



# 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:

- 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 Dauphin Area School District

**Initial Effective Date: July 13, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: January 11, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: January 11, 2022**

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 Dauphin Area School District (UDASD) monitors local case numbers and school cases, and makes decisions based on that data. The UDASD implements state and federal requirements related to COVID-19 and implements the requirements in a way that best meet the operational requirements and needs of the school district which includes keeping students in school. Those requirements currently include isolation of symptomatic and positive COVID-19 students, reporting positive cases to the Department of Health, and wearing face coverings on district provided transportation.

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 UDASD created a comprehensive Post Pandemic Recovery Plan (PPRP) which it continues to use to guide the academic, mental, social, emotional, and health needs of its students. The UDASD staff have worked tirelessly to develop virtual learning opportunities, procedures for responding to the ongoing public health crisis, and enhancing and implementing programs intended to address the mental and emotional health of both students and staff. Details of these activities can be found in the PPRP.

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 <a href="#">masks</a> ;	Masking for students and staff will remain voluntary at this time with the following exceptions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Return from COVID-19 isolation (5 days following return)</li><li>- Return from COVID-19 quarantine as a "household contact" (5 days</li></ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>following return unless negative test received on or after day ten)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Face coverings must still be worn on school transportation as long as required by government orders that mandate such usage.</li> </ul>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Due to the impact on instructional practices and collaborative learning, limitations with physical space, and the current in-person enrollment numbers, physical distancing is limited. When possible, students are spaced at three (3) feet within classroom settings.
c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;	The UDASD continues to encourage handwashing and proper respiratory etiquette for students and staff. Signage about proper personal hygiene will be placed throughout the district.
d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a> ;	The UDASD cleans classroom and large space areas daily, at a minimum. Further spray-based disinfection is completed within buildings on a weekly basis and as needed based on positive cases within the school environment. The UDASD has approved an extensive HVAC upgrade for its high school campus which will occur during the summer of 2022.
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>The Upper Dauphin Area School district will only restrict access to school to students and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, test positive for COVID-19, or are identified as an unvaccinated “household contact”. A “household contact” is an individual who cohabitates with a person who is considered positive for COVID-19. All other asymptomatic students and staff, even if they are deemed close contacts at school or on school transportation, will not be subject to restriction from school or school activities regardless of their vaccination status.</p> <p>Students and staff who are symptomatic, but have not tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school with one of the following: improving symptoms and a negative covid-19 test on day five, or a note from the student/staff’s physician</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	releasing them back to school. Students or staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school following quarantine protocols from the CDC.
f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;	The UDASD will accept test results from healthcare providers as well as at-home tests that meet the CDC/PA DOH/PA PDE guidelines.
g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a> ;	The UDASD is an educational institution and as such will not be providing vaccinations to its students. As vaccination opportunities become available for staff, the UDASD will notify staff of such opportunities.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	The UDASD will utilize its existing Section 504 processes to identify and meet the needs of students with disabilities. Additional information can be found in the PPRP.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The UDASD will continue to report positive cases, and review outbreak data requiring isolation periods, and group, classroom, and school closures.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Upper Dauphin Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on January 11, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: January 11, 2022

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.