



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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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- 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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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 Thorough 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.

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.

Per CDC guidance, individuals who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear masks or physically distance when participating in sports and extracurricular activities. CDC recommends K-12 schools implement prevention strategies, including masking and physical distancing, during sports and extracurricular activities for participants who are not fully vaccinated.

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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
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<p>Based on the August 23, 2021 Bucks County Department of Health guidance:</p> <p>All individuals (students, teachers, staff, visitors) should wear masks in schools K-12 to begin the school year regardless of vaccination status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Individuals do not need to wear masks when outdoors.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Per the CDC order on wearing masks on public transportation, regardless of the school mask policy, masks are required to be worn by passengers and drivers on school buses.</li> </ul> <p><b>On Morrisville Vehicles:</b> The CDC requires that passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The correct wearing of masks includes covering both the nose and the mouth.</p> <p>Masks are not required outdoors and remain optional.</p> <p>The District will continue to honor all approved mask exemptions.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The CDC recommends maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms, with additional layered mitigation efforts employed if distance recommendations would prevent a school from fully reopening.</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>Based on the August 23, 2021 Bucks County Department of Health guidance, The District will work with the Bucks County Health Department in necessary</p>

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	<p>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 when possible.</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. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</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> <p>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.</p>

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	<p>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.</p>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</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. <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Per the PADOH, schools should continue to work closely with BCHD to complete contact tracing for individuals diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19. As part of the contact tracing process, the PADOH and BCHD will continue to work with schools to gather information about potential close contacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ CDC guidance adds the following exception to the definition of close contact:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and</li> <li>▪ other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.</li> <li>▪ This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days as both symptomatic</p>



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	<p>and asymptomatic individuals can transmit the virus during that time.</p> <p>The District will continue to work in partnership with the BCHD for all COVID-19-related case investigation and contact tracing.</p> <p>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 isolation orders, and issuing quarantine orders.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The District urges employees/contractors who have received a confirmed positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to the HR Department using the secure email transmissions.</p> <p>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</p>

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	<p>and/or on any vehicle with a confirmed, reported positive case.</p> <p>The BCHD has made the commitment to the District to continue to closely monitor COVID-19 and its variants.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 member notify their supervisor of any illness and enter the sick time into the appropriate absence reporting system. Any staff</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Based on the August 23, 2021 Bucks County Department of Health guidance:</p> <p>Any individuals who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should be referred for COVID-19 testing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In alignment with the recommendations from the BCHD and in accordance with the BCHD processes for contact tracing, issuing isolation orders, and issuing quarantine orders, the District will no longer require employees and</p>

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	<p>contractors to complete the daily close contact tracking form.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The District will continue to educate all individuals on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 by a medical provider should seek support from their medical provider.</p>

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<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<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>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The mission of this health and safety plan is to ensure the continuation of in-person instruction in all District programs.</p> <p>Accommodations, including remote learning and modified schedules will be employed to allow flexibility for students with disabilities.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Parents should report positive COVID-19 cases to schools. Schools are required to report cases to the BCDH.</p> <p>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.</p>

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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

The plan was approved by a vote of: **6/0**

**Yes**

**No**

Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)** **August 25, 2021**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

**Damon Miller**

(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.