

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: **Montrose Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: August 23, 2021

Date of Last Review: January 28, 2022

Date of Last Revision: January 31, 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?

The Montrose Area School District (MASD) will regularly review CDC requirements and recommendations as they are released. The Superintendent of Schools will monitor guidance from CDC on a biweekly basis. The LEA's Health and Safety Committee will meet at least quarterly to review any updated guidance and based on local conditions develop action plans as necessary.

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 Montrose Area School District intends for a full return to in-person instruction, 5 days a week. While the remote option for students served as a viable option for students and families during the 2020-2021 school year, we still believe there is no substitute for in person instruction. For this reason, the remote learning option will no longer be available during the 2021-22 school year. When live in-person instruction is not possible **due to building closures**, The Montrose Area School District will transition to synchronous remote instruction as utilized during closures for the 2020-21 school year. The District will ensure the tools, training, and technologies are made available to facilitate this remote learning. All students K-12 will be issued a district provided Chromebook at the beginning of the school year to ensure access to a device that is essential for participation in remote learning. For students and families without or limited internet connectivity, mobile hotspots will be provided by the district. Viewsonic ViewBoard interactive display technologies will be installed in all classrooms to help facilitate remote learning when necessary. These displays include tools to better facilitate information sharing and communication with both in-person and remote learners, encouraging peer-to-peer collaboration between and among students and teachers. The tools built into the ViewBoard displays provide the flexibility to implement both synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Teachers will continue to improve their capacity to leverage technology as an instructional tool, including utilizing Google Classroom as a learning platform, motivating students with rich, engaging content, applying online diagnostic software, extensions for the scaffolding of activities and effectively communicating and managing a hybrid learning environment.

When remote instruction becomes necessary, regular mental health checks will be made with all students and staff. The District will coordinate efforts with The Nutrition Group, to ensure students and families have access to meals during periods of closure.

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>The Montrose Area School District will make the wearing of masks or other face coverings optional for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year. There is overwhelming community support to leave this decision at the individual level. The District will ensure that students and staff who choose to wear face coverings receive training on the proper wearing of masks and are provided access to them when needed.</p> <p>Under a Federal order issued in January 2021, the CDC still requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation - this includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The district will limit building access to essential personnel and authorized visitors only. No one will be allowed to enter the building without authorization. All activities for recess and physical education classes will maintain social distancing guidelines to the maximum extent feasible.</p> <p>Student arrival and dismissal will be modified to reduce the amount of traffic in the hallways. To limit the number of students riding the bus, parents will be asked to transport their children if possible.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Hands should be washed with soap and water before eating, after using the restroom, or when visibly soiled. If soap and water are not available, stations with hand sanitizer will be located strategically throughout the building.</p> <p>Posters and signs will be obtained from the CDC website and utilized throughout the building to promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs. Students will be taught handwashing and respiratory etiquette to insure proper technique. This will be periodically reviewed throughout the year.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Ionization units are currently being installed throughout the district to assist with ventilation. Additionally, roofing projects throughout the district are planned to eliminate unwanted moisture from infiltrating our buildings and negatively impacting air quality. Daily cleaning and sanitization of buildings will continue throughout the 2021-22 school year. UV units will continue to be utilized in all district buildings, in conjunction with enhanced disinfecting protocols.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The Montrose Area School District will work with the PA Department of Health to conduct and support contact tracing when potential or identified cases are identified.</p> <p>Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine in accordance with the most recent recommendations issued by CDC and PA DOH.</p> <p>Symptomatic close contacts will be required to quarantine in accordance with the most recent quarantine recommendations issued by CDC and PA DOH.</p> <p>Asymptomatic close contacts can continue with in-person learning and activities but will be required to wear a mask during the 10-day quarantine period.</p> <p>Individuals who choose not to wear a mask properly will be required to quarantine at home during the 10-day quarantine period.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The Montrose Area School District will continue to evaluate opportunities to conduct diagnostic and screening testing on the school campus for students and staff.</p> <p>Given the revisions listed above, we will not implement a test-to stay program at this time.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The Montrose Area School district has partnered with NEPA Health Care and Medi-Cap Pharmacy to provide vaccines as listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January of 2021 vaccines were provided for faculty and staff. • June of 2021, we partnered with Medi-Cap Pharmacy to provide vaccines for anyone 12 and older. • August 18, 2021, we provided a back to school vaccination clinic for students and parents. • November 5, 2021 we provided a booster clinic • November 12, 2021 we provided a family vaccine clinic for anyone 5 and older. <p>As a district, we will continue to look for opportunities to provide vaccines for those families who are in need.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The Montrose Area School District, as part of the IEP process, will review and analyze student impact related to this health and safety plan. When appropriate, modifications will be made to ensure students are not negatively impacted.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Consistent with the 2020-21 school year, the Montrose Area School District will report all positive cases and close contacts to the PA Department of Health. To the greatest extent possible, all mitigation and prevention efforts will be consistent with the recommendations and requirements issued by the Pa Department of Health.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Montrose Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **January 31, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **January 31, 2022**

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.