



# 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:**

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School

**Initial Effective Date: July 20, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: July 10, 2023**

**Date of Last Revision: January 23, 2023**

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 local educational agency (LEA) will follow the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which has changed considerably since the start of the pandemic. In accordance with current CDC protocols, the following measures will be respected:

### **Vaccinations**

- Provide clear and accurate information about the vaccines and their benefits, establishing policies and practices that make it easy for people to get vaccinated, and offering vaccination clinics on-site or connecting eligible individuals with off-site vaccination locations.
- Encourage staff, students, and families to get vaccinated and share information about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines.
- Continuously monitor situation and adapt strategies as needed.

### **Staying Home when Sick**

- The CDC recommends that people who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home and not attend school or work.
- Additionally, people who are at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 who test positive should consult with a healthcare provider right away for possible treatment, even if their symptoms are mild. This can help to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases within the school environment.

### **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Proper hand hygiene, including washing hands frequently and thoroughly, can help prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Schools should teach and reinforce proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Provide adequate handwashing supplies, including soap and water, and encouraging students and staff to wash their hands frequently, especially at key times in the day such as before and after eating and after using the restroom.
- If washing hands is not possible, the school will provide hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- The school will reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19. This includes providing clear instructions and demonstrations on how to cover a cough or sneeze properly, such as using a tissue or the inside of the elbow, and encouraging students and staff to cover their coughs and sneezes.

### **Cleaning**

- The school will clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. This includes regularly cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces, such as desks, door handles, and frequently touched equipment.
- Cleaning and disinfection will be done in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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 local educational agency (LEA) has a plan in place to ensure continuity of services for students and staff during an outbreak of COVID-19. These include:

- Providing support for students who are struggling academically, such as through online tutoring or small group instruction.
- Providing resources and support for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs, such as through counseling services or mental health professionals.
- Providing student health services.
- Providing food services.
- Providing technology resources, such as internet access and computers, for students and staff who need them.

3. Use the table below during any time of a COVID-19 outbreak 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 school has flexible, non-punitive policies and practices to support individuals who choose to wear masks regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level.</p>
<p>b. <b>Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>Strategies have been maintained where possible to ensure safe physical distancing in classrooms and on school provided transportation, including modified seating arrangements and reduced class sizes when feasible.</p> <p>Students will return to school maintaining our heightened safety procedures to provide protection against the spread of COVID-19. Some of these considerations could include the following mitigation strategies.</p> <p>The school will designate specific areas to separate students from teaching/instructional staff when feasible.</p> <p>The school will limit small group instruction in close quarters and maintain distance in classroom seating arrangements.</p> <p>The school will maintain adjusted class times to allow for staggered arrival and dismissal of students in different grade levels.</p> <p>Students will eat in cafeterias with reduced lunch sizes when possible.</p>
<p>c. <b><u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b></p>	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to maintain healthy hand washing habits and respiratory etiquette throughout the school day.</p> <p>The school will encourage hand washing/sanitizing. Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in classrooms and shared spaces.</p> <p>The school will teach/remind students of</p>

	<p>coughing/sneezing etiquette. Guides for healthy measures are available on the school website.</p>
<p>d. <b><u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</b></p>	<p>Increased frequency of cleaning routines and sanitization procedures will be maintained across all buildings. Maintenance staff will clean high touch surfaces throughout the day. School vehicles and kitchen areas will also undergo increased cleaning and sanitization routines.</p> <p>Maintenance staff will frequently (multiple times throughout the day) clean and disinfect regularly touched surfaces and objects within the school including but not limited to door handles, sink handles, railings, and supplies.</p> <p>Classrooms will be disinfected at class changes or between groups of students by the teacher.</p> <p>Maintenance staff and food service workers will complete regular cleaning and sanitization of preparation/serving areas and cafeterias throughout the day.</p> <p>Vehicles will be regularly cleaned. When riding buses, drivers will encourage ventilation with fresh air by opening windows when feasible.</p> <p>Staff will consider utilizing outdoor spaces for instruction when feasible.</p>
<p>e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>Students and staff will undergo at-home, symptom self-screenings prior to entering the instructional spaces in the buildings each day. Students who are symptomatic will be isolated and evaluated, and then returned home with a requirement to follow DOH and CDC guidelines prior to returning to school.</p> <p>If symptoms are exhibited, students will be sent to a school nurse for monitoring and a temperature check and will be sent home following CDC guidelines.</p> <p>The school will follow the required reporting process for all communicable</p>



	<p>diseases when a positive case is identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The school nurse will contact PA DOH for guidance, if needed.</li> <li>- The school will notify students and families of possible exposure.</li> <li>- The school will follow PA DOH guidance following the reporting of a COVID-19 case, similar to the process employed for any communicable disease.</li> <li>- Quarantine and isolation protocols will be followed as recommended by CDC and PA DOH.</li> </ul>
<p><b>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</b></p>	<p>The school will continue to communicate with PA DOH regarding statewide efforts to provide diagnostic screening and COVID-19 testing to the school community.</p> <p>Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms will be referred to their primary care physician or to local providers for testing.</p> <p>Return-to-school protocols for students who have tested positive, demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms, or who are awaiting test results will continue to be followed.</p>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<p>The school will provide notifications to the school community regarding vaccination clinics and updated requirements.</p> <p>The school will partner with local providers to support vaccination efforts for both students and community members as requested.</p>
<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>All staff and students will be expected to follow current CDC and PA DOH guidelines for masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene practices when transmission levels warrant these measures.</p> <p>Universal protocols will be implemented to ensure the safety of all individuals on campus. The school may offer alternative options as needed and relaxed requirements for students who cannot fully follow guidelines for documented medical reasons.</p>



**i. Coordination with state and local health officials.**

The school will continue to maintain close communication and coordination with officials at the BVIU, PDE, and PA DOH for any changes or updates to requirements and recommendations.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on January 8, 2024.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: January 8, 2024

By:



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

PHILIP R OREND

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.