



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: North Penn School District

Initial Effective Date: July 15, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 14, 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 North Penn School District (the District) will stay abreast of the recommendations and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH) and will utilize this information to revise this Health and Safety Plan (HSP) throughout the year. The District will also continue to utilize the guidance provided by health officials, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), District One, and the Suburban One League (SOL) in efforts to provide a safe environment for athletics and other extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

In accordance with School Code 520.1, an Emergency Instructional Time Template will be submitted to PDE. This document will allow the District to shift to a virtual model as a mitigation measure should such a transition be necessary. The administration will continue to update the Board of School Directors (Board) with the most recent guidance in terms of masks, cleaning and sanitization, and social distancing. The Board will take action on an amended Health and Safety Plan in the event of substantive changes to the guidance provided to the District.

Basic hygiene, social distancing, cleaning protocols, and the appropriate measures to facilitate these processes will continue to be encouraged throughout the 21-22 academic year.

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 will return to an instructional model that includes in-person instruction each day. The district will also offer a synchronous online learning model at the elementary level and an asynchronous virtual learning model at the secondary level through the North Penn Virtual Academy (NPVA).

Students eligible for specially designed instruction and/or related services through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be provided the academic and behavioral supports as outlined in the IEP. The District will also continue to provide counseling and mental health supports with in-district and community supports.

Lunches will continue to be free of charge for students and virtual students will continue to have the option to pick-up meals on a regular basis.

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>The district will utilize the guidance provided by the CDC, PADOH, PDE, and MCOPH regarding face coverings. Masking expectations are outlined in <i>Table 1 of Appendix A</i> (below) based upon the incidence rate and the 14-day average positivity rates in the North Penn School District community. These expectations will also apply to visitors of district facilities. Masking expectations will continue to be guided by the recommendations of local health officials based upon the data in our area and vaccine availability/eligibility.</p> <p>Due to federal requirements, masks are required while on district transportation.</p> <p>The District does reserve the right to require masks if the incidence and/or positivity rates rise in the community or in the NPSD school environment. Mask requirements could vary from school to school and decisions will be made in collaboration with MCOPH.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Physical distancing will continue to be maximized to the greatest extent possible when practical. Plexi-glass will remain in work environments at the discretion of the employee. School cafeterias will return to normal operation but seating charts will still be maintained for contact tracing purposes. When masking is required, students will wear masks to the cafeteria and will continue doing so unless actively eating or drinking.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Instructional signs regarding hand washing and proper respiratory etiquette will continue to be strategically placed in the appropriate spaces. Hand sanitizing stations will also continue to exist throughout our buildings</p>

	and work spaces across the district with frequent reminders for students and staff.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	<p>Established cleaning and ventilation protocols will continue to be implemented during the 21-22 school year. Sanitizing wipes will continue to be provided in classrooms and high-traffic areas. Sanitization measures will be taken in the event of positive cases of COVID-19.</p> <p>As recommended by American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), operational changes have been made, such as operating the HVAC systems a minimum of two hours before and after occupancy, and increasing the amount of fresh air in our buildings.</p>
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>Seating charts will be utilized for contact tracing purposes. School nurses and administration will continue to contact trace in collaboration with MCOPH. The District will continue to follow quarantine and isolation guidelines in accordance with MCOPH mandates and guidelines.</p> <p>In the event that a student is ordered to quarantine by the district or local health officials, classroom teachers will utilize the streaming technology in the classroom so that the student can listen to instruction throughout the day. It is acknowledged that the interactivity will be limited, but students will have access to the content presented in the classroom environment.</p>
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	NPSD, in partnership with MCOPH, PADOH, and CHOP, will have Binax Rapid Tests available for cases of symptomatic individuals. Rapid tests may be given to students with parent permission. Weekly assurance testing will be available to all staff as an additional mitigation measure. Staff will be required to participate in mandatory assurance testing. Vaccinated staff members may opt-out of mandatory testing by providing the necessary proof of vaccination.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to	The District has collaborated with local pharmacies to provide vaccination

<p><u>school communities</u>;</p>	<p>opportunities to eligible students, staff, and the greater community. As more students become eligible for vaccination, the District will continue to work with our community partners in making vaccines accessible. Large-scale clinics have been hosted at North Penn High School with great success.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Accommodations for students with an identified disability will be provided per the student's IEP or Section 504 Service Agreement. These accommodations will be provided in accordance with the approved Health and Safety Plan in collaboration with the Special Education Department, the student's IEP case manager, and the special education supervisor.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The District will continue to have regular communication with local and state health officials through collaborative opportunities. The district will also continue working with local health officials regarding testing requirements, vaccination opportunities, and contact tracing.</p>

Appendix A:

Table 1:

Masking Expectations					
Grade Level	Location	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
		0-9 cases per 100,000 and <5% positivity	10-49 cases per 100,000 or 5-7.9% positivity	50-99 cases per 100,000 or 8-9.9% positivity	<u>>100 cases per 100,000</u> or <u>>10% positivity</u>
Elementary	Indoor	Required	Required	Required	Required
	Outdoor	Optional	Optional	Optional	Required
Secondary	Indoor	Recommended	Recommended	Required	Required
	Outdoor	Optional	Optional	Optional	Required
Live Streaming		No**	No**	No**	Yes
**Note: Transmission level metrics as defined by MCO PH (2 consecutive weeks before changing levels); Streaming will be available to quarantined students					

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the North Penn School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 19, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 19, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Martina Stoll

(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.