



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: Montgomery Area School District

Initial Effective Date: July 20, 2021

Date of Last Review: November 16, 2021

Date of Last Revision: February 15, 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?

- Buildings & Grounds Staff will utilize CDC guidelines to clean, sanitize, disinfect, and ventilate learning spaces, surfaces, and other areas.
- All products used meet OSHA & CDC requirements.
- Cleaning supplies will be provided for teachers to regularly clean desks throughout the day as needed.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned throughout the school day.
- Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- All facilities which include but are not limited to classrooms, rooms, band rooms, training rooms, weight rooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc., will be disinfected/cleaned as per CDC and/or state health guidelines.
- All high touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly.
- Water bottle filling stations will be used for drinking water, and the use of individual water bottles from home will be encouraged.
- Follow CDC guidelines for cleaning, disinfecting and responding if/when there is a COVID-19 infection.
- Ensure custodians are trained in appropriate cleaning techniques.
- All filters in mechanical systems will be changed before the start of the school year using MERV Hepa Filters with a 13 rating or higher.
- HVAC system upgrades will occur during August & September for improved airflow within the buildings.

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?

All District students, PK-12, have been provided with a one-to-one device for 24/7 access to student learning. Students will utilize their Chromebooks to access Schoology, Google Classroom, Google Meet, Zoom or any other teacher created platform, to receive instruction. Students will be assigned work during remote learning, found in Schoology, to be completed using an electronic device while also receiving instruction through both synchronous, and asynchronous means. Students who need

supports such as special education and English as a second language will meet one on one with their teachers and paraprofessionals, using the personal devices. Information regarding free Internet service will also be provided to those families who lack funds. In addition, if a student does not have access to the Internet, paper copies will be provided for all assignments.

Scenarios for learning include:

- Scenario 1: Traditional Schooling – Instruction will be delivered in-person Monday through Friday following the daily schedules for each school building and the District School Calendar.
- Scenario 2: Remote Learning – Instruction will be delivered through synchronous and/or asynchronous means when students must quarantine due to exposure or testing positive for COVID-19. This may take place for a single student, small groups of students, or a mandated school closure.
- Scenario 3: Remote Learning Due to Large Cases – In the event of large cases of COVID-19 throughout the community/state whereby an order from the State or County indicates to limit capacity in school buildings, students will alternate days of in-person instruction and synchronous/asynchronous instruction.
- Scenario 4: Full Remote Learning at Parent’s request. The Montgomery Virtual Academy will provide a full Cyber option to students requesting Remote Instruction. This option requires an application process based on attendance and remote achievement.

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>The District will follow the direct mandates of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, regarding the use of face coverings for students, staff, and visitors.</p> <p>The school nurse will provide videos on the universal and correct wearing of face coverings.</p> <p>Students, Staff and Visitors are permitted to wear a face coverings, as recommended by the CDC, PDE or DOH, however they will not be required to do so</p>

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	<p>unless there is a direct order from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education for such wearing of a face covering either in school, on school provided transportation, or at school sponsored activities.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The District will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines/recommendations regarding student movement throughout the buildings to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>Students will be socially distanced in classrooms to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>Visitors will not be permitted to enter the building without a previously scheduled appointment, and will be screened upon entry.</p> <p>The District may hold meetings virtually when an increase of COVID-19 have been identified in the school buildings.</p> <p>All group activities will be planned in accordance with CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines to the greatest extent possible. This includes activities during the school day, in the evening, and all athletic events. When Mandates are issued by PDE and DOH, we will immediately adjust in order to be in compliance with those mandates. The Superintendent, under Resolution 2020-1 adopted by the Montgomery Area Board of School Directors on August 4, 2020 has the authority to modify instruction, employing any combination of the aforementioned learning scenarios, to meet mandates passed through the PA Department of Health or The PA Department of Education in order to address the health and safety of students, employees, and the community.</p>

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<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>We will continue to teach and reinforce good hygiene measures as outlined in the CDC Guidelines provided.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations are installed throughout the buildings. We will continue to provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no touch trash cans.</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. Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, sink handles, desks, and drinking fountains.</p> <p>Ventilation rates will be increased during occupied times to maximize ventilation without causing other IAQ issues.</p> <p>Electrostatic Spray Disinfectant will be utilized on a weekly basis in all classrooms, bathrooms, gyms, cafeteria and busses.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Records of any persons, other than students and staff, that enter the building, their reason for being there, the location in the building they visit, and the names of the close contacts that they visit in the building will be maintained.</p> <p>Prepare parents and families for remote learning if a class or school is temporarily dismissed.</p> <p>Students, staff, and educators diagnosed with COVID-19 shall isolate based on the CDC, and DOH guidelines.</p> <p>Any close contacts who test positive for COVID-19 or who have symptoms shall begin isolation regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Any school close contacts who are asymptomatic and not current on vaccination status must mask for the</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>recommended quarantine period and will be permitted to remain in school. If students refuse to wear a mask for their quarantine, they must quarantine at home. If symptoms would begin, the individual would immediately quarantine and contact their personal care provider to discuss diagnostic testing.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>All students and parents/guardians are required to perform a symptom screening prior to arriving at school or at the bus stop each day.</p> <p>All students utilizing district busses for transportation to and from school will follow the CDC, DOH or PDE mandates regarding face coverings on public transportation.</p> <p>No student with symptoms will be sent on a school bus or brought to school.</p> <p>All district staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill.</p> <p>Students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.</p> <p>Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District will continue to work with local health agencies to offer opportunities for vaccinations.</p> <p>The District will help to publicize vaccination opportunities within the local community.</p> <p>The District is a designated Point of Distribution (POD) site, and will participate in any activation of this site by the PA Department of Health for the purpose of mass vaccinations.</p>

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<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.</p>	<p>Servicing students in low incidence programs can be problematic due to, but not limited to, students with medical concerns, students not understanding the importance of wearing a mask, students unable to maintain proper social distance, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, students requiring assistance with feeding or toileting. For the reasons listed above, extra precautions will be implemented. These precautions include: If a sink is available in the classroom, staff should thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after working with a student. Avoid the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use. Personal student devices should be disinfected each time a student enters or exits the classroom. Bathrooms and changing tables should be disinfected before and after student use.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Local DOH staff will notify the district upon learning that someone who tested positive for COVID-19 was present at the school while infectious. DOH will assist the district with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations.</p> <p>DOH staff will assist the district with contact tracing and may request information regarding potential close school contacts from school nurses.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **the Montgomery Area School District** revised and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 15, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 Yes

 2 No

Affirmed on: **February 15, 2022**

By:

Michael A. Wright

(Signature* of Board President)

Michael A. Wright

(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.