



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 Darby School District

Initial Effective Date: June 16, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 15, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 15, 2021, July 10, 2021, July 29, 2021, August 3, 2021, August 20, 2021, September 7, 2021, October 12, 2021

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?

The Upper Darby School District implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and CHOP Policy Lab. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Additionally, our District supported vaccination clinics for our teachers, staff and the community through partnerships with the DCIU, Delaware County Memorial Hospital and Delaware County Medical Reserve Corps. We led vaccine clinics for students and will continue to support future clinics once approved for students under 12 years of age.

Our District will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and CHOP Policy Lab, if applicable. This information will assist the District when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan as necessary. We intend to implement a phased approach to introduce mitigation strategies if the data and health agencies suggest. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district.

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?

The Upper Darby School District will offer full-time in person instruction for all students in Grades K-8. The District approved a new high school schedule on June 1, 2021 that allows for flexible asynchronous instruction for most students in the morning and in-person instruction for the remainder of the day. The District has a well-established Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program in place and will implement a K-12 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum in the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, the District supports a comprehensive student service program that provides a full continuum of services including health, social work, counseling and psychological services. The District

partners with Child Guidance Resource Centers (CGRC) to provide satellite mental health clinics at Upper Darby High School and two elementary schools where families and students can receive outpatient services in one of the community schools. The food service plan will provide breakfast and lunch to students during the school day and meals for the weekend. Students who attend school virtually will have the ability to pick up bulk meals for the week. Staff members have access to a robust employee assistance program (EAP) through employee benefits and the human resources department.

In addition, the district will approve an Emergency Instructional Time Section 520.1 – 2 2021-22 School Year on June 15, 2021. This can be viewed on the district website via BoardDocs on June 15, 2021. The District will also approve an athletic health and safety plan for the 2021-2022 on June 15, 2021.

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>Please scroll down to view the sequence of changes based on updated guidance since the plan’s initial approval on June 15, 2021:</p> <p>*As of June 28, 2021, masks will be optional in all school buildings until the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The district will support all individuals who prefer to continue to wear a mask.</p> <p>*Students and staff in summer school and ESY programming will continue to wear a mask until June 28, 2021 where masking will become optional for staff and students. Masks will be required on all public transportation including school buses.</p> <p>*Effective August 30, 2021, masks will be mandatory for all students 11 years of age and younger. The district strongly encourages all eligible unvaccinated</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>students and staff to wear a mask while in school.</p> <p>*In the event that COVID-19 cases and incidence rates rise in the county consistent with thresholds determined by public health officials, the District may phase in universal masking for all individuals in school buildings and busses.</p> <p>*If the county reaches the substantial or high range as determined by the CDC and/or PA Department of Health, all students and staff will be required to wear a mask in all indoor settings. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html</p> <p>*As of September 7, 2021, all district schools will be following the Acting Secretary of Health’s Order directing face coverings in school entities. All students, staff and visitors are required to wear a face covering while inside any district facility. Please see the full document below:</p> <p><u>Order of the Acting Secretary</u></p> <p>*For any student or staff member participating in the Test to Stay antigen testing program, masks will be worn at all times while indoors and during extracurriculars for the duration of the individuals’ participation in the program unless otherwise specified during:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals • Extracurriculars-Sports • Extracurriculars-Performing Arts/Band • Extracurriculars-Clubs

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals.
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pennsylvania lifted its Order for physical distancing and occupancy limits on May 31, 2021. With the lifting of the Order, all school buildings and offices will not require specific social distancing requirements. School buildings and offices, including cafeteria spaces will allow for full occupancy with no alterations or restrictions and maintain 3 ft of distancing when possible. The district will consider and phase in any additional recommendations from the CDC or relevant health departments for additional mitigation strategies or modifications to instructional models if these recommendations become available.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snack, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. The District will encourage our students, staff, and contractors to implement these best practices and make soap and/or hand sanitizer readily available in classrooms and spaces where student and staff will eat meals and snacks.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will have available hand sanitizer in strategic locations of high traffic areas. • The District will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette such as “cover your cough” etc.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District utilizes EPA Approved Disinfectants for use against COVID-19. • There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces. • If there is a case of COVID-19, a cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place within the appropriate timeframe. • The District will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. • Ventilation system filters will be checked and changed on a routine basis.
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the health department on the appropriate reporting form • The District will provide the health department, if required, a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school to the best of its’ ability. • The district will support and implement public health guidance on isolation and quarantines. The District will utilize the modified quarantine guidelines as outlined by the CDC, and PA Department of Health.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student, staff or contractor, who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is a probable case, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual. • Student, staff or contractor, who was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, must notify the program administrator/principal immediately. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or health department. • The District may provide a location in each school building for isolation and/or quarantine during the school day for students in conjunction with the the PA Department of Health guidance. • Students who are positive for COVID-19 or a close contact of a positive case will be sent home immediately with guidance for isolation or quarantine.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will follow its Immunization and Communicable Diseases Policy 203 for guidance on communicable diseases. • The district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, KN95 face covering, eye protection, gloves. • The district requires staff and contractors to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms as outlined in the chart below.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms outlined in the chart below. • Staff, children, students, and clients who are ill must stay home from work, programs, and schools. • Staff, children, students, and clients shall be sent home if they become ill at work, school, program or service. • Students, staff and contractors shall report immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or health department. • The district will implement a rapid antigen testing program for individuals who become symptomatic during the program, school or working hours. • If COVID-19 cases and incidence rates rise above a level of concern determined by health departments, the District may implement routine antigen assurance testing for all staff and/or students. • The district has adopted the Test-to-Stay Program to expand our mitigation efforts to support in-school learning. The program allows students and staff, who are identified as close contacts in school during COVID-19 contact tracing and are asymptomatic, to remain in school for work and learning. The program

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	<p>allows students and staff to take a rapid antigen test over the course of the program and it can take the place of quarantine.</p> <p>Symptoms of COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The District will provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member.</p> <p>The District will encourage all students who can get vaccinated to receive a vaccine and support initiatives to provide clinics for all age groups when appropriate.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>For students with disabilities and/or with medical diagnosis that required a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP may reconvene to develop a specially designed instruction or strategies plan to meet the needs of the student.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contact tracing with the health department. • The district will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues as needed.
j. Extended School Year (ESY) and summer school programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow universal masking protocols during ESY and summer school until June 28, 2021. Masks will be optional for the remainder of summer programming. • The District will implement antigen testing for symptomatic individuals during ESY programming.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Upper Darby School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **October 12, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: **October 12, 2021**

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Edward Brown

(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.