



UPPER ADAMS SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 15, 2023

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 Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Upper Adams School District (UASD)

Initial Effective Date: June 15, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 15, 2023

Date of Last Revision: (LAST REVISED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD- February 21, 2023)

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?

During the 2020-21 school year, UASD operated with total in-person learning for students in grades K-6 and students in grades 7-12 operated in various forms of hybrid learning. In the 2021-22 and the 2022-23 school year, UASD operated with in-person learning at each school facility for all students in grades K-12. **In 2023-2024 UASD will fully reopen for all students in grades K-12 with in-person learning at each school facility.** In order to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the district will consider the most recent CDC, PA Dept of Health, and PA Dept of Education guidance for the reopening and operation of school facilities, to the greatest extent possible. To prevent the spread of disease, staff and students will be encouraged to stay home when not feeling well.

This Health and Safety Plan (2021 and beyond) was created based on our local school community context, in consultation with local medical professionals, and incorporates science and best practice guidance. The plan prioritizes the health and safety of students, employees, and families.

The Team who created the June 2020 Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan and also assisted with revisions during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years, will continue to meet and review local health data and guidance provided by the CDC, PA Dept of Health, and PA Dept of Education. The Team will review the current prevention and mitigation strategies as related to health and safety preparedness, response, and plan implementation. Recommended changes will be presented to the School Board in public session for consideration and action. The most recent copy of the district's Health and Safety Plan is posted to the district website.

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?

UASD decisions regarding continuity of services are guided by the following:

- Ensuring academic excellence to be college and career ready;
- Making all decisions through an equity lens;
- Considering the well-being of our students and staff; and
- Developing an instructional model that is in-person, but flexible if needed.

Academic Needs

UASD staff will continue to address students' academic needs by:

- Assessing and monitoring student readiness and learning gaps using a variety of tools including various reading and math grade level assessments, PSSA and Keystone data, and formative assessments to name a few examples.
- Implement services and supports to address learning gaps through instructional support for students, small group instruction, and differentiating, individualizing, and personalizing instruction.
- Provide access to academic instruction to students in quarantine/isolation due to the pandemic.

Student and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

During the 2023-24 school year, student and staff social, emotional, and mental health is monitored through referrals to the various building-level child-study teams, building student assistance programs, visits to school counselor and mental health workers, school nurses, and various surveys of students, staff, families, and the community.

During the 2023-24 school year UASD is contracting additional services to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students and families. Our staff will continually be informed of the various services provided to them by the school district via emails and other district communications.

Food Services

Families will be responsible for meal purchases and they are encouraged to complete the Free & Reduced Lunch Application. Additionally, we will continue to work collaboratively with our food service contractor to interpret, plan, and implement food service components that best meet the needs of our school community.

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>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>The Upper Adams School District (UASD) will consider updated guidance, recommendations, and mandates in collaboration with local, state, & federal authorities with regards to COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, efforts, & strategies when making future plan revisions.</p> <p>Face coverings are optional for staff and students at UASD.</p> <p>Adults and students are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in school environments such as buildings and transportation due to individual health concerns and to exercise their own caution.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The Upper Adams School District (UASD) will consider updated guidance, recommendations, and mandates in collaboration with local, state, & federal authorities with regards to COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, efforts, & strategies when making future plan revisions.</p> <p>If needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and staff will be encouraged to physically distance themselves as much as possible in large spaces, hallways, and stairways.• Instructional spaces will be arranged to support physical distancing to the extent feasible through class scheduling, seating assignments, and classroom layout.

- Cohorts will be used in settings where feasible (i.e. buses, homerooms, teams, etc.)
- Volunteers and visitors will be asked to comply with screening (if you are sick, please don't come into our facilities) and any facility health and safety protocols once entering the facility.
- Field Trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for health and safety.
- Extra-Curricular activities and Athletics will adhere to this Health and Safety Plan for all events and activities. UASD will consider any health and/or safety protocols outlined by the NFHS (National Federation of High School Sports) and/or PIAA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association) for athletic practices and events.

Possible ways to modify facilities, if necessary:

- Rooms can be arranged in a way that allows for social distancing to take place to the greatest extent feasible.
- Students could have an assigned seat to minimize cross contamination.
- Stagger the use of the cafeteria and other congregate settings.

- Post student friendly signs in the office, restrooms, hallways and classrooms.
- All visitors and volunteers will report to the office to ensure they are following safety guidelines and/or protocols.
- Limit equipment use and maintain social distancing.
- Students can be issued their own supplies.
- Plan to reduce the number of students in one area.
- Reduce the number of times students will need to enter the hallways.
- Create schedules that reduce the number of transitions students have between learning spaces and teachers.
- Limit the number of assemblies or special events that involve large groups.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

The Upper Adams School District will follow the updated guidance, recommendations, and mandates in collaboration with local, state, & federal authorities with regards to COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, efforts, & strategies such as:

- Frequent handwashing and use of sanitizer (ex. morning, before lunch, after lunch, and after restroom use).
- Teach students to cover cough and sneezes with elbow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents, students, and staff are required to report COVID cases and exposure to their school building nurses. Teachers will report student health concerns to the nurse as they arise during the school day. ● If a student demonstrates symptoms: Call the nurse's office. Send the student to the nurse. Nurse verifies student symptoms. Nurse makes immediate call to parents/guardians as needed. Students will be sent home as needed. ● Establish isolation rooms to use as needed. ● We will consider the measures provided by the DOH
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Nursing staff may provide resources to staff, students/families for obtaining screening or diagnostic testing. Test results may be requested to guide decision-making for further infection control measures.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The district administration will work with local vaccination providers to coordinate and share locations for the school community to consider, schedule, and receive a vaccination.</p> <p>The Upper Adams School District School Community will receive information regarding vaccinations via the district mass calling system, emails, posting on social media, and/or postings on the district webpage www.upperadams.org.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbally reinforce proper hygiene.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>As needed, Upper Adams School District will follow the updated guidance, recommendations, and mandates in collaboration with local, state, & federal authorities with regards to COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, efforts, & strategies including, but not limited to following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting as needed of high touch surfaces and objects within the school day including door handles, sink handles, restroom fixtures, tables and desks. • Increased social distancing and hygiene practices. • Increase of and/or mandated use of PPE equipment (face masks, gloves, etc.), as needed. • Increased ventilation and circulation efficiency will be programmed and monitored for all classrooms and common areas.
<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>	<p>The Upper Adams School District will consult the updated guidance, recommendations, and follow mandates in collaboration with local, state, & federal authorities with regards to COVID-19 mitigation guidelines, efforts, & strategies.</p> <p>Appropriately vaccinated and masked students and staff should not need to quarantine in situations where COVID-19 is identified.</p>

<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The Upper Adams School District will work with families of students with disabilities regarding appropriate accommodations. Some examples include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District will share the health and safety plan with staff. Staff members will contact the administration if they have any health needs or concerns related to the plan. ● Health records and individual health safety plans will be reviewed by nurses to determine if there are students with severe health issues. ● Meet with staff members/parents of students who have severe health concerns to determine what accommodations need to be implemented. ● Ensure that teachers have been trained on the needs/accommodations for students with severe health needs.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Upper Adams School District Superintendent and School Nurses will communicate via email, telephone, and/or scheduled ZOOM/face-to-face meetings to coordinate and implement information from state and local health officials.</p> <p>The information from state and local health officials will also be communicated, coordinated, and implemented with the assistance of the Upper Adams School District Administration Team, including</p>

members from our contractors for district food, transportation, technology, human resources, and property.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Upper Adams School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 15, 2024.

If any portion of the Upper Adams School District Health and Safety Plan needs to be changed between voting School Board Meetings, the Superintendent will consult with the Upper Adams School Board President, Vice President, and/or Treasurer to make needed changes for the safety of students and staff.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

_____ **Absent**

Affirmed on: August 15, 2023

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.