



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

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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: February 28, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: March 15, 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?

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

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

- 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><b>*Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p>Effective February 25, 2022, the CDC released <a href="#">guidance</a> for masking correlated to transmission levels in a community. Specifically:</p> <p>Low (Green):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> </ul> <p>Medium (Yellow):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions</li> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> </ul> <p>High (Red):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors in public</li> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines</li> <li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> if you have symptoms</li> <li>• Additional precautions may be needed for people <a href="#">at high risk for severe illness</a></li> </ul> <p>People may choose to mask indoors and on school buses at any time.</p>
<p><b>Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a>;</b></p>	<p>In accordance with CDC guidance, students and employees should maintain physical distance to the greatest extent possible, particularly if you are not <a href="#">up to date on COVID-19 vaccines</a> or you are at <a href="#">higher risk of getting very sick</a> with COVID-19.</p>

	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will make changes to classroom layouts to maximize distance between students, where possible. Beginning February 15, 2022, Mt. Lebanon School District resumed normal utilization of its cafeteria spaces and seating capacity for lunch service in all schools.</p> <p>Alternate entrances, as well as staggered arrival/dismissal schedules, may be employed to reduce congregate settings.</p> <p>On May 31, 2021, indoor and outdoor gathering limits were fully lifted in Pennsylvania. Therefore, concerts, events, assemblies, and extracurricular activities resumed allowing spectators.</p> <p>Effective February 15, 2022 the District resumed normal opportunities for classroom visitors and volunteers. All visitors will be required to follow any and all COVID protocols as required by the District.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</a></u></b></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: <a href="#">CDC Guidance on Handwashing</a>.</p> <p>The Mt. Lebanon School District shall provide communication to and professional development for students and employees re: <a href="#">CDC Guidelines on How to Stop the Spread of Germs</a>.</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><b><u><a href="#">Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</a></u></b></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: <a href="#">CDC Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting Your Facility</a>.</p>

	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on school buses at least daily, including desks, door handles and sinks, using <a href="#">Peroxide Multi-Surface Cleaner &amp; Disinfectant</a> (or similar product).</p> <p><a href="#">CDC Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting your Facility</a> 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 <a href="#">Clorox Total 360 System</a>, 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><b><a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and</b></p>	<p><b>All employees and students should <a href="#">self-screen</a> each day prior to reporting to the school building.</b></p>

**[quarantine](#), in collaboration with the State and local health departments;**

According to the [CDC](#), people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild 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

**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](#), or test positive for [COVID-19](#).**

Consistent with the February 25, 2022 [CDC guidance and effective March 15, 2022](#), the District will implement a cluster approach for contact tracing and communication to impacted parties when Allegheny County is in the low or medium phase. The District will implement an individual approach for contact tracing and communication to impacted parties when Allegheny County is in the high phase.

A cluster is defined as two or more cases among students/staff without other identified epidemiological linkages, with onset within 14 days in a single classroom or core group (e.g., team or activity).

When an individual is identified as a close contact, the [CDC guidelines](#) are recommended.

#### **Isolation Protocol**

Should an individual student, employee, or visitor display COVID-19 symptoms, they should not enter the school building, and/or for students and employees be placed into an isolation

room awaiting participation in the District's symptomatic, rapid antigen test program, and/or be immediately removed from the school building if not wishing to participate in the symptomatic, rapid antigen test program. If a student, the parent or guardian will be notified.

Testing for COVID-19 will be recommended to the staff member or student. On March 21, 2022, Mt. Lebanon School District, in partnership with **Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks**, implemented symptomatic, rapid antigen COVID-19 tests to permit students and employees with COVID-19 symptoms to remain in person provided there is a negative test result. All students and employees who wish to participate in this program [must complete the consent form](#) to do so.

If necessary, 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 when Allegheny County is in the High Phase**

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. Public health staff may work with school administrators to determine whether entire classrooms or other cohort groups need to be quarantined. 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) or provided the opportunity to participate in the Test-to-Stay program, as appropriate.

- 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.

### **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><b><u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></b></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.</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with <b>Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks</b> (Ginkgo), is offering COVID-19 Pool 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 <a href="#">our partnership</a> with Concentric by Ginkgo regarding K-12 COVID Pool Testing in our schools.</p> <p>On February 7, 2022, Mt. Lebanon School District, in partnership with <b>Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks</b>, implemented the Test-to-Stay (TTS) program. TTS allows individuals who are identified as a <a href="#">close contact to a case of COVID-19 in certain school settings</a> to continue in-person learning, so long as they remain asymptomatic and serially test negative for COVID-19.</p> <p>On March 21, 2022, Mt. Lebanon School District, in partnership with <b>Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks</b>, implemented symptomatic, rapid antigen COVID-19 tests to permit students and employees with COVID-19 symptoms to remain in person provided there is a negative test result. All students and employees who wish to participate in this program <a href="#">must complete the consent form</a> to do so.</p>
<p><b><u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u></b></p>	<p>The Mt. Lebanon School District, in partnership with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and local pharmacies, offered employees, students (initially 16 and older; then 12 and older, then 5 and older), 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, November 2 clinic, November 12/December 3 clinic, and December 21 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.</p>
<p><b><u>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies;</u></b></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 &amp; Safety needs of students, as well as utilize elements of the District's Social, Emotional,</p>

<b>and</b>	Behavior, and Physical Health Recovery Plan, as needed.
<b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b>	<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>

**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:



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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Jacob Wyland

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*(Print Name of Board President)*