

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.

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: August 25,, 2022

Date of Last Revision: August 25, 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 (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 22-23 school year. 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;	The district will encourage confirmed positive cases and close contacts to follow the masking recommendation for Positive Cases and Exposures .
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	No specific social distancing strategy is recommended by the CDC.
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)
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	PER CDC guidance schools will clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>The district will follow the Policy 203: Immunizations and Communicable Diseases</p> <p>Per policy 203, parents/guardians, and staff are encouraged to utilize personal responsibility as the district will not be contact tracing for confirmed cases of COVID-19.</p> <p>The district will encourage confirmed positive cases and close contacts to follow the CDC guidelines for People with COVID-19 (Isolate for 5 days, Mask for days 6-10)</p>

<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Students, staff and parents will be given guidelines about signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and recommended not to report to a school / work if those symptoms exist.</p> <p>School nurses will monitor staff and student health within the building. It is recommended that sick students/staff stay home until symptoms resolve.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The district will continue to provide regular updates on local community COVID-19 vaccination efforts.</p> <p>COVID vaccination is not required to attend school.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students/families and staff who self-identify as high risk for illness will meet with the school-based team or the district Human Resources office to develop a plan to address requests for alternative arrangements and accommodations in the event there is a concern related to a communicable disease.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The District will consult with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health as needed per Policy 203 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases</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: **Yes** **No**

Affirmed on: August 25, 2022

By:

(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.