



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: Upper Perkiomen School District

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 29, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 29, 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?

Upper Perkiomen School District's Health and Safety Plan (HSP) will take into account recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH). As such, when changes in guidance are provided or there is a significant change in our community (specific to the UPSD municipalities/community and the greater Montgomery County area) with the COVID-19 metrics, the administration will make recommendations to the School Board for consideration to revise/update the HSP. Such changes will be communicated to the Upper Perkiomen School District community via Skylert email messages sent out by the District or from the individual school building. The chart contained below in this HSP outlines the actions the District will engage in to promote the health and safety of students, staff, and community members.

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?

Upper Perkiomen School District will provide in-person instruction 5 days per week supporting our students' academic, social, emotional, behavioral, health and food service needs while we are safely able to operate to the greatest extent feasible. In addition, students in Grades 1 - 12 will be offered an asynchronous virtual learning model in the event that they are unable and/or unwilling to return to in-person instruction for the start of the 2021-22 school year. The monitoring of student and staff health is paramount to the safe operation of our school district. Should transmission levels in the community/county or in specific schools increase to levels that warrant greater mitigation, UPSD administration will make recommendations to the School Board for consideration to revise/update the instructional model, sections or the entire HSP as well as the processes and infrastructure to provide services virtually and remotely, if needed. Our counselors and pupil services team will continue to provide support for students and families as necessary. Our Employee Assistance Program will also be available for staff needing assistance. Finally, all meals served by UPSD are being provided at no charge to families for the duration of the 2021-2022 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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;	<p>As of August 5, 2021, face coverings / masks are strongly recommended, but optional for all students, staff and visitors for the start of the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>The district administration will consider the mask guidance provided by the CDC, PA DOH, PDE and local public health entities to formulate a recommendation to the School Board for consideration to adjust the health and safety plan, as needed/recommended. Current mask protocols and appropriate mask wearing will be communicated with families via district communications, building communications, and through signage within district facilities.</p> <p>As of July 30, face coverings/masks are required for all students using District transportation per a Federal Order, effective February 1, 2021, that currently remains in place. Additional clarification / guidance on the impact of the Order will be available at the August 12, 2021 Board Meeting.</p>

<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Instructional settings will be set up to offer social distancing to the maximum extent feasible.</p> <p>When it is not possible to maintain at least 3 feet of social distance, use of rows all facing the same direction for seating configurations of desks and work areas will be utilized. If not feasible, staggered or diagonal seating at shared tables and creating cohorts/pods will be utilized.</p> <p>Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms to support social distancing. Teacher spaces will be identified in each classroom to promote social distancing.</p> <p>Seating charts will be maintained in each school setting, including on district transportation. The policy for visitors and guests in the schools will be monitored and may need to be restricted based upon an increase in COVID-19 case counts as an additional mitigation strategy.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Ensure the availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, and tissues) and strategically place supplies in areas where they may be frequently used.</p> <p>Build in routines for hand hygiene in the daily school schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities.</p> <p>Reinforce handwashing during key times including but not limited to: arrival and dismissal; before, during, and after preparing or eating food; after using the bathroom; after blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing; after touching objects with bare hands that have been handled by other people.</p> <p>Additional Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disinfectant wipes will be available in each classroom - Hand Sanitizer/classroom - Daily announcements will include health and safety reminders for students and monthly reminders will be sent to families via district communications. - Department of Health signage will be posted in buildings and on websites to promote protective measures and symptoms.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>All high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly, including desks, door handles, sink handles, light switches, handrails, playground equipment, and student desks. These tasks will be completed on a rotation by custodial staff on a frequent basis following posted EPA/CDC/manufacturer guidelines, as feasible.</p> <p>If there has been a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in your facility within the last 24 hours, you should clean AND disinfect the space the positive individual spent time in while infectious.</p> <p>Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated when available/possible using windows.</p> <p>HVAC system run times will be extended to facilitate air exchanges. Humidity levels will be maintained between 40% - 60%. HVAC outside air dampers will be checked to ensure proper operation.</p> <p>Increase preventive maintenance and filter changes on HVAC units.</p> <p>Additional ventilation will be utilized in isolation spaces.</p>

<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health , the District will implement strategies similar to those used with measles, pertussis, and other infectious diseases that intend to maintain classrooms, schools, and districts as open, in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19.</p> <p>The District will collaborate with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health to provide contact tracing and any mandated isolations or quarantines, in the event of a confirmed case. Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine is required in accordance with Montgomery County Public Health Code, Chapter 3, Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases. Recommendations for isolation, quarantine and testing are provided and updated on MCOPH School Exclusion Recommendations.</p> <p>Reflected in the MCOPH School Exclusion Recommendations Guide, MCOPH adopted the close contact exception as outlined by CDC for student to student COVID-19 exposure within the indoor classrooms ONLY. If both the COVID-19 positive student and an unvaccinated student who is exposed were wearing masks and practicing physical distancing of at least 3 ft. or more, the exposed student WILL NOT be identified as a close contact and WILL NOT need to quarantine. Close contact exemptions were adopted by CDC on July 9, 2021 and are subject to change based on CDC/PADOH guidance and Montgomery County or School District level of community transmission.</p> <p>It is recommended that families of vaccinated children share proof of vaccination status to assist with contact tracing.</p> <p>The District will limit the public release of COVID 19-impacted student and staff names and coordinate with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health specific to the public release of such protected information.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Staff and parents will be given guidelines about signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and not report to a school building if those symptoms exist.</p> <p>School nurses will monitor staff and student health within the building.</p> <p>Parents are required to keep sick children home if they are sick.</p> <p>Staff are required to stay at home if they are sick.</p> <p>A communication system for families self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and closures.</p> <p>Absenteeism will be monitored to identify any trends in student and staff absences due to illness.</p> <p>The district will continue its partnership with MCOPH and CHOP (ACE-IT) to offer voluntary symptomatic testing for students/staff during the school day should the illness present with symptoms associated with COVID-19.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The district will continue to provide regular updates on local community COVID-19 vaccination efforts through in-person or virtual staff meetings, email blast, or through regular communications with teachers, students, and families.</p> <p>The district will share information regarding community vaccination efforts via the district website, on social media posts and on our social media handles.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety</p>	<p>Students/families and staff who self-identify as high risk for illness due to COVID-19 will meet with the school-based team to develop a plan to address requests for alternative learning arrangements and accommodations in the event that a student cannot comply with the mitigation efforts outlined in the district health and safety plan.</p> <p>School-based teams will evaluate all current plans (e.g. Individual Healthcare Plans, Individualized</p>

<p>policies; and</p>	<p>Education Plans or 504 Plans) for accommodating students with special health care needs and updates as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID-19. Through collaboration with families/students, adjustments to those respective plans will be formalized and shared with necessary staff as needed.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The District will consult with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health on any decision related to the closure of classrooms, schools, or districts.</p> <p>The District will only recommend closure of a classroom, school, and/or district if the Montgomery County Office of Public Health indicates to the District the necessity or requirement to do so.</p> <p>In the event of a school closure or within-school-year change in safety protocols, the District will utilize all of its communication platforms to provide notification to staff, families, and the public.</p>

Public Links to the Health and Safety Plan: <https://www.upsd.org/parents/2021-22-covid-19-information>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

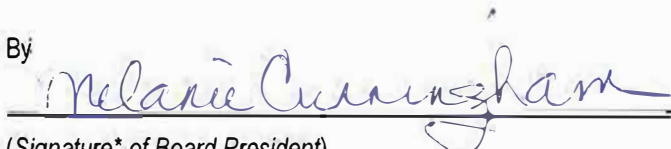
The Board of Directors/Trustees for Upper Perkiomen reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 12, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: August 12, 2021

By 

 (Signature* of Board President)

Melanie Cunningham

 (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.