



# 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: **Hempfield School District**

**Initial Effective Date: August 18, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: July 12, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: July 13, 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?

**The Hempfield School District safely opened schools in August, 2020 and remained open for the entire 2020-2021 school year. We will review and discuss recommendations for schools for the 2021-2022 school year from the PA Dept. of Health and other organizations, such as the CDC, and determine what our schools/school community needs to continue to do to remain open for in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. If changes are necessary, we will update our plan, as needed. At a minimum, our plan will be reviewed at least every six (6) months. It is important to note that the Hempfield School District will adhere to any existing, valid and legal/binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health.**

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?

**Students and staff will continue to have access to our entire Student Services Team, including our nurses, school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, etc. Our staff also has access to our Employee Assistance Program which the district actively promotes. In addition, we will continue to focus our efforts on closing the achievement gap as a result of schools being forced to close in March, 2020. Food services will continue to provide meals (breakfast and lunch) to our students and when needs arise, seek out alternative approaches to ensure that no students go hungry throughout the day. We will maintain our current configuration of certified school nurses and health room nurses to ensure that medical care and consultation is available to our students and staff. We will also review PDE's Evidence Resource Center (ERC) as we need strategies to continue services for students and staff. Finally, we are providing three learning options to Hempfield families for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond: in-person learning (5 days a week), Hempfield Virtual Academy (online learning 5 days a week) or Home Education.**

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. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</b></p>	<p>The Hempfield School District will adhere to any existing, valid and legal/binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health regarding facial coverings.</p> <p>We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our community/district needs.</p> <p>In the absence of an existing, valid and legal/binding order, masks are NOT required in our schools and/or at district activities.</p> <p>In the absence of an existing, valid and legal/binding order, it is certainly acceptable for someone who wishes to wear a facial covering, as defined by the PA DOH, regardless of vaccination status, to do so in our schools and/or at district activities.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>The District's goal is to resume pre-COVID measures in our schools and during school activities (classrooms, cafeterias, buses, athletic events, musical performances, etc.).</p> <p>The Hempfield School District will adhere to any existing, valid and binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health regarding physical distancing.</p> <p>We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our community/district needs.</p>

<p>c. <b><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></b></p>	<p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette are always promoted and strongly encouraged.</p> <p>Soap and/or hand sanitizer will be made available at sinks, in bathrooms and wherever students/staff eat.</p>
<p>d. <b><u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></b></p>	<p>Buildings will be cleaned daily.</p> <p>Staff are encouraged to open windows for additional ventilation.</p> <p>We will increase the percentage of fresh air coming into our buildings, as needed.</p> <p>HVAC units in all buildings will be analyzed to determine if any additional work is needed to improve air quality and/or ventilation.</p> <p>Outdoor/fresh air breaks and learning opportunities will be strongly encouraged.</p>
<p>e. <b><u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</u></b></p>	<p>The Hempfield School District will adhere to any existing, valid and legal/binding orders from the PA Dept. of Health regarding contact tracing, isolation and quarantining.</p> <p>We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine if/how we can implement prevention and mitigation measures, to the greatest extent practicable based on our community/district needs.</p>
<p>f. <b><u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></b></p>	<p>Parents/guardians are asked to monitor their student(s) at home and to conduct a symptom screening prior to the student arriving at school.</p> <p>Staff are asked to monitor themselves and conduct a symptom screening prior to arriving at work.</p> <p>Information pertaining to diagnostic testing across the county will be provided to staff and parents/guardians on an as-</p>

	<p>needed basis and/or as it is made available to the school systems.</p> <p>Our Health Services Team is always available to answer questions for students, staff and parents/guardians. In addition, they are available in our buildings to address any COVID-related questions/matters.</p>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<p>The Hempfield School District will share information regarding vaccination opportunities with our school community when we receive information about such opportunities.</p>
<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>The Hempfield School District will provide necessary accommodations for students, as deemed appropriate by IEP teams, with respect to health and safety policies.</p>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>The Hempfield School District will coordinate with state and local health officials on an as-needed basis related to COVID matters.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Hempfield School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 13, 2021**. **The Board of Directors/Trustees for Hempfield School District reviewed the prior school year's plan and determined no changes were needed. They approved the continued use of this Health and Safety Plan for the 2022-2023 school year on July 12, 2022. The plan was approved by a vote of:**

8 Yes

0 No

1 Absent

Affirmed on: **July 13, 2021 and reaffirmed on July 12, 2022**

By:

  
(Signature\* of Board President)

Grant W. Keener

(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.