



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:

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Deleted: June 16, 2021

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- 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.

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August 18, 2021

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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](#)

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Introduction: School district operations will be implemented in the same manner as those in place prior to the pandemic; the exceptions will be fully described within this document. This plan reflects those components that we will keep in place, as referenced in our Pandemic [Health and Safety Plan](#), as well as promoting general health and safety for all students, employees and visitors as well as remaining compliant with national, state and local health guidance.

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 district will continue the Pandemic Planning Committee meetings to review current case data, as well as available [Federal, State and Local guidance](#), and recommend modifications and adjustments to the current health and safety plan as needed. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary at the district level by the district's [Pandemic Planning Committee](#), as well as the building level teams. The revisions will be recommended to the Board for approval and changes will be communicated to [all stakeholders](#).

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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 District will use the current mechanisms in place ([regular and modified](#) schedules, remote/asynchronous learning [options](#) and distribution of services) to ensure the continuity of educational services as required by PA School Code and Federal Law.

Deleted: June 11, 2021

August 18, 2021

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Our methods for educational delivery for the 2021-22 school year will be:

1. Instruction will resume on September 1, 2021 on a normal, Monday through Friday schedule.
2. The following options will be available to families:
 1. Face to face, in classroom instruction
 2. Online option (Bridges/BCIU Academy) K-12
 3. Combination of face to face and cyber programming, as appropriately determined according to medical need.
 4. Homeschool (this option has long been available to our homeschool families)

Student medical issues which require a temporary leave from school will be addressed on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate instructional alternatives to continue the student's education in consideration of information provided by the student's health care provider, parent/guardians, principal and counselor, and IEP team, if applicable.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<p>On Morrisville Vehicles: <u>The CDC requires that passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC's Order. A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the vehicle. As of August 17, 2021, the Bucks County Health Department supports masking on buses at the current time, subject to regular, ongoing review.</u></p> <p>In all other situations, including Morrisville classrooms: <u>Masks are required for all individuals in all indoor Morrisville classrooms and work locations</u></p>

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	<p><u>at the current time and subject to regular, ongoing review for the following reasons:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>On August 17, 2021, the Bucks County Health Department issued updated guidance on masking to follow CDC guidance on masking in schools at the current time and subject to regular, ongoing review.</u><u>Per The BCHD on August 17, 2021, Bucks County is now considered to be an area of high transmission specific to COVID-19.</u><u>Federal and state health authorities recommend that the District implement a 'mask required' policy at the current time in alignment with CDC guidance for schools.</u> <p><u>Per the Bucks County Health Department's guidance issued August 15, 2021, "the BCHD supports enhanced Targeted Temporary Mitigation efforts in clinical and healthcare-like school settings and will discuss further recommendations for those situations with school entities."</u></p> <p><u>The correct wearing of masks includes covering both the nose and the mouth.</u></p> <p><u>Masks are not required outdoors and remain optional.</u></p> <p><u>The District will continue to honor all approved mask exemptions.</u></p>

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<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>When necessary, the District will shift to remote learning for the entire population or a specific subset of students, in consultation with the Bucks County Health Department. This may include modified schedules and blocks of days that include asynchronous learning.</p> <p>The District will work with the Bucks County Health Department in necessary circumstances for the modification and designation of safe and healthy instructional and workspaces for all individuals.</p> <p>Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize distancing where feasible.</p> <p>Lockers will be spaced to accommodate for appropriate spacing.</p> <p>Students will be taken outdoors as often as possible.</p> <p>Building faculty meetings, full administrative team meetings, and professional development activities will occur in person unless designated as virtual by the meeting coordinator.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>General hand hygiene will be practiced throughout the day to minimize spread through use of common items.</p> <p>Proper hand washing technique signs will be posted in all bathrooms and sinks.</p> <p>All individuals will continue to be encouraged and reminded to sanitize or wash their hands on a frequent basis.</p>

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	<p><u>Hand sanitizer will continue to be made available in all common areas, hallways, and/or lobby areas where sinks for handwashing are not available, in order to encourage frequent use.</u></p> <p><u>The District will continue to post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures/hygiene and how to stop the spread of germs.</u></p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>The District will maintain its sanitizing and cleaning routines, including the procurement and distribution of PPE and cleaning materials when necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>All District facilities are fully air conditioned, and have maximum fresh air exchange rates programmed into the building HVAC controls.</p>
<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><u>The District will continue to work in partnership with the BCHD for all COVID-19-related case investigation and contact tracing.</u></p> <p><u>Per BCHD guidance issued August 15, 2021 and August 17, 2021:</u></p> <p><u>The BCHD, as Bucks County’s local health authority, maintains responsibility for all instances of conducting contact tracing, issuing isolation orders, and issuing quarantine orders. The District will provide the BCHD with all requested information to facilitate BCHD processes for contact tracing, issuing</u></p>

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	<p><u>isolation orders, and issuing quarantine orders.</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District urges parents and guardians to report their child's confirmed case of COVID-19 to the District via the School Nurse.</u></p> <p><u>The District urges employees/contractors who have received a confirmed positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to the HR Department using the secure email transmissions.</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District will send notifications to the parents, guardians, staff, and the home school district of all students and staff in any classroom and/or on any vehicle with a confirmed, reported positive case.</u></p> <p><u>The BCHD has made the commitment to the District to continue to closely monitor COVID-19 and its variants.</u></p> <p><u>The BCHD has stated that future TTM may include a return to additional contact tracing for a period of time if it becomes necessary.</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District will exclude any student/staff exhibiting fever or multiple symptoms from school until those symptoms have resolved and are fever-free for 24 hours without medication, in</u></p>

Deleted: June 11, 2021

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	<p><u>accordance with existing protocols and best practices.</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with the BCHD, the District may also consider utilizing additional Targeted Temporary Mitigation efforts (TTM) in other appropriate situations as directed or recommended by the BCHD. The BCDH has made a commitment to the District to provide more detailed guidance to support school nurses on these issues throughout Bucks County schools.</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District will require all symptomatic individuals who test positive for COVID-19 to be “excluded from school until symptoms have resolved and they are fever-free for 24 hours. Infectiousness peaks around the time of symptom onset and declines quickly during the first several days of symptoms. When masks become optional in the future, in alignment with the recommendations from the BCHD, the District will require a positive individual to wear a mask/face covering upon return to school through the 7th day from symptom onset, if applicable.”</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District will honor the following guidelines: “Individuals who test positive but are fully asymptomatic should wait at least 3 days from the test date prior to returning to school in order to ensure</u></p>

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	<p><u>they are not just pre-symptomatic (about to become symptomatic.)</u> <u>Based on BCDH case investigations throughout the pandemic, COVID-19 transmission within a household was very unlikely from individuals who, as the first known positive case in the household, remained asymptomatic through the course of the infection. As such, the BCHD believes individuals who have not yet developed any symptoms more than 3 days from a positive test can safely return to school. When masks become optional in the future, in alignment with the recommendations from the BCHD, the District will require a positive individual to wear a mask/face covering upon return to school through the 7th day from the test date."</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District will honor the following guidelines: "Fully asymptomatic Individuals with a known non-ongoing (i.e. not in their household) exposure to COVID-19 may continue in school normally unless any symptoms develop, in which case they should either remain home, or be evaluated by a school nurse if at school."</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with recommendations from the BCHD, the District will honor the following guidelines when masks become optional in the future: "Fully asymptomatic individuals with an ongoing household exposure to COVID-19 should be required to wear</u></p>

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	<p><u>a mask/face covering at school for a minimum of one week from the symptom onset of the household member. For fully asymptomatic individuals in households with multiple positives, the mask wearing period may be extended. If any symptoms develop during this timeframe, the individual should be immediately excluded.</u></p> <p><u>Per the BCHD, COVID-19 testing laboratories will continue to report positive COVID-19 test results to the BCHD through the Pennsylvania National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (PA-NEDSS).</u></p> <p><u>The District will continue to consult with the BCHD in the event any public health-related questions or concerns for guidance arise. This includes COVID-19.</u></p> <p><u>Each day, before reporting to any assignment location, all staff (employees and contractors) are expected to self-affirm that they feel well enough to report to work and are symptom-free and fever-free without medication. Parents/Guardians are expected to conduct a similar daily assessment for students.</u></p> <p><u>All staff (employees and contractors) are expected to follow the pre-COVID District attendance reporting procedures. If a staff member has symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness, it is expected that the staff</u></p>

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	<p><u>member notify their supervisor of any illness and enter the sick time into the appropriate absence reporting system. Any staff member absent for three or more days is expected to submit a physician's certification to jtorres@mv.org prior to returning to work. District contractors will be expected to notify their employer and follow the employer's absence reporting procedures.</u></p> <p><u>Students experiencing symptoms of illness should stay at home and not report to their school location. Families should follow the District's current absentee/attendance procedures. If symptoms/fever resolve within fewer than three (3) days, without fever reducing medications, the student may return to school. If symptoms persist or worsen, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child(ren)'s Primary Care Provider. After three days of absence, a medical note may be requested.</u></p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p><u>Each day, before reporting to any assignment location, all staff (employees and contractors) are expected to self-affirm that they feel well enough to report to work and are symptom-free and fever-free without medication. Parents/Guardians are expected to conduct a similar daily assessment for students.</u></p> <p><u>In alignment with the recommendations from the BCHD and in accordance with the BCHD processes for contact tracing, issuing</u></p>

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¹ We will use strategies similar to those used with influenza, other infectious diseases in the event of a confirmed case of COVID 19.

Deleted: June 11, 2021

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	<p><u>isolation orders, and issuing quarantine orders, the District will no longer require employees and contractors to complete the daily close contact tracking form.</u></p> <p><u>The District will communicate best practices for health and personal hygiene to all stakeholders in an effort to reinforce healthy instructional and work environments. For example, individuals will be reminded to not report to school/work if they are not well or are experiencing symptoms that would otherwise cause them to seek medical attention.</u></p> <p><u>The BCHD has recommitted to partnering with school entities to offer free COVID-19 testing for school stakeholders. The District remains supportive of this collaboration with the BCHD. The Pennsylvania Department of Education and Pennsylvania Department of Health announced on August 16, 2021 testing options at no-cost to school entities. The District will investigate this opportunity as information becomes available. In addition, the BCHD recommends that the District refer any individual in need of a COVID-19 test to a medical health provider.</u></p> <p><u>The District will continue to educate all individuals on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</u></p>

Deleted: June 11, 2021

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	<u>Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 by a medical provider should seek support from their medical provider.</u>
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<p>Vaccination clinics will continue to be scheduled, based on survey data and community need/request.</p> <p>Continue to work with BCDH to provide opportunities for students and community members to receive vaccinations</p> <p>District communication methods will be used to distribute information regarding vaccination clinics and designated hours.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<p><u>The mission of this health and safety plan is to ensure the continuation of in-person instruction in all District programs.</u></p> <p>Accommodations, including remote learning and modified schedules will be employed to allow flexibility for students with disabilities.</p>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The District will continue to partner with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and the Bucks County Health Department to coordinate responses to outbreaks of COVID-19, in accordance with established procedures.

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 ¶ Students and employees are encouraged to report positive cases of COVID 19 to their building nurse¶
 ¶ The District will consult with the Bucks County Health Department on decisions impacting the closure of classrooms, schools, or the district in the event of an outbreak.¶
 ¶ Although the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine are not required for school attendance or employment, it is encouraged for all students and staff to get the flu vaccine and COVID vaccine.

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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SD of Borough of Morrisville** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 25, 2021,

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The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

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No

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Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**

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.

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