



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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Pequea Valley School District**

Initial Effective Date: **June 10, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 3, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **August 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?

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?

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>If an individual has been fully vaccinated Pequea Valley School District will allow for masks to be optional and at the discretion of the family and staff.</p> <p>Unvaccinated individuals (staff and students) will be encouraged to wear their face covering or face shield when indoors. If a person is working alone and does not expect to have any interaction with another person, they may remove their face covering.</p> <p>Staff and students, when engaging in high exertion activities including, but not limited to, athletics, performing arts, exercise, or play activities, are not required to wear masks when actively engaged in these activities.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Pequea Valley School District will follow the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and CDC guidelines throughout the summer, and if mask restrictions are lifted as of June 28, 2021, for all individuals, Pequea Valley will follow this guidance.</p> <p>UPDATE August 3, 2021:</p> <p>Pequea Valley School District’s administration will continue to monitor community spread. At this time, masks will be optional in all buildings in the Pequea Valley School District. Individuals who prefer to wear masks will be permitted to.</p> <p>Pequea Valley School District will continue to follow any mandatory health orders/mandates from any Federal or State Agencies (CDC, DOH, PDE).</p> <p>Due to the Federal order issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation, which includes school busses operated by public and private school systems. Pequea Valley School District will have individuals wear masks on school transportation.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Pequea Valley will allow for physical distancing when appropriate at the distance of three feet.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Learners will be encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer, provided at stations within close proximity of the cafeterias prior to consuming food or beverages.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be available in all buildings.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>All staff will be trained on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to learners.</p> <p>Ensure handwashing strategies to include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The district will follow the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools</p> <p>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses, including door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.</p> <p>Steps will be taken to limit the use of communal drinking fountains and provide safe alternatives for providing water when possible.</p> <p>Outside air dampers in occupied areas of the building will be opened to bring in fresh air while still being able maintain a comfortable temperature.</p> <p>When needed, classrooms, hallways, offices, and common areas will be disinfected with backpack sprayer with applicable disinfectant and/or electrostatic foggers.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be available in all buildings.</p> <p>Devices and materials that must be shared should be cleaned between uses.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>UPDATE August 3, 2021:</p> <p>Air Scrubbers were installed in all air ducts at each of our buildings and are used to purify air.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Pequea Valley School District will continue to work with the Department of Health to contact trace when needed.</p> <p>Pequea Valley School District will work with our staff and families to gain information about the time in which the learner or staff member was in the infectious state and trace with the 48-hour period prior.</p> <p>Direct communication will go out to families and staff who would need to immediately isolate or quarantine.</p> <p>Communication will be posted to our website, as well as one-call being used to notify all families.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Staff, parents/guardians, and volunteers will be encouraged to self-report symptoms or exposure to school administration or Cathy Koenig, Director of Student Services.</p> <p>Any individual on school property who develops COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or may be a probable COVID-19 will be directed to quarantine or isolate until guidance from PCP or symptoms have subsided.</p> <p>On site screening for symptoms and temperature will be required for non-essential visitors or volunteers.</p> <p>UPDATE August 3, 2021:</p> <p>Pequea Valley School District will continue temperature checks of all learners as they enter the building.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Pequea Valley School District will have staff self-monitor for symptoms and report any concerns to their direct supervisor.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Pequea Valley School District will continue to partner with local medical facilities to provide information on vaccination opportunities for our staff and students.</p> <p>Pequea Valley School District has a working relationship with IU13, Lancaster Penn Medicine, Union Community Care and Well-Span, which will continue to help support families and staff in the vaccination process which will be continuing to get vaccination information and locations out as we know this information.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>IEPs and 504 plans will be reviewed and collaborated on. Unique safety procedures will be worked through with the school nurse and the IEP/504 team on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Pequea Valley will continue to collaborate and receive updates from Lancaster General Health Penn Medicine, Pennsylvania Department of Health, CDC, and Pennsylvania Department of Education as we continue to work for the health and safety of all stakeholders in the district.</p> <p>Pequea Valley will make changes to the safety plan as new guidance is received.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Pequea Valley School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 12, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 12, 2021**

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.