



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022 Mt. Lebanon School District

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*.

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.

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Mt. Lebanon School District

Initial Effective Date: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: September 27, 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?

For the 2021-2022 school year, the Mt. Lebanon School District will plan to offer full-time, in-person learning for all students K-12. To 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 Mt. Lebanon School District will build upon what it learned in 2020-2021. In the 2020-2021 school year, each school entity was required to identify a pandemic coordinator and/or pandemic team with

defined roles and responsibilities for health and safety preparedness and response planning during the phased reopening of schools. The pandemic coordinator and team was responsible for facilitating the local planning process, monitoring implementation of our local Health and Safety Plan, and continued monitoring of local health data to assess implications for school operations and potential adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year.

To ensure a comprehensive Health and Safety Plan that reflects the considerations and needs of every stakeholder in the local education community, the Mt. Lebanon School District has maintained a pandemic team for the 2021-2022 school year. Inclusion of a diverse group of stakeholders is critical to the success of planning and implementation based on up-to-date guidance for national, state, and local sources. Each individual played a role in the development of this Health and Safety Plan and/or will play a role, as appropriate, within-year decision making regarding response efforts to updated guidance and in the event of a confirmed positive case or exposure among staff and students.

Individual(s)	Stakeholder Group Represented
Mr. Jacob Wyland	Board of School Directors - President
Ms. Valerie Fleisher	Board of School Directors - Vice President
Dr. Timothy Steinhauer	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Marybeth Irvin	Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Dr. Ron Davis	Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education - Pandemic Coordinator
Dr. Heather Doyle	Director of Special Education
Ms. Tenecia Ross	Director of Human Resources
Ms. Kristen James	Director of Communications
Ms. Deanna Hess	Chairperson for District Health Services
Mr. Rick Marciniak	Director of Facilities
Mr. Nolen Fetchko	Director of Food Services
Mr. Chris Stengel	Director of Technology
Mrs. Heather Pessy	MLEA President

Ms. Bonnie Dougherty	PTA Council President
Dr. Joel Thompson (Principal), Ms. Janet McGeough (Nurse), Mr. Andrew Turton (Head Custodian)	Mt. Lebanon High School
Dr. Sarah Shaw (Principal), Ms. Lauren Suess (Nurse), Mr. Dennis Clemens (Head Custodian)	Jefferson Middle School
Mr. Chris Wolfson (Principal), Ms. Samantha DeFurio (Nurse), Mr. John Hammer (Head Custodian)	Mellon Middle School
Dr. Jason Ramsey(Principal), Ms. Hilarie Bauer(Nurse), Mr. Jeff Brooks (Head Custodian)	Foster Elementary School
Dr. Nicci Giehl (Principal), Ms. Hilarie Bauer (Nurse), Mr. Gary Bell (Head Custodian)	Hoover Elementary School
Dr. Michelle Murray (Principal), Ms. Karli Gerhart (Nurse), Mr. Dale Smail (Head Custodian)	Howe Elementary School
Mr. Brett Bielewicz (Principal), Ms. Lauren Suess (Nurse), Mr. Dennis Clemens (Head Custodian)	Jefferson Elementary School
Dr. Ron Kitsko (Principal), Ms. Deanna Hess (Nurse), Mr. Chuck Mirt (Head Custodian)	Lincoln Elementary School
Ms. Jocelyn Artinger (Principal), Ms. Hilarie Bauer (Nurse), Mr. Tim Herzog (Head Custodian)	Markham Elementary School
Dr. Melissa Nelson (Principal), Ms. Samantha DeFurio (Nurse), Mr. Jim Kowalewski (Head Custodian)	Washington Elementary School

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?

Each school entity created a Health and Safety Plan for the 2020-2021 school year which served as the local guidelines for all instructional and non- instructional school reopening activities. As with all emergency plans, the Health and Safety

Plan developed for each school entity was tailored to the unique needs of each school and was created in consultation with local health agencies. Given the dynamic nature of the pandemic, each plan incorporated enough flexibility to adapt to changing conditions.

To prepare for the safe return of our students and staff in the Fall of 2020, the Mt. Lebanon School District formed a Recovery Steering Committee to assist in this planning. The Steering Committee included representation from various stakeholders and used the [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools \(REMS\)](#) framework.

To prepare for the safe return of our students and staff in the Fall of 2021, the Mt. Lebanon School District will utilize elements of the 2020-2021 3.0 Health & Safety Plan, the REMS framework and work products that prepared the District to safely receive students for the 2020-2021 school year. Specifically, to 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 Mt. Lebanon School District will take the following actions:

Academic:

- Revise and refine curriculum to support teaching and learning across multiple environments.
- Provide professional development to support best practice in teaching and learning across multiple environments.
- Provide technology tools and supports for teachers, students, and families to support online teaching and learning outcomes, as needed.

Physical & Structural:

- Implement procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces and on school buses at least daily, including equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, etc.
- Implement procedures for the use of cafeterias, as well as for serving meals in classrooms if needed.
- Offer the necessary PPE supplies to support the physical health and safety needs of students, staff, and visitors.

Human Resources:

- Implement workplace guidelines to ensure the safety and wellbeing of employees.
- Implement training tools to address safety protocols.
- Provide resources to support the personal needs of employees.

Social, Emotional, Behavior, and Physical Health:

- [Utilize a system](#) of social, emotional, behavioral, and physical health supports to allow for students to successfully re-engage in the learning process and actively participate in their education throughout the course of the school year after a crisis.
 - [Utilize a system](#) of social, emotional, behavioral, and physical health supports to mitigate barriers which impact effective work performance and which support employees to successfully work throughout the course of 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>*Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<p>Communication to and Professional Development for unvaccinated employees and students re: CDC Guidelines on Face Coverings.</p> <p>On June 17, 2021, the CDC released guidance indicating that fully vaccinated people can resume pre-pandemic activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing themselves, except where required by law, rule or regulation. The CDC continues to recommend that people age 2 and over who are not vaccinated should wear masks in public.</p> <p>The District supports and strongly recommends that the entire school community follow the CDC and ACHD recommendation that unvaccinated individuals wear masks indoors.</p> <p>In accordance with CDC travel guidance, vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals will be required to wear a mask on public transportation which includes school buses.</p> <p>* Beginning August 9, 2021, and in accordance with the CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for fully vaccinated people, universal indoor masking is required for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>**Effective September 7, 2021, MTLSD will comply with the Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Face Coverings in School Entities and shall remain in effect until otherwise terminated.</p>

<p>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing;</p>	<p>In accordance with CDC guidance, students and employees should maintain physical distance to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will remove nonessential furniture and make other changes to classroom layouts to maximize distance between students, as needed.</p> <p>Alternate entrances, as well as staggered arrival/dismissal schedules, may be employed to reduce congregate settings.</p> <p>Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible.</p> <p>On May 31, 2021, indoor and outdoor gathering limits were fully lifted in Pennsylvania. Therefore, concerts, events, assemblies, and extracurricular activities will resume allowing spectators.</p>
<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Students and staff are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.</p> <p>The Mt. Lebanon School District shall provide communication to and professional development for students and employees re: CDC Guidance on Handwashing.</p> <p>The Mt. Lebanon School District shall provide communication to and professional development for students and employees re: CDC Guidelines on How to Stop the Spread of Germs.</p> <p>Hand-sanitizer dispensers exist at each of the building's utilized entrances and are strategically placed at high traffic areas in each building.</p> <p>Classrooms without sinks will have hand-sanitizing dispensers available.</p>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Training on cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols will be provided to all employees, especially custodial and maintenance staff in accordance with the following: CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Facility.</p> <p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will clean and disinfect frequently</p>

	<p>touched surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses at least daily, including desks, door handles and sinks, using Peroxide Multi-Surface Cleaner & Disinfectant (or similar product).</p> <p>CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting your Facility recommends outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools, generally require normal routine cleaning. The Mt. Lebanon School District will follow this recommendation.</p> <p>When a case is identified, the District will increase routine cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and other areas used by students to include an electrostatic discharge of the Clorox Total 360 System, or comparable system.</p> <p>The District will maintain the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV Rating) in our classroom univent air filters of 8, which is the maximum size that can fit into our systems.</p> <p>The District will maintain the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV Rating) in the High School rooftop unit air filters of 13, which can only fit into the high school’s rooftop unit.</p> <p>The District will maintain the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV Rating) in every building rooftop unit air filter that conditions the air in designated, larger spaces of 13.</p> <p>The District will increase the amount of fresh air as part of the ventilation system from a minimum 10% to 30%. Employees should open windows and doors when possible.</p> <p>Disinfecting wipes, or a comparable cleaning solution/paper towels, will be available for shared use items for cleaning in between use as needed.</p> <p>The District will clean and disinfect bathrooms frequently throughout the day.</p>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with</p>	<p>All employees and students should self-screen each day prior to reporting to the school building.</p> <p>According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild</p>

the State and local health departments;

symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Unvaccinated employees and children should not come to school and are to notify school officials if they become sick with [COVID-19 symptoms](#), are awaiting a [COVID-19 test result](#), test positive for [COVID-19](#), or are [exposed](#) to someone with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or to someone with a confirmed or probable case of [COVID-19](#).

An employee or student who is a close contact of a person who is diagnosed with or tests positive for COVID-19, as defined by the Department or local health department in accordance with CDC guidance, will be evaluated in accordance with the [COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance Flowchart](#). . [Close Contacts](#) are individuals who have been exposed (within 6 feet distance for at least 15 consecutive minutes) to someone who is a case during the infectious period, with or without a mask.

Isolation Protocol

Should an individual student, employee, or visitor display COVID-19 symptoms, he/she should not enter the school building, and/or be placed into an isolation room, and/or be immediately removed from the school building and masked if not already. The parent or guardian, if a student, will be notified immediately. Testing for COVID-19 will be recommended to the staff member or student.

The Chairperson of Nursing Services for the District, or designee, will contact the Allegheny County Health Department, make a joint determination about isolation or quarantine needs, and comply with the recommendation(s).

Employees or students who demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms, but receive an alternate diagnosis from a medical professional, will be required to have a release from their healthcare provider prior to being permitted to return, which will be reviewed by the District Chairperson for Nursing Services.

Responding to a Confirmed or Probable Case

In consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department, appropriately trained Mt. Lebanon School District employees can assist public health staff who are responsible for case investigation and contact tracing for every case of COVID-19, regardless of level of community transmission or number of cases identified in a school setting. Refer to DOH's [Contact Tracing Frequently Asked Questions](#) for a complete overview of the case investigation and contact tracing process.

Public health staff will work with school administrators to determine whether entire classrooms or other cohort groups need to be quarantined. On December 4, 2020, the Department of Health notified health care providers that, effective immediately, it has aligned its quarantine guidance for people exposed to COVID-19 with the new [guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) that provides an option for a 10-day quarantine without testing or a seven-day quarantine with a negative test on or after day-five of quarantine.

If the person is present on school property when DOH or CMHD staff notify the school of the positive case information, the person should immediately, but discreetly, be taken to the COVID-19 related isolation space for pick up (if student) or asked to return home (if staff).

- Implement procedures for safely transporting home sick individuals.
- Contact DOH or the CMHD for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.

- The entire building does not need to be evacuated.
- Wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If not feasible, wait as long as possible. If seven days have passed since the sick individual was in the affected area, cleaning is not needed.
- Close off areas used by the sick person and do not use again before cleaning and disinfecting. Follow CDC Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting protocols.
- Implement a communication system for notifying impacted employees and families of exposures and closures. Schools should, however, take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications from DOH or the CMHD to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the DOH or CMHD staff.

The [Mt. Lebanon School District Dashboard](#) will provide case data in our schools. All data will be updated on an on-going basis so charts will change as the District is informed of new cases. The Dashboard consists of two elements:

- The first chart provides a snapshot of the total number of employee and student positive cases of COVID-19 in the District, as well as those in quarantine.
- The second chart displays the total COVID -19 cases by month.

The District will notify impacted employees and families via email when an employee or student has been in a classroom, bus, sports team, or activity with a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Responding to a COVID-19 Outbreak in Schools

If a school is [experiencing an outbreak or a rise in cases](#), the school will contact the ACHD if additional guidance on outbreak response is needed. To preserve safe in-person learning to the greatest extent possible, ACHD staff will work with schools to determine if a closure is necessary and if so, the appropriate closure length, with a maximum 14-day recommendation for full incubation period.

The decision to close for any length of time remains a local decision. Schools may use other criteria to determine if a suspension of in-person learning is necessary for their local school community.

	<p>Athletic Trainers should follow guidance by the National Athletic Trainers' Association as it pertains to COVID-19.</p>
<p><u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></p>	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will refer for diagnostic testing any student, teacher, or staff member who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 at school. Additionally, Mt. Lebanon School District will refer for diagnostic testing any asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals who were exposed to someone with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 (close contact).</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks (Ginkgo), is offering COVID-19 testing services at no cost to all K-12 schools across the Commonwealth for the entire 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to share our partnership with Concentric by Ginkgo regarding K-12 COVID Testing in our schools.</p>
<p><u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u></p>	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District, in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and local pharmacies, offered employees, students (initially 16 and older; 12 and older once approved), and community members the opportunity to receive a vaccination. Clinics in 2021 were hosted by the District on: February 5/March 10 clinic; March 17/April 15 clinic; April 29/May 13 clinic; May 20/June 4 clinic.</p> <p>In the 2021-2022 school year, the District remains committed to offering vaccination clinics and/or booster clinics if necessary to students, employees, and community members as needed, particularly once a vaccine is approved for students under the age of 12.</p>
<p>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will consider appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities as needed.</p> <p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will also provide appropriate resources to support the Health & Safety needs of students, as well as utilize elements of the District's Social, Emotional, Behavior, and Physical Health Recovery Plan, as needed.</p>
<p>Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will review and consider the guidance and recommendations as they arise from the Center for Disease Control, Allegheny County Health Department, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Governor's Office and will communicate and coordinate with these entities when implementing any necessary precautions.</p>

	<p>The District will continue to comply with all laws, rules and regulations as directed by applicable Federal, Pennsylvania or local authorities.</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), drawing on the expertise of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and PIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), offers guidance on how PIAA member schools may consider approaching the “Return to Competition” for high school athletics in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>We also realize that knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information becomes available. The District will adjust these guidelines as needed to make the return to the classroom as safe as possible realizing that no environment can be completely risk free.</p>
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The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to take any required action and to amend this Health and Safety Plan in response to additional guidance or Orders received from the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Departments of Education or Health, and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. The Superintendent also has authority to suspend in-person activity or otherwise adjust mitigation strategies (including face coverings and distancing) in one or more buildings, programs or activities, on a case by case basis, where circumstances warrant, for an amount of time determined to be advisable by the Superintendent.

Section 520.1 - 2021-22 School Year (Appendix A)

As communicated to chief school administrators on July 6, 2020, Section 520.1 of the School Code provides flexibility to meet minimum instructional time requirements in the event of an emergency that prevents a school entity from providing for the attendance of all pupils or usual hours of classes at the school entity. As occurred for the 2020-21 school year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) considers the World Health Organization-declared Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a global pandemic and an emergency as contemplated by Section 520.1 for the 2021-22 school year and the Board of School Directors of Mt. Lebanon School District also again finds that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes such an emergency. Nothing in Section 520.1 of the School Code should be construed to extend beyond the 2021-22 school year. A local education agency (LEA) that elects to implement temporary provisions in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic may meet the minimum 180 days of instruction and 900 hours of instruction at the elementary level and 990 hours of instruction at the secondary level through a combination of face-to-face and remote instruction, consistent with the requirements outlined in PDE's July 6, 2020, guidance. The Emergency Instructional Time Template is attached as Appendix A.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Mt. Lebanon School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 14, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 Yes

 1 No

Affirmed on: **July 14, 2021**

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Jacob Wyland

(Print Name of Board President)