

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: Upper Perkiomen School District

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: February 24, 2022

Date of Last Revision: March 10, 2022

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 will comply with all federal, state, local mandates as well as any Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) mandates as it pertains to COVID-19 and the health & safety of our students, staff, visitors and community. 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 (PA DOH), 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 county or 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 ;	<i>As of February 28, 2022, masking is strongly recommended, but optional.</i> Masks will be required for symptomatic students within each school's Health Suite.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Instructional settings will be set up to offer social distancing to the maximum extent feasible.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	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. 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>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.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;	<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/manufacture guidelines, as feasible.</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. Additional ventilation will be utilized in isolation spaces.</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>In collaboration with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health , the District will revert to the guidelines outlined in the district Immunizations and Communicable Disease Policy 203.</p> <p>Single case contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19 will be eliminated as per the shift to Policy 203. General broad-based notifications will be provided to those in the exposure setting.</p> <p>Pursuant to the policy, the district will continue to monitor for outbreaks, which have been defined by the CDC as 3 or more positive cases among students/staff without other identified epidemiological links with onset within 14 days in a single group.</p> <p>In the case of an outbreak, the district will follow requirements of Policy 203 and Montgomery County Public Health Code, Chapter 3, Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases. Individuals identified as close contacts within an outbreak environment (classroom, group/activity) will be asked to "mask to stay" for 10 days in school and during extracurricular environments in lieu of quarantine. Individuals that refuse to mask/test following an exposure, will be required to quarantine for 10 days.</p> <p>Individuals with mask exemptions will need to follow the exclusion guidance should they be exposed to a positive case of Covid-19. Unless, they are capable of short term masking for 10 days post exposure.</p>
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<p>The district will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mask to Stay ● Voluntary Symptomatic Testing ● Voluntary Test to Stay for staff with a positive household case.

	<p>Beginning in March 2022, the district will utilize CHOP to secure Flow Flex at-home test kits for symptomatic and quarantine related testing.</p> <p>The district will utilize parameters of the district sick policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home if you are sick • Self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and positive tests of COVID
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<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>COVID vaccination is not required to attend school.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<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 there is a concern with 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 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>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>The District will consult with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health on any decision related to outbreak management and modifications to the mitigation efforts utilized in the district schools, classes, and associated activities/groups.</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 September 9, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: March 10, 2022

By:

Judy S. Maginnis
(Signature* of Board President)

Judy Maginnis

(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.