



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: **Northgate School District**

Initial Effective Date: June 21, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 16, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 16, 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?

Northgate School District will support prevention and mitigation policies in accordance with CDC guidelines by addressing:

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

While there is no way to completely mitigate the risk of COVID-19, the district will put in place procedures designed to reduce the risk of transmission. A detailed plan for cleaning and sanitizing buildings was created specifying routes, procedures, times and the person responsible for each area. Particular attention will be given to increased daily cleaning and sanitizing of all buildings and spaces with EPA-approved disinfectants, paying special attention to high-traffic areas including restrooms and hallways, and frequently-touched surfaces such as desks and doorknobs .

The custodial/maintenance staff received training prior to the start of the school year on cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting. This was provided by Buckeye International. During the school year, custodial supervisors will do random checks on a weekly basis to ensure cleaning/disinfecting is occurring per the district plan and to identify any issues.

Administration and faculty received training on cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting and proper hygiene procedures. This training occurred on the inservice days prior to the start of school. In addition, effective hygiene practices and hand washing techniques were covered and will be reviewed again prior to the 2021-22 school year. These will then be taught to the students on the first day of school. Time will be scheduled throughout the day for hand washing and sanitizing. In classrooms, teachers will wipe down student areas with antibacterial wipes. This will occur throughout the day. Students will be provided with a set of needed classroom materials as no sharing will be permitted. Wall-mounted hand sanitizer units will be available in all learning spaces.

Where possible, interior doors and exterior windows will be left open to increase ventilation. Due to safety, all exterior doors will remain closed and locked. School buses and vans will be cleaned and sanitized frequently and no less than once daily when in use for the school year. All ventilation systems have been inspected by the district's HVAC contractor and any needed equipment repairs/replacements have been completed.

The Facility Manager will maintain regular contact with the custodians to identify any issues or additional needed supports.

Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

When in classroom spaces, students will be seated at individual desks, with all desks facing the same direction, where they will maintain their own supplies.

Until conditions change, we will limit having students assemble in large groups. For the foreseeable future, we will not be holding assemblies or large group activities. We are also not having field trips in an effort to limit time students spend on a bus in close contact and to limit exposure in public places. Extra spaces have been identified for serving lunch and breakfast in order to maintain smaller groups of students in any given area. PE classes and recess will be held outside weather permitting.

Wall-mounted hand sanitizer units have been placed in every learning space. Students will be directed to sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom and leaving the classroom. At the elementary level, time will be built into the schedule for hand washing.

Because we are a walking district, we provide limited transportation. For the students we do transport, we will adjust transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students when possible. Students, drivers and aides will wear face masks while being transported.

Specialized Transportation: We will adjust student start/end times as deemed necessary to reduce the number of students on the bus/van. Students, drivers and aides will wear face masks while being transported.

All visitors will be required to sanitize their hands prior to entering the office.

Students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to PE classes and recess. All PE classes/recess will be held outdoors when possible. PE classes will focus on conditioning activities and games that allows students to remain socially distanced and do not require sharing of equipment.

Monitoring Student and Staff Health

The school nurse will monitor students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure

Staff will be expected to perform self monitoring at home prior to entering school. If a staff member has any Covid-19 related symptoms, he/she should notify the CSN and stay home.

At the beginning of each school day, classroom teachers will be provided with a daily standardized questionnaire for students to verbalize current wellness status. If a student verbalizes any signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the student should be sent to the school nurse.

Students arriving late to school will be asked the standardized Covid-19 questionnaire by the secretaries prior to obtaining tardy slip. If a student verbalizes any signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the student will be sent to school nurse.

All information will be verified with parent/guardian if sent to the school nurse

Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure will be based on the state health official and Allegheny County Department of Health recommendations.

Isolation Plans/Dedicated Space: a space will be dedicated for students who may need to be quarantined, taking into consideration sensory needs, supervision by personnel familiar with the student and appropriate ventilation

Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to the school will be based on state health officials and Allegheny County Department of Health recommendations as well as CDC Guidelines.

Any changes or modifications to the plan or school year will be communicated to all stakeholders via multiple methods of communication including rob calls, letters home, district website and social media.

Other Considerations for Students and Staff

All staff and students are required to wear a face mask when in the building. Face shields will be provided to faculty but remain optional and must be used in conjunction with a mask. Mask breaks will be provided to students/staff when they are outdoors. The school nurses will have additional personal protective equipment.

For students with health needs, individual plans will be developed that may include a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning or complete virtual learning. The plans will be tailored to the specific needs of the student and family.

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?

During this time, we have learned a great deal about the importance of collaboration. We have

found that by working together we can greatly increase our ability to differentiate and meet the needs of more of our students both academically and social emotionally. Concerned over significant interruption to student learning, the Northgate School District School Psychologist continues to/ utilized universal screeners and interventions. For many students learning varied greatly in order to indicate learning gained and to what degree. This deters assisting diverse learners, as well as identifying and supporting students in need of special education services. By District procedure, and student's age/grade level, appropriate research-based benchmark assessments were/will continue to be utilized in content areas, to determine who may need a diagnostic assessment, individualized instruction, and an eligibility evaluation. Using the MTSS framework being presented by PDE in the ESSA Plan as a district/school-wide improvement model, Northgate will support the following objectives using initiatives outlined below:

- *Implement a well-rounded program of instruction for academic needs of all students.
- *Curriculum infrastructure based on the principles of UbD. *Assessment system to track standards-aligned student learning outcomes longitudinally. *Alignment of professional learning goals with expected shifts in pedagogy toward culturally responsive, cross-curricular learning.
- *Identify students at risk for academic failure. *MTSS system across content areas that deploys S.E. faculty in co-taught push-in environments. *Allotment of an additional common planning period in all S.E. teachers' schedules that will allow them to analyze assessment data for both special/regular education students. *Early Literacy Framework that provides skills-based data on student learning progressions to intervention teams. *Provide additional assistance to students who need help in meeting PA Academic Standards. *Deployment of intervention teams at the elementary and secondary levels that will be charged with remediating content and skills gaps identified in students. *Implement instructional and other strategies to strengthen academic programs and improve school conditions for learning. *Implement a professional learning system that articulates District, school, and classroom goals via periodic/recursive looping of instructional rounds, P.D. *Incorporate curriculum infrastructure and planning tools to design student learning opportunities and assessments.

These frameworks and initiatives will be supported through School-wide Positive Behavioral Instructional Supports (PBIS) that also emphasize school safety and positive behavior. Impact of programming will be identified via PBIS surveys. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, Northgate will be implementing the Chill Project, Pre-K to Grade 12 in all District buildings. Through Allegheny Health Network, the intent is to address mental health, social pressures and anxiety impact of COVID-19. This is a project for students, families and staff to access: One-to-one counseling; Support groups; Medication management; School-Based Outpatient Services; School-Wide Preventive Services; Professional Development Opportunities; A social-emotional curriculum and classroom consultations; School Community access and support. The program provides a Licensed Clinician and Behavior Educator. Additional support for students and families: classroom teachers, special education staff, Teacher Assistants, Guidance, and Nurses via: Office Hours; Team Planning; Individual Check-Ins with Students; and end-of-week evaluation of student work samples and refinement of learning plans. Counselors may support via meetings with students and parents/guardians, email, phone call check-ins, zoom meetings/video chats as necessary, announcements (schedule appointments, study tips, mindfulness ideas), parent resources, compassion, and career readiness services.

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>Per the CDC guidelines, universal masking will be required when indoors.</p> <p>Face shields will be provided to faculty but remain optional and must be used in conjunction with a mask. Mask breaks will be provided to students/staff when they are outdoors. The school nurses will have additional PPE.</p> <p>For students with health needs, individual plans will be developed that may include a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning or complete virtual learning. The plans will be tailored to the specific needs of the student and family.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Individuals will maintain a minimum of 3 feet physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>When in classroom spaces, students will be seated at individual desks, facing the same direction, where they will maintain their own supplies.</p> <p>Until conditions change, we will limit having students assemble in large groups. For the foreseeable future, we will not be holding assemblies or large group activities. We are also not having field trips in an effort to limit time students spend on a bus in close contact and to limit exposure in public places.</p> <p>Extra spaces have been identified for serving lunch and breakfast in order to maintain smaller groups of students in any given area. PE classes and recess will be held outside weather permitting.</p> <p>Wall-mounted hand sanitizer units are being placed in every learning space. Students will be directed to sanitize their hands when entering the classroom and leaving the classroom. At the elementary level, time will be built into the schedule for hand washing.</p> <p>Because we are a walking district, we provide limited transportation. For the students we do transport, we will adjust transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students when possible. Masks are required for all individuals when being transported on a school bus or van.</p>

	<p>Specialized Transportation: We will adjust student start/end times as deemed necessary to reduce the number of students on the bus/van.</p> <p>Visitors will utilize the secured vestibule, and they will be screened if they require entry into the office area. All visitors will be required to sanitize their hands prior to entering the office.</p> <p>Students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to PE classes and recess. All PE classes/recess will be held outdoors when possible. PE classes will focus on conditioning activities and games that allow students to remain socially distanced and do not require sharing of equipment.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>-Faculty will provide direct instruction of hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices.</p> <p>-Students will wash using sanitizer on their way in and out of classrooms.</p> <p>-Sanitizing wipes will also be available for students to self-clean their desks.</p> <p>-Signs will be posted in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs: Each entry, stairwells, communal spaces, inside restrooms, hallways and classrooms.</p> <p>-Direct Instruction for diverse learners: Developing a hand washing routine and schedule (e.g. attending to the temperature of the water, the height of the sink, the texture/ smell of the soap), how to cough/sneeze.</p> <p>-Accessible Signage for Diverse Learners: consider including visuals, braille, high contrast print, attention to the word choice and language level.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Increased daily cleaning and sanitizing of all buildings and spaces with EPA-approved disinfectants, paying special attention to high-traffic areas including restrooms and hallways, and frequently- touched surfaces such as desks and doorknobs.</p> <p>-Communication to reinforce good hygiene practices and handwashing techniques; added time and/or breaks during the day for handwashing and hand sanitizing.</p> <p>-Increased classroom ventilation and encouraged opening of windows when possible to increase fresh air circulation.</p>

	<p>-Wiping of desks/tables and classroom materials throughout the day by teachers and students.</p> <p>-Leave interior school doors to classrooms and common spaces open.</p> <p>-Electrostatic sprayers have been purchased for all buildings. These devices use a specialized solution that is combined with air and atomized by an electrode inside the sprayer. Because the particles in the spray are positively charged, they cling to and coat any surface they're aimed at. Therefore, surfaces and classrooms can be cleaned at a faster rate. Even if a surface is dusty, the dust would be sealed.</p> <p>-School buses and vans will be cleaned and sanitized frequently and no less than once daily when in use for the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>-The Facility Manager will inspect and grade each custodian's performance.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The school nurse will monitor students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure. Staff will be expected to perform self-monitoring at home prior to entering school. If a staff member has any Covid-19 related symptoms, he/she should notify the CSN and stay home.</p> <p>At the beginning of each school day, classroom teachers will be provided with a daily standardized questionnaire for students to verbalize current wellness status. If a student verbalizes any signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the student should be sent to the school nurse. Students arriving late to school will be asked the standardized Covid-19 questionnaire by the secretaries prior to obtaining tardy slip. If a student verbalizes any signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the student will be sent to the school nurse. All information will be verified with parent/guardian if sent to the school nurse.</p> <p>Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure will be based on the state health official and Allegheny County Department of Health recommendations.</p> <p>Isolation Plans/Dedicated Space: a space will be dedicated for students who may need to be quarantined, taking into consideration sensory needs, supervision by personnel familiar with the student and appropriate ventilation</p> <p>Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to the school will be based on state health officials and Allegheny County Department of</p>

	<p>Health recommendations as well as CDC Guidelines.</p> <p>Any changes or modifications to the plan or school year will be communicated to all stakeholders via multiple methods of communication including rob calls, letters home, district website and social media.</p> <p>For students with health needs, individual plans will be developed that may include a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning or complete virtual learning. The plans will be tailored to the specific needs of the student and family.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The school nurse will monitor students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure. Staff will be expected to perform self-monitoring at home prior to entering school. If a staff member has any Covid-19 related symptoms, he/she should notify the CSN and stay home.</p> <p>At the beginning of each school day, classroom teachers will be provided with a daily standardized questionnaire for students to verbalize current wellness status. If a student verbalizes any signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the student should be sent to the school nurse. Students arriving late to school will be asked the standardized Covid-19 questionnaire by the secretaries prior to obtaining tardy slip. If a student verbalizes any signs and symptoms of Covid-19, the student will be sent to the school nurse. All information will be verified with parent/guardian if sent to the school nurse.</p> <p>Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure will be based on the state health official and Allegheny County Department of Health recommendations.</p> <p>Isolation Plans/Dedicated Space: a space will be dedicated for students who may need to be quarantined, taking into consideration sensory needs, supervision by personnel familiar with the student and appropriate ventilation</p> <p>Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to the school will be based on state health officials and Allegheny County Department of Health recommendations as well as CDC Guidelines.</p> <p>Any changes or modifications to the plan or school year will be communicated to all stakeholders via multiple methods of communication including rob calls, letters home, district website and social media.</p>

<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>Partnerships have assisted Northgate School district in providing access to vaccination. Staff access was made available through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 (AIU3).</p> <p>Administration provided ongoing communication for scheduling opportunities via email, and virtual meetings. Vaccination proved successful for staff that wanted to be vaccinated.</p> <p>Northgate students had an opportunity to be vaccinated. A vaccination clinic was held for students age 16 and older on May 17th between 2 and 4 pm. This was for the Pfizer vaccine, and the second shot scheduled for June 7th. Students were required to register with the high school nurse, and have a parent or guardian permission form. Vaccination was conducted by a partnership with Heritage Valley Health System.</p> <p>-Communication was conducted via email blasts, and website. Communication documents:</p> <p>NORTHGATE_COVID_VACCINE_CLINIC.pdf</p> <p>Fact_Sheet_for_Recipients_and_Caregivers.pdf</p> <p>COVID_19_Vaccine_Patient_Education_Sheet.pdf</p> <p>VACCINATION_CONSENT_FORM_for_Middle_School_Students.pdf</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>All strategies, policies, and procedures for students with disabilities will follow those identified for all district students as identified under ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Requirements. Adaptations and modifications will be made as necessary for students with disabilities.</p> <p>-For students that are transported we will adjust transportation schedules and practices to create social distance between students when possible.</p> <p>-Busses/vans will be cleaned and disinfected after each run.</p>

	-Individual plans will be developed that may include a hybrid of in-person and virtual learning.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Northgate School District will continue to collaborate and coordinate COVID-19 guidelines as communicated via the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Allegheny County Health Department, and Allegheny Health Network (AHN), and CDC Guidelines.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Northgate School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 16, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 16, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.