

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: **Robertson County Schools**

Date: **September 7, 2023**

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

Robertson County Schools utilized a variety of methods to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan. The district posted updates and collected feedback on a dedicated informational webpage, disseminated an ESSER Mid-Year Review Newsletter featuring plan highlights, and a link to gather public input. The district held community information sessions and presentations, shared information on social media channels and through direct messaging to parents and media. The district leadership held live streamed meetings. Live streamed meetings were publicized and made accessible to all stakeholders. The Director of Schools has gathered feedback during conference calls with leadership from the Robertson County health department, local medical authorities, and emergency response organizations.

The ESSER Mid-Year Review Newsletter featuring plan highlights and a link for public input was distributed to all Robertson County staff and to parents and students through a School Messenger text and follow-up email. In an effort to connect with and inform as many stakeholders as possible, we solicited public feedback from community and civic organizations through the local Spanish Radio Station, articles in *The Connection* and *The Smokey Barn News*. The district hosts Leadership Robertson annually and updates membership regarding ESSER initiatives annually. The Supervisor of Federal Programs requested stakeholder feedback as part of an interview on a local radio show. Finally, we utilized our network partners to disseminate and extend our reach to community and civic partners throughout the county.

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

The Director of Schools gathers feedback during scheduled conference calls with leadership from the Robertson County health department, local medical authorities, and emergency response organizations. The health department continues to work in concert with the district Nursing Coordinator and leadership in the development and revisions to our plan. This includes but is not limited to recommendations and guidance regarding contact tracing, Health Clinic implementation plan, recommendations regarding Covid screening and testing, and renovations and upgrades needed in our school nursing stations. Robertson County Schools is dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of our staff and students. To ensure that we are following the most up to date health and safety guidelines and precautions we will continue to develop and refine our continuous plan in cooperation with the health department and other members of the Robertson County medical and emergency response task force.

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>The Robertson County School District continues to provide accommodations for our students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. Students with significant health concerns receive accommodations per their individual education plan which takes into consideration the medical needs of the student. Health safety protocols, including any personal protective equipment, will be provided to the student to ensure that the student is able to remain in school while adhering to the medical needs identified. If in the event the student requires a change of placement due to a health concern, the district will work in a timely manner to ensure the needs of the student are met and that there are no lapses in service provision. Students who have been diagnosed with severe illnesses may be approved to participate synchronously in their classes via Microsoft TEAMS.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p>
<p>Robertson County Schools will promote social distancing inside the school building, when possible, to limit the exposure of COVID-19. Funding to contract with the company, Medical Analysis, to establish a clinic for school district employees and their families will pay for medical equipment and supplies necessary to conduct screenings, tests, exams, and salaries for the clinic staff. Additionally, ELC funds were used to purchase rapid Covid tests to be used in the school nursing clinics with staff. The clinic will provide a comprehensive array of health services to school district employees and their families, resulting in quicker diagnosis of health issues, including but not limited to, COVID-19. This will make for a safer and healthier environment in our schools and will substantially impact teacher and student attendance in a positive direction thereby impacting the ultimate goal of in-person teaching and learning. The Health Clinic nurse practitioner will assist in contact tracing, family communication, collaboration with administration, and collection of required school-based data collection associated with testing and test results. Additionally, our ESSER 3.0 Plan has been revised to include the purchase of 20 rest mats for pre-k students. The purchase of these mats eliminates the need to share mats among pre-k students, which will reduce the spread of germs and viruses.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p>
<p>Signs are posted at schools and throughout the district to remind students and staff about proper hand hygiene. As indicated in the Updated Health and Safety Procedures referred to in Appendix A, proper handwashing and coughing etiquette will be reinforced and taught in classrooms.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p>
<p>Robertson County is investing ESSER funds in new HVAC systems at Krisle Elementary, Westside Elementary, and Coopertown Elementary to reduce the risk of airborne transmission of the COVID-19 virus and increase the safety of in-person learning. ESSER 2.0 funds have been allocated for the purchase of HVAC equipment for Innovation Academy. Up to date technology within HVAC systems and controls are critical to COVID-19 mitigation efforts due to their ability to control airborne pollutants and viruses, and to distribute fresh outside air in classrooms. Further the ELC grant will fund HVAC services/maintenance to ensure air quality throughout the district. ESSER funds will also be utilized for The Greenbrier Middle School (GMS) and Phoenix Academy renovation projects promoting safe in-person instruction for students. These projects address overcrowding due to growth in enrollment. The projects will provide safe spaces</p>

following current CDC recommendations. Therefore, offering the benefits of in-person learning that supports student, faculty, and staff health needs. Additionally, Robertson County Schools has funded HEPA Air purifiers and UV Sterilizers for school nursing clinics through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant. These Units will clean air and deliver disinfection by irradiation to kill microorganisms and reduce the spread of the virus.

The following cleaning procedures are referred to in the Updated Health and Safety Procedures from August 28, 2023 in Appendix A are:

- Regular cleaning and disinfection protocols for classrooms and common areas.
- Additional disinfection of areas impacted by illness will be conducted.
- Proper handwashing and coughing etiquette will be retaught.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Contact tracing procedures referred to in the Updated Health and Safety Procedures from August 28, 2023 in Appendix A are:

- Students with symptoms of illness will be sent to the school nurse for evaluation. Follow up with a doctor will be recommended as needed.
- Students/staff testing positive for Covid-19 should remain at home for five days from the onset of symptoms.
- Students/staff returning after testing positive are strongly encouraged to wear masks per CDC guidelines.

***See all updated procedures, protocols, and guidelines in appendices A-C of this document.**

Diagnostic and screening testing

ELC funding to establish a clinic for school district employees and their families has been allocated and the clinic officially opened on August 1, 2022. The clinic provides a comprehensive array of health services to school district employees, and their families resulting in quicker diagnosis of health issues, including but not limited to, COVID-19. Additionally, ELC funds were used to purchase rapid Covid tests to be used in the school nursing clinics with staff.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The district provided opportunities for all teachers and staff across the county to get the Pfizer vaccine in February 2021, and the following month for dose 2 to complete the vaccination series. Additionally, the Health Department offered the Pfizer booster dose 3 to all teachers and staff on November 1, 2021 at the Health Department drive thru testing site. Robertson County will continue to encourage educators, other staff and students, if eligible, to get vaccinated at any local health provider that are providing vaccination opportunities. Beginning August 1, 2022 The Robertson County Health Center will offer Covid vaccinations and booster shots to district employees and families free of charge.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Although not required, masks have been shown to limit the spread of COVID-19 and have been strongly encouraged by local, state, and national health officials. Moreover, ELC funds were used to purchase masks and additional Personal Protective Equipment for schools.

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.

The Robertson County School District's Continuity Plan includes identifying students in need of academic support and providing intervention resources and support. Eligible students are provided with additional intervention, remediation, and tutoring to support their learning. social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students are served through a focus on integrating social emotional learning using the restorative practices model and RTI²-B. Four additional district behavior paraprofessionals have been added using ESSER funds to provide on-going consultation and support for school teams with students experiencing behavioral challenges. Professional development opportunities to support SEL and mental health for students are offered throughout the school year. An Employee Assistance Program is available to assist staff with life and work issues. District personnel such as guidance counselors and family resource center personnel help families with other needs and supports including food and personal items. Robertson County is able to ensure that all students of all income levels can access high-quality, nutritious meals during the 2023-2024 school year by providing free breakfast and lunch at all schools. The district partners with a variety of community organizations to enable food distribution to families to help meet community needs beyond the scope of the school nutrition program. The RCS Health team continues to implement COVID-19 health precaution guidance and supports to schools including professional learning opportunities, and consultation support. Services have been expanded to include an additional nurse to provide a nurse in each building and a District Health Clinic staffed by a certified Family Nurse Practitioner, a Physician's Assistant, a Medical Assistant, and a Registered Radiologic Technologist to assist schools with contact tracing protocols, mitigation strategies, and other needs. These services are designed to assist with employee recruitment and retention by providing convenient free high-quality primary care, vaccines, and preventative care, therefore, reducing healthcare costs and lowering levels of absenteeism. To ensure continuity of learning in the event a student must quarantine or self-isolate, Robertson County has created procedures in alignment with State Board of Education rules that allow for students to access classwork remotely through the TEAMS platform during their quarantine period. Students who actively participate and complete assignments can be counted present for the school day.



Appendix A:

Health and Safety Procedures Fall 2023

Masks

- Although masks are not required, they have been shown to limit the spread of COVID-19 and have been strongly encouraged by local, state, and national health officials.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining Procedures

- Students with symptoms of illness will be sent to the school nurse for evaluation. Follow up with a doctor will be recommended as needed.
- Students/staff testing positive for Covid-19 should remain home for five days from the onset of symptoms or date of positive test if asymptomatic
- Students/staff returning after testing positive are strongly encouraged to wear masks per CDC guidelines.

Social Distancing

- Robertson County Schools will promote social distancing inside the school building, when necessary, to limit the exposure of COVID-19.

Cleaning and other procedures

- Regular cleaning and disinfection protocols will be used for classrooms and common areas.
- Additional disinfection of areas impacted by illness will be conducted.
- Proper handwashing and coughing etiquette will be retaught.

Appendix B:

Students/Staff who test POSITIVE for COVID

(Regardless of vaccination status)

- Students/staff who test positive for COVID should remain home for 5 days from symptom onset or date of positive test if asymptomatic.
- Students/staff may return to school on day 6 if their symptoms are improved, they have been fever-free for 24 hours, and they provide the appropriate documentation.
- Students/Staff returning after a positive case should be encouraged to wear a mask while at school through day 10 following their positive result.

** If you are exposed to Covid-19 and have had a confirmed positive case within the last 90 days, you do not need to quarantine but should follow all other recommendations above.

CDC Recommendations for Students/Staff EXPOSED to Covid-19

If you are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated:

- Quarantine at home for 5 days after the exposure.
- Wear a mask when around others for 10 days after your exposure.
- Get tested on day 5, even if you do not develop symptoms.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms for 10 days after exposure.
- If you develop symptoms, isolate yourself and get tested.

If you are up to date on Covid-19 vaccines:

- No quarantine is necessary
- Get tested on day 5, even if you do not develop symptoms.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms for 10 days after exposure.
- If you develop symptoms, isolate yourself and get tested.
- Wear a mask when around others for 10 days after your exposure.

Robertson County Schools modifications to CDC guidelines

- Students/Staff exposed to Covid-19 are strongly encouraged to follow all recommendations from the CDC. However, the quarantining of asymptomatic students/staff will not be mandated if the exposed individual continues to come to school.
- Students/Staff exposed to Covid-19 are encouraged to wear a mask while at school through day 10 following their last exposure to the positive person however, masking will not be mandated.
- Absences for students who choose to quarantine after an exposure will be excused with a parent note.

Appendix C:



Robertson County Schools COVID-19 Illness Protocol Guidelines

- Any student/staff member who develops signs/symptoms of illness during the school day see the School Nurse for evaluation.
- Students exhibiting fever (100.0 and above), will remain in the Nurse's clinic with a mask.
- Staff members with fever (100.0 and above) will be sent home.
- Student emergency contacts will be notified to pick the student up from school.
- Any student/staff member sent home ill must remain home until symptoms are resolved and they have remained fever free for a full 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications).
- Any student/staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 must remain isolated at home for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of symptoms or date of positive test if asymptomatic. Once the student/staff member has been home for 5 days AND has been fever free for a full 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medicine, they should be allowed to return to school/work with appropriate documentation.
- Students/staff returning to school/work following a positive case are strongly encouraged to wear a mask through day 10 following their symptom onset or positive test.
- Any student/staff member with a pending test must remain at home until test results are confirmed.
- Students/staff that are exposed to Covid-19 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask through day 10 following their exposure to the positive case.

Updated 8/28/23