individuals should be prepared for changes in practices to be imposed at any time. Because mitigation guidelines are tied to covid-19 incidence, positivity, and vaccination rates within the county and community, we may change guidelines for students and staff on short notice. Many models anticipate seasonal surges in covid-19 infections, and this makes it possible that we will resume more restrictive practices for periods of time during the school year.

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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>HHSD will consider recommendations for masking made by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH), Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Policy Lab, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) when determining requirements for and duration of universal masking, consistent with need based on local transmission rates.</p> <p>When masks are optional, any individual regardless of vaccination status may choose to wear a mask. When masks are recommended or strongly recommended, we ask that individuals give strong consideration to wearing a mask to help slow the spread of Covid-19 in our community during a period of high transmission.</p> <p>Staff will ensure an environment free from bullying and harassment of individuals regardless of one’s masking choice.</p>

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	<p>When an outbreak is identified in a school setting by the MCOPH, we will strictly adhere to the direction of MCOPH for short-term mitigation strategies that will likely include required masking and may result in differentiated direction based on vaccination status. During identified outbreaks, individuals unable to mask due to one of the exceptions described below may be excluded from school for the time described in the isolation and exclusion guidelines.</p> <p>All individuals should be prepared for more restrictive masking practices to be imposed at any time. Because masking guidelines are tied to COVID-19 public health metrics within the county and community, we may resume masking requirements for students and staff on short notice if directed to do so by a public health entity such as the CDC or MCOPH. Many models anticipate seasonal and variant-specific surges in COVID-19 infections, and this makes it possible that we will resume masking for periods of time during the school year.</p> <p>Masking guidelines in place for buildings shall apply to buses and vans unless specific public health orders require otherwise. If the vehicle is otherwise empty, drivers do not need to remain masked.</p> <p>Should the CDC or MCOPH advise for less restrictive practices than we have currently implemented during this plan timeframe, we will consider implementation of the new guidance.</p>

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	<p>Exemptions to mask guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children under the age of 2 years • A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). • A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>During periods of high transmission necessitating universal masking, we will consider physical distancing guidelines aligned to current recommendations made by the CDC, PA Dept. of Health, and MCOPH to the extent feasible, prioritizing the continuity of our onsite programs.</p> <p>We will physically distance individuals in schools during high-risk activities to the extent feasible when necessitated by transmission rates within the community, prioritizing the continuity of our onsite program and allowing for students to participate fully with their classroom cohort in their designated classroom space.</p> <p>Plexiglass barriers can be used for teachers to facilitate small group instruction when elected by staff. Buildings will consider other physical distancing strategies specific to their sites as appropriate.</p> <p>Restrictions will not be placed on event size or community event attendance</p>

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	<p>unless specific orders are issued by MCOPH or other entities with the authority to do so. However, during periods when universal mask mandates are in place, the district administration shall have the authority to implement restrictions at their discretion and consistent with public health guidance. Consideration to hold remote meetings when feasible shall also be given during periods when universal masking is necessary.</p> <p>Food Service Considerations during periods of universal masking (from CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate distancing. • Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. • Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. • Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves. • Buildings will employ additional practices such as cohort lunches when feasible, prioritizing the routines necessary to efficiently serve students

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	<p>and maintaining the continuity of our programs.</p> <p>All individuals should be prepared for more restrictive physical distancing guidelines to be imposed at any time. Because these guidelines are tied to COVID-19 incidence, positivity, and vaccination rates within the county and community, we may resume more restrictive physical distancing mandates for students and staff on short notice.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Student hand-washing breaks will include before and after eating, before and after recess or breaks, after using the restroom, and as needed.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be available in all areas where there is no sink access. Hand sanitizer will be available in common areas, hallways, and classrooms.</p> <p>Staff members are expected to follow the same guidelines.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning and disinfecting procedures for bus drivers and custodians focus on high-touch areas including: all door handles; lavatory sinks, lavatory door handles, and toilets; drinking fountain mechanisms where in use; countertops, tabletops, and desktops; door push/pull points; handrails; public touchscreens.</p> <p>High touch surfaces will be disinfected daily.</p> <p>Student and staff toilet rooms will be cleaned and disinfected each evening following days when programs are onsite.</p>

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	<p>Sanitizer available for students and drivers on vans and buses.</p> <p>American Society of Heating, refrigeration, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommendations for additional outside air will be implemented as feasible.</p> <p>CDC ventilation standard for HVAC systems have been installed on all large air handlers and RTUs in the district.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Staff and students are expected to comply with Montgomery County Office of Public Health recommendations for self-quarantine after exposure.</p> <p>School nurses will track absence line symptom information and report it to district lead nurse, who will apprise leadership team of any notable trends. Instances of history to exposure will utilize protocols from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health Covid-19 School Exclusion Requirements</p> <p>HHSD will comply with requests for assistance with contact tracing from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health within the boundaries of FERPA guidelines during periods of universal masking for students and staff engaged in high-risk activities when staff resources allow for it.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>HHSD has the capacity to utilize multiple diagnostic and screening measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary assurance testing for asymptomatic staff. • Antigen testing for symptomatic staff and students while onsite.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmatory testing for symptomatic and asymptomatic staff who test positive with a rapid antigen test during assurance or surveillance testing. • Testing for students and staff who have been identified as close contacts, for the purpose of reducing the time required for quarantine (mask-to-stay and test-to-stay programs). • District administration may require at their discretion team-specific athletic assurance testing for asymptomatic athletes when MCOPH has identified the team as an outbreak setting or if team testing is a condition of participation in a competition or tournament. <p>We will deploy these measures to varying degrees based on need, incidence rates within the community, and recommendations by the CDC and MCOPH.</p>
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	HHSD will continue to promote vaccines as the most effective COVID-19 prevention method and encourage families to vaccinate their children eligible to receive vaccines and boosters.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p>Students with individualized education plans (IEP) or 504 plans will have their needs reviewed by their case manager or at parental request. IEP team will determine services and accommodations with consideration of health and safety plan.</p> <p>In instances where physical distancing or other safety guidelines cannot be fully implemented due to the nature of student</p>

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	<p>needs, the IEP team will determine the extent to which health and safety guidelines can be met following state and federal law and make individual recommendations for adaptation to staff providing services to the student.</p> <p>Teams will consult CDC guidelines for: people at risk of increased illness, other at-risk populations, and people who need to take extra precautions when determining individual adaptations to this health and safety plan.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>HHSD will consider current guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the MCOPH when determining COVID-19 mitigation strategies. This plan will be periodically reviewed to ensure consistency with current public health guidance.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

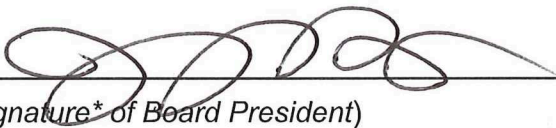
The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Hatboro-Horsham School district** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **January 22, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: **January 22, 2024**

By:


(Signature* of Board President)

Jennifer Wilson

(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.

