

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 2023

LEAs are required to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through **Sept. 30, 2023**. Each time, local education agencies (LEAs) must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. The purpose of the plan is to keep stakeholders informed.

Every LEA should complete the addendum and upload it to ePlan in the LEA document library and post it to the LEA's website (**March 1 and Sept. 15**). 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.

Please consider the following when completing the addendum:

- Ensure the LEA used multiple models of engagement offered to stakeholders. Examples may include surveys, in-person or virtual committee meetings, town hall meetings, or other inclusive engagement opportunities.
- LEAs should engage all applicable groups noted in meaningful consultation during the crafting of the plan and when making any significant revisions or updates to the plan.
- The number of stakeholders engaged should represent the composition of students. For example, if students with disabilities make up 15 percent of students, then 10-20 percent of respondents should represent this subgroup.
- Ensure the stakeholder engagement happened prior to the development/revision of the plan.
- The LEA must engage the health department in the development and revision of the plan. This is different from providing the health department with COVID-19 numbers.
- Plans must explicitly address every bullet point in Question 3 regarding district policies and strategies.
- Plans require local board approval and public posting.
- LEAs must update the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.
- All revisions must include an explanation and rationale, with meaningful public consultation and in an understandable format. The American Rescue Plan (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.

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) helps safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. LEAs are required to update the plan every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. LEAs also must review and update their plans and ensure they align with any significant changes to 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.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

LEA Name: Warren County Schools

Date: August 11, 2023

### 1. Describe how the LEA has continued to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.

Stakeholder input was collected through different means. An updated survey was sent out through school email to all families of students of Warren County in order to collect new and pertinent information from families as to how the funding should be spent to meet the needs of families in our community. The county commission has also been addressed by the ESSER point of contact and the Director of Schools to report any updates on remaining funds and projects supported with relief funding. Stakeholders are engaged on open house nights and family engagement nights as well as through IEP meetings. School board members are updated through monthly board meetings.

### 2. Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.

Communication occurs quarterly with the Warren County Health Council to continue to grow partnerships. Members share resources and contacts with concerning matters around the health and safety of students and staff of Warren County Schools. There is also an open line of communication for case by case situations in which more guidance is needed for individuals involved. Our district health services director meets quarterly with the state school nurse consultant to discuss all things nursing and health for the community.

**3. Provide the extent to which the LEA has updated adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.**

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p> <p><i>Please see attached policies (6.403, 6.402, 3.202, and 4.206)</i></p> <p><i>The district will utilize policies 6.403, 6.402, 3.202, and 4.206 and will follow the students' IEPs to make decisions regarding appropriate accommodations as well as implement safe guards concerning COVID-19. These may include but not be limited to the following: providing homebound services according to physician's recommendation, ensuring that our schools' Emergency Preparedness Plans are implemented and maintained to address medical emergencies/pandemic, and providing COVID-19 testing for all students who submit with 2 or more symptoms with parental consent.</i></p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p><i>Warren County Schools will implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures to limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. Students will eat meals in the cafeteria where proper hygiene and distancing (as feasible) will be encouraged. Lockers will be available. Warren County Schools will encourage students to avoid congregating during class changes or by lockers. Extracurricular activities will be allowed, and attendees are always encouraged to take preventative measures.</i></p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p><i>Warren County Schools will implement the following standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures: providing hand sanitizer for students and staff, posting signage in school hallways and bathrooms, teaching and reinforcing the universal precaution measures for respiratory and hand hygiene and providing hand washing classes for PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students.</i></p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p> <p><i>We will adhere to all standards and codes for indoor air quality and healthy learning environments. Nurses have air purifiers in every clinic in order to continually boost indoor air quality and minimize the chances of airborne diseases.</i></p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p> <p><i>Guidelines for Isolation for Positive COVID cases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• All students/staff who test positive for COVID must isolate out of school for a minimum of 5 days after onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic, 5 days from the date tested and may leave isolation after they are fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and show improvement in symptoms and should wear a face mask when around others until day 10.</i></li> <li><i>• If symptoms persist for a full 10 days, the isolation period will be required.</i></li> <li><i>• Any days missed during the 10-day isolation period will be coded as an excused absence with proof of a positive test.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Guidelines for Close Contacts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Schools are no longer required to contact trace but will monitor outbreaks and send notifications as necessary.</i></li> <li><i>• An asymptomatic close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID will continue to come to school. It is recommended, but not required to mask for 10 days from the date of their last close contact with the positive case and be tested on day 5.</i></li> <li><i>• If the close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms and tests positive for COVID, they must isolate from other people and follow isolation guidelines as stated above.</i></li> <li><i>• The Distance Learning (D) code will be used for student absences related to COVID. If there are situations where that code is being abused, we will handle it on a case-by-case basis.</i></li> </ul>

<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
<i>The TDOH provided free, professional COVID test kits in August 2023. Every school health clinic in our school district, including the central office, will be able to provide free COVID testing for staff and students as long as testing kits last. As tests run out, our county's on-site COVID Testing Center/Health Clinic will provide COVID testing for employees.</i>
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
<i>There is a partnership with the Warren County Health Department for flu and covid vaccinations. There is a clinic in each school of our district. Hepatitis B Vaccines are offered to all staff. An additional partnership with the University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Nursing and Health Hero can provide all required compliance vaccines to students free of cost at two on-site school locations.</i>
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>
<i>Since the CDC and TDOH lifted COVID restrictions, mask wearing is optional for staff and students for Warren County Schools. The nursing staff at each school can provide correct mask wearing, if needed.</i>

**4. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services that address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

School nurses and Warren County Schools continue to educate staff and students in order to maintain infection control. Nurses always recommend follow-up with healthcare providers and recommend staying home if sick. Health plans are updated annually with parents of children with health plans. There are annual trainings with staff for administering meds, managing medical situations (seizures, asthma) and mandatory required annual trainings for the health and safety of staff and students. Counselors meet to train on the mental health gateway for staff and students to help link families and staff to mental health services. Physical Education teachers are trained with CPR every 2 years. Two new clinics at schools were updated and have state of the art space to serve the people in schools and the community. Medical Analysis in partnership with Warren County Schools provide services on-site at the COVID Testing/On-Site Health Clinic. The clinic can provide care for the school employees and their immediate families.