



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: Middletown Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 3, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 3, 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?

Instruction Model for the 2021-22 School Year:

- From previous parent surveys that were sent out in May 2021, we fully understand that a majority of our students wish to be educated in a face to face learning environment in order to be successful. Therefore, Elementary, Middle and High School students will have two options: 1) Full return to brick-and-mortar classes or 2) enrollment in the District online learning platform, Raider Academy, through Accelerate Education courses.
 - Raider Academy will utilize a K-12 PA standards aligned curriculum through Accelerate Education – <https://accelerate.education> which is taught by certified teachers. Mr. Kevin Cook, Raider Academy Principal, is in charge of this online learning program. Mr. Cook can be reached at 717-948-3333 x8000 or at kcook@raiderweb.org
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?
 - A number of District staff, which include school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, behavior support specialists will be providing services for students in need of social and emotional supports. Need assessments will be administered to students throughout the District to provide a baseline on potential services that will support and promote the mental health of the student body.
 - The District will start the process of becoming a trauma-informed school district by incorporating a trauma-informed framework at all five schools. Supports for both students and staff trauma will be a District goal for the 2021-22 school year.
 - The District will work with Effective School Solutions (ESS), who will introduce mental health best practices along with innovative clinical programs into the traditional school setting, in grades K to 5 for the 2021-22 school

year. ESS currently supports students at the middle school level only.

- The administrative team at each school building throughout the district will be developing academic remediation and enrichment strategies to help support and promote higher levels of student achievement and identify any potential student learning gaps.
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) will be implemented at all schools K-12 for the 2021-22 school year. This will allow the District to model and teach effective behaviors and implement research based proven programs and strategies. In addition, data will be collected on student behaviors and closely monitored by utilizing School-Wide Information System (SWIS).
- MASD will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service and The Nutrition Group to provide nutritional assistance to ALL students and families throughout the school year.
- A program called Raider Packs, that delivers a supply of food for families on a weekly basis, will continue on Thursdays throughout the school year.

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 masks;</p> | <p>MASD plans to bring students and staff back to physical school buildings on August 30, 2021 with the following safety precautions in place:</p> <p>Governor Wolf’s mask mandate for Pennsylvania has been lifted effective June 28th, 2021.</p> <p>As of July 9th, 2021, the CDC is recommending that anyone who is unvaccinated, including all children under the age of 12, should now wear a face covering inside all district facilities. On July 27th, the CDC provided new guidance “recommending” universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, student, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>It is important to note that this is a recommendation and not a requirement as was the case for face coverings for public transportation. Therefore, the District will make the wearing of face coverings inside district buildings a recommendation, not a</p> |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
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| | <p>requirement, for all students and staff. In addition, any outside visitors to the District will be required to wear a face covering while inside district facilities due to the difficulties of contact tracing non-district personnel.</p> <p>Effective February 25, 2022, the CDC lifted the requirement of the wearing of face coverings on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.</p> <p>The District solicited feedback via email, after posting the ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan on the school website. The overwhelming majority of parents support returning students to in-person learning where masks are optional. Parents who object to this new normal have the option of sending their student/s to the District approved online learning platform called Raider Academy. The District will aggressively monitor the spread of the virus and continue its mitigating efforts to the greatest extent practicable.</p> |
| <p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <p>Whenever possible, feasible and practical, 3 feet social distancing measures will take place, so as to avoid large groups of students congregating for large durations of time while in smaller and more confining spaces. A common sense approach will be applied to social distancing precautions, and three feet as the guiding standard will be the utilized moving into the start of the 2021-22 school year.</p> |
| <p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p> | <p>Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash hands at regular intervals throughout the day, but especially before and after eating lunch and using the restroom using soap and water.</p> <p>When not available, District-provided hand sanitizer shall be utilized especially after touching any shared items.</p> <p>Coughs and sneezes must be covered by an elbow and not by a hand.</p> <p>Signs will be posted in highly visible locations like school entrances and restrooms that promote everyday protective measures.</p> |

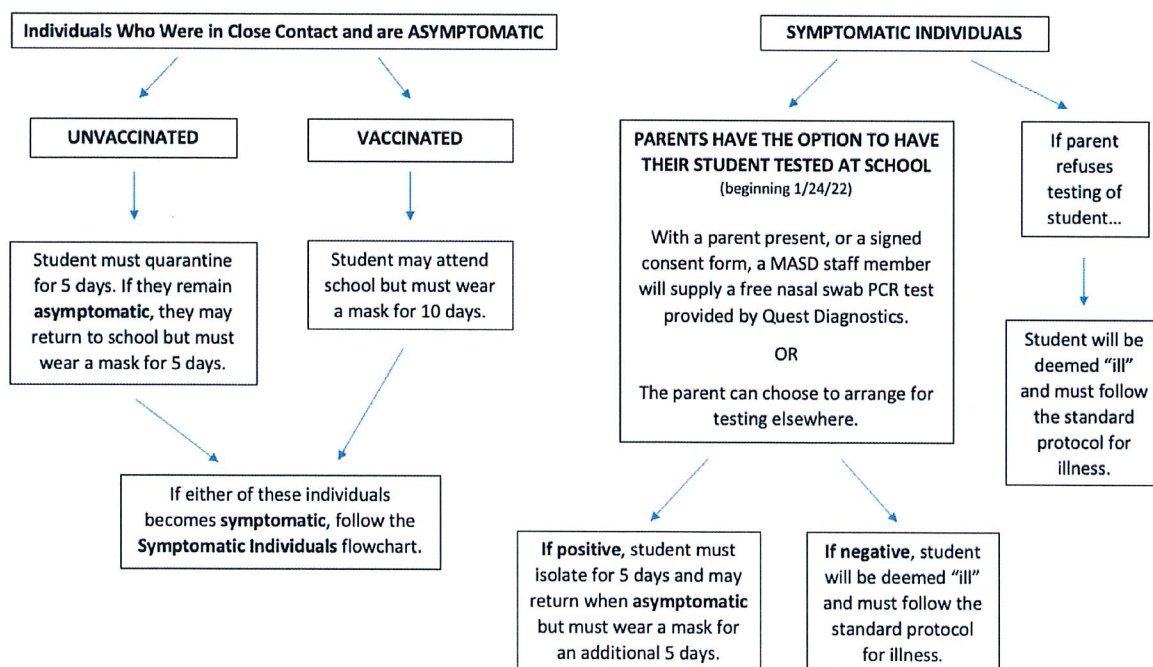
| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|---|--|
| | <p>A focus on describing how to stop the spread of germs with the number one approach being properly washing hands will be endorsed.</p> |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <p>MASD's Operations staff will continue to practice effective cleaning procedures as recommended in CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Custodians will adhere to CDC guidelines to practice sound cleaning techniques.</p> <p>MASD Operations will institute scheduled cleaning procedures and protocols before, during and after school hours.</p> <p>MASD will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the buildings at a minimum of three times per day (morning, noon, and after school). Use of shared objects and equipment will be limited or cleaned between use by staff if possible.</p> <p>Proper ventilation will be maximized by allowing classroom doors to remain open during the instructional day (with door locks engaged in the event of an emergency lockdown).</p> <p>MASD Operations Department will develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.</p> <p>MASD Maintenance Department will maximize DDC control system for operations: Occupied, Unoccupied & Ventilation Modes.</p> <p>MASD Operations staff will develop a cleaning plan that will be implemented during daily use and a full cleaning plan after school ends for the day and prior to the next day's use to include all common areas, restrooms, cafeteria and high traffic areas.</p> |
| <p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <p>Continued pre-screening measures will be implemented to prevent individuals who may appear to be symptomatic from entering the school facilities.</p> <p>Parents and guardians will be asked to monitor their students for any potential symptoms before sending them to school.</p> |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
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| | <p>Consultation with the building administration and or the school nurse with regard to whether or not to send a potentially symptomatic child to school will continue to be the recommendation of the District.</p> <p>A student or employee who presents with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be taken to an isolation room and parents will be notified immediately to pick up the child. The isolation room will not be in the nurse's office but in a separate area away from the main flow of traffic in the building.</p> <p>MASD will follow contact tracing guidance and recommendations as established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. In addition, the District will maintain a running total of case counts along with quarantine and isolation information. Frequent notification will take place if and when needed through the District's website, emails and SchoolMessenger system.</p> |
| <p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p> | <p>MASD will continue to monitor students and staff closely for any signs of Covid-19.</p> <p>Prior to daily arrival, all parents will be required to screen their children at home for any potential signs of COVID-19.</p> <p>Students who present with any symptoms and/or fever of 100.4 or higher should remain at home.</p> <p>Prior to daily arrival, all employees will be required to self-screen at home for any potential signs of COVID-19. Employees who present with any symptoms and/or fever of 100.4 or higher should remain at home.</p> <p>Teachers and support staff will visually monitor students throughout the day and report any suspected illness to the Health Room nurses for further screening.</p> |
| <p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p> | <p>MASD will continue to support the efforts of the Pennsylvania Department of Health by offering the use of its facilities to host vaccine clinics.</p> |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
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| | The District will continue to present the most up-to-date COVID-19 information to the staff as it relates to becoming properly vaccinated. |
| h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and | The District will continue to work with all students, specifically those that have Individualized Education Plans (IEP), special education students, English Language Learners, Section 504 students, and gifted students making sure communication efforts and supports are in place to address any required specialized supports and necessary accommodations due to COVID-19. |
| i. Coordination with state and local health officials. | <p>The MASD will continue to consult and communicate with state and local health officials as it relates to the mitigating efforts and strategies to eliminate COVID-19.</p> <p>As we have witnessed from the 2020-21 school year, COVID-19 is an ever-evolving virus and circumstances can change very quickly. In the event that new guidance for school districts would be provided by any regulatory agencies, the MASD will review its current plans accordingly.</p> |



UPDATED 2021-2022 COVID-19 GUIDELINES – approved 1/4/22



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Middletown Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on March 1, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes


0 No

First Plan Approved: **August 3, 2021**

Six Month Review: **January 4, 2022**

Revised: **March 1, 2022**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

John A. Ponnett, Jr.

(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.