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: Susquehanna Township School District

Initial Effective Date: **August 16, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 20, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **August 23, 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?**

   STSD will frequently monitor local conditions and implement a layered approach to prevention and mitigation strategies based on guidance from local health officials, CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The board approved health and safety plan summary will be posted on the district's website and shared with all stakeholder groups to ensure consistent deployment throughout the district. The contents of this plan and guidance from the CDC will be reviewed frequently and amended as needed to meet the health and safety needs of district stakeholders.

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?**

   STSD approaches and processes to ensure the continuity of services are based on a systems-perspective to manage and lead all parts of the organization. The District's Leadership Improvement Model ensures that all stakeholder needs are determined and balanced before any direction is set and plans deployed. Performance is monitored and measured throughout a continuous cycle of improvement to ensure learning and improvement. Through this system, the District will consider the needs of all stakeholder groups, departments, and critical success factors to address the needs of learners, academic learning, health and safety, facilities, food service, technology and team member needs. Action plans have been developed to ensure the continuity of learning. In addition, the District's organizational agility and learning from the previous year will position the District to anticipate and act on student and stakeholder needs.

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](#);	• Universal masking for teachers, staff, students, and visitors will be based on level of community transmission as indicated below.* 　○ High Level of Transmission: Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. 　○ Substantial Level of Transmission: Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. 　○ Moderate Level of Transmission: Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, student, and visitors is strongly recommended, regardless of vaccination status. 　○ Low Level of Transmission: Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, student, and visitors is strongly recommended, regardless of vaccination status. • Face covering exemptions for Students: 　○ Eating or drinking; 　○ Face covering break; 　○ Outdoor activities where social distancing can be observed; 　○ When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition; 　○ Medical or mental condition or disability documented in accordance with a 504 Plan or IEP that precludes wearing a face covering. • Face covering exemptions for Staff: 　○ Eating or drinking; 　○ Face covering break; 　○ When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition; 　○ Medical or mental condition or disability documented in accordance with ADA that precludes wears wearing a face covering; 　○ Staff member is alone in a vehicle or private office. • Face coverings will be required on all District transportation for students and drivers, regardless of level of community transmission.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	• To the extent feasible, and per CDC guidance: 　○ To the extent feasible, the number of individuals in classrooms and other spaces will be limited to permit social distancing of three (3) feet;

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	○ To the extent feasible, desks will be turned to face the same direction and students will only sit on one side of a table; ○ Alternate spaces may be considered for meals to permit social distancing of at least three (3) feet; ○ Students will be encouraged to practice social distancing in hallways and common areas, to the extent feasible.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	- The District will review and continue deployment of hygiene instruction and respiratory etiquette for all students and staff to promote healthy hygiene practices. - Handwashing routines and breaks will be implemented. - Adequate supplies will be provided in all areas, to include soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues. - Signs and posters will be placed in highly visible locations to promote handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	- The District will follow CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools. - Frequently touched surfaces (desks, door handles, sink handles, light fixtures, etc.) and objects will be cleaned and disinfected regularly using hydrogen peroxide-based products that are safe for use in all settings. - Disinfection using the Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic Sprayer will be used in indoor settings where there has been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within twenty-four (24) hours. - To the greatest extent feasible, outside air percentages will be increased to forty (40)% - HVAC filters will be replaced as needed. - Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when feasible, using windows, doors, and/or fans.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	**Student and Staff Reporting Form** - Staff will be required to submit the Staff Self-Reporting Form and parents/guardians are required to submit the Student COVID-19 Reporting Form to report symptoms, advice by a health care provider to isolate, a positive test result, or an exposure. **Students/Staff Showing Symptoms** - Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be assessed in an isolation room, as available. - Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated from others until they can be sent home and will be offered a COVID-19 test by a school nurse in accordance with Diagnostic Testing guidelines aligned with the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	• Individuals who have been sent home due to symptoms of COVID-19 may return to in person attendance when one the following criteria has been met:
	   • Criteria 1:
	   A health care provider has advised that they DO NOT need to obtain a COVID-19 test or isolate due to symptoms.
	   AND
	   Improvement of symptoms for ≥24 hours without the use of medication.
	   • Criteria 2:
	   The symptomatic individual has received a negative COVID-19 test result.
	  AND
	• The symptomatic individual does not meet the criteria indicative of other communicable diseases set forth in [28Pa.Code § 27.65. Exclusion of children, and staff having contact with children, for showing symptoms](#)
	
	Positive Cases
	• PA DOH will be contacted upon any report of a confirmed positive test result.
	• Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 or being advised by a health care provider to isolate due to symptoms may return to in person attendance when they have met criteria set forth by the CDC in the [Ending Home Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in a Hospital Setting.](#)
	
	Close Contact/Quarantine
	• Individuals who have been instructed to quarantine due to close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19 may return to in person attendance when they have met criteria set forth in [Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing.](#)
	• Vaccinated persons will not be required to quarantine. However, fully vaccinated people should be tested **3-5 days** following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
	• [Diagnostic Testing](#) guidelines from the CDC will be followed.
	
	Contact Tracing
	• The District will continue to work with PA DOH to complete contact tracing for individuals diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	• Symptom and exposure screening will be done at home by staff and students on a daily basis using the STSD COVID-19 At Home Symptom Monitoring Tool. • Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated from others until they can be sent home and will be offered a COVID-19 test by a school nurse in accordance with Diagnostic Testing guidelines aligned with the CDC. • Students and staff meeting the criteria for close contact will be offered a COVID-19 test following Diagnostic Testing guidelines aligned with the CDC.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	• STSD, in partnership with a local pharmacy, will operate regularly scheduled school-located vaccine clinics to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible populations based on the CDC Considerations for Planning SLV. Dates, times and locations of SLVs will be communicated to the community via Campus Messenger and the STSD website. • Limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated. Level II and III volunteers with direct contact with students will be required to submit vaccination records to the District Volunteer Coordinator. • Fully vaccinated staff and students are strongly encouraged to submit evidence to the District.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	• STSD will take extra precautions in low incidence programs: Autism Support (AS), Multiple Disability Support (MDS), Life Skills Support (LSS), Emotional Support (ES). • Students in low incidence programs include students with medical concerns, students not understanding the importance of wearing a mask, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting. • Extra precautions will be implemented include: • Staff are required to thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after working with a student. Hand sanitizer may be used if soap and water are not available. • Avoid the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object must be disinfected immediately before and after student use. • Personal student devices must be disinfected daily. • The district's feeding protocol must be followed when feeding students. Staff are required to wear gloves when feeding students. • Bathrooms and changing tables must be disinfected before and after student use. Limit students to one at a time. Students should be assisted with hand washing as needed.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	• The District will continue two-way communication with the PA Department of Health (PA DOH) to report positive cases, exposure to a known positive case, and for general advice and guidance on mitigation efforts. • PA DOH will be consulted to confirm reports of positive cases and to determine if a school closure is needed.

*Level of Community Transmission

Level of Community Transmissions*	Percent Positivity Rate*	Incidence Rate*	Masking Requirement
Low Transmission – Blue	0 – 4.99%	0 – 9.99	Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required.
Moderate Transmission – Yellow	5 – 7.99%	10 – 49.99	Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required.
Substantial Transmission – Orange	8 – 9.99%	50 – 99.99	Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.**
High Transmission – Red	≥ 10.0	≥ 100	Universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.**

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Susquehanna Township School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on _____08/23/21_____

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_7_ **Yes**

_1_ **No**

Affirmed on: _____08/23/21_____

By:

Jesse Rawls, Sr.

(*Signature* of Board President*)

Jesse RAWLS, SR.

(*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.