



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: Springfield School District

Initial Effective Date: June 28, 2021

Date of Last Review: November 19, 2021

Date of Last Revision: December 1, 2021

Effective Date: January 17, 2022, or such time as the Acting Secretary of Health deems it appropriate to lift the masking order.

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 Springfield School District (SSD) implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), PA Department of Health (PaDOH), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the CHOP Policy Lab. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our district community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Furthermore, our district supported vaccination clinics for our teachers, staff, and 12+ students. **Additionally, the district has supported onsite vaccination clinics for persons 5-11 years of age.**

Our district will continue to review on an ongoing basis the latest guidance from the CDC, Pa DOH, the Delaware County Health Department (once operational), PDE, and the CHOP Policy Lab. This information will assist the district when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our SSD Health and Safety Plan (HSP) as necessary. Additionally, SSD will continue to utilize the guidance provided by health officials consulting with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), District One, and the Central League (CL) in an effort to provide a safe environment for athletics and other extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

The chart below provides further details on strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within the district for the 21-22 school year.

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 Board voted to approve on May 27, 2021 the completed template entitled, “Emergency Instructional Time [Section 520.1 - 2021-22 School Year].” This template has been on the district website since June 28, 2021 and is incorporated as part of our HSP.

The District **has returned** to an instructional model that includes full time, in-person instruction each day. Additionally, the district **also offers** a partially synchronous online learning platform for grades K-12 known as the Springfield Virtual Academy (SVA). Students eligible for specially designed instruction and/or related services through an IEP, GIEP, or section 504 plan **are** provided the academic and behavioral supports as outlined in those plans. The District will continue to provide counseling and mental health supports utilizing in-district and **community/county based resources.**

Lunches will continue to be free of charge for students, and virtual students will continue to have the option to pick-up meals on a regular basis.

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 <u>masks</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will utilize the guidance provided by the CDC, PaDOH, PDE, and other local health agencies regarding face coverings. • The District recognizes that if the Acting Secretary of Health – who is the highest-ranking public health official in Pennsylvania – deems it appropriate for masks to be optional in Pennsylvania after January 17, 2022, the Springfield School District has no basis to conclude differently, and, therefore, the district will likewise also allow masks to be optional in schools as of that date, or any such date that the Acting Secretary of Health or the Delaware County Health Department determines appropriate.

ARP ESSER Requirement

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

- **Once the Order for masks is lifted, with the availability of vaccinations for all school-aged children, the wearing of masks will be supported indoors for both students and staff in grades K-12. If social distancing (3 feet for 15 minutes of cumulative exposure) cannot be maintained, masks will be required.**
- **The Springfield School District values vaccines. SSD supports anyone who wants to wear a mask, and we encourage unvaccinated people to wear a mask.**
- Masking while outdoors K-12 will not be required.
- Per Federal Law, masks continue to be mandated while on all public transportation including, but not limited to, school buses and vans.
- Medical exemptions to masking guidelines may be submitted for review to the building principal **using the proper form and required documentation found on our website [here](#).**
- **Students taking part in Test-to-Stay (TTS) must wear masks at all times, while indoors on school grounds. Mask exemptions may not be applied for the optional Test-to-Stay program.**
- The Board authorizes Administration to take emergency action to require universal masking in any building or grade level to respond to any outbreak of illness in the school community.
- Additionally, the Board reserves the right to revisit masking guidelines across all grade levels if circumstances present themselves where a change may be warranted. (i.e., Availability of vaccinations for younger children, rising/declining COVID positivity data,

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	<p>COVID outbreaks during/in school, recommendation from health departments, Governor's order, etc.).</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will configure all educational settings (where/when feasible) to allow for a minimum of 3 feet of spacing between and amongst students and staff. • Social distancing will continue to be maximized to the greatest extent possible when practical. School cafeterias will return to normal operation. • Seating charts will be maintained across educational settings for contact tracing purposes. • The District will consider any additional recommendations from the CDC or other health agencies for additional mitigation strategies related to spacing/distancing. • Lunch spacing will remain at 3-feet at the secondary level and 6-feet at the elementary level.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. The district will encourage our students, staff, and visitors/volunteers to implement these best practices. • The District will have hand sanitizer stations available in strategic locations in high traffic areas. • The District will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors/volunteers of proper respiratory/handwashing etiquette.

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<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established cleaning and ventilation protocols from 20-21 will continue to be implemented during the 21-22 school year. • The District utilizes EPA-approved disinfectants for use against COVID-19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, transportation vehicles, and office spaces. • All individuals will be encouraged to sanitize/wash hands on a regular basis. Hand sanitizer stations will be available in common areas, hallways, and/or in classrooms where sinks for handwashing are not available. • If there is an identified case of COVID-19, a cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place. • The District will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. The district will change filters regularly for its ventilation systems.
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the appropriate health department on the prescribed template for such instances. • The District will provide the health department, as required, a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school to the best of its ability. • The District will support and implement public health guidance on Close Contact Identification, Isolation and Quarantines. (See District’s <u>Close-contacts, Isolation Protocols, and Quarantine Guidelines</u>)

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	<p data-bbox="915 254 1328 321"><u>Notification on Reopening Schools website)</u></p> <ul data-bbox="870 359 1422 1171" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="870 359 1422 625">• The District has adopted the modified quarantined guidance as outlined by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and the PA Department of Education. (See District’s <u>Close-contacts, Isolation Protocols, and Quarantine Guidelines</u> <u>Notification on Reopening Schools website)</u>) <li data-bbox="870 663 1422 793">• Student, staff, or visitor/volunteer who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is a probable case, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. <li data-bbox="870 831 1422 898">• Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual. <li data-bbox="870 936 1422 1066">• Students, staff, or visitor/volunteers who were in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case must notify the program administrator/principal immediately. <li data-bbox="870 1104 1422 1171">• Guidance on potential quarantine will be provided to the individual.
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<ul data-bbox="870 1205 1422 1780" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="870 1205 1422 1335">• The District will follow its Immunization and Communicable Diseases Policy for guidance on communicable diseases, as COVID-19 is classified as such. <li data-bbox="870 1373 1422 1545">• The District will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill, such as gowns, approved face coverings, eye protection, and gloves. <li data-bbox="870 1583 1422 1780">• All students, staff, parents/guardians, visitors/volunteers are instructed to stay home when sick, symptomatic, or who have recently had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any individual who feels sick or exhibits symptoms will be instructed to report to the school nurse for evaluation. • Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to schools, off campus school activities, athletic events, or other school programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms outlined in the Student Daily Symptom Checker. • Staff, students, and visitors/volunteers who are ill must stay home from work, schools, off campus school-activities, athletic events, or other school programs. • Staff, students, and visitors/volunteers shall be sent home if they become ill at work, schools, off campus school-activities, athletic events, or other school programs. • Staff, students, and visitors/volunteers shall report immediately to their direct supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or health department. • SSD, in partnership with the DCIU, PaDOH, and CHOP, will have Binax Rapid Tests available for our “Test to Stay” program. Rapid tests may also be utilized as an initial safety measure in cases of symptomatic individuals. Details of the Test-to-Stay Program can be found here.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District has collaborated with local pharmacies to provide vaccination opportunities to eligible students, staff, and the greater community. Large-scale clinics

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	<p>have been hosted at Springfield High School with great success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how get a COVID-19 vaccine for their eligible child or family member.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students with disabilities with medical diagnoses that require a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP/504 team may reconvene to develop specially designed instruction, supplementary supports, or strategies that meet the needs of these students.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contract tracing with the appropriate health department. • The District will continue to have regular communication with local and state health officials • The District will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **(Springfield School District)** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(December 9, 2021)**.

Effective Date: January 17, 2022, or such time as the Acting Secretary of Health deems it appropriate to lift the masking order.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes
1 No

Affirmed on: **(December 9, 2021)**.

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Bruce Lord

(Printed 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.