



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: Minersville Area School District

Effective Date: August 1, 2022

Date of Last Review: Reviewed by the Minersville Area Board of Education on Thursday, July 21, 2022 and approved on July 21, 2022.

Date of Last Revision: Last revised by the Minersville Area Board of Education on Thursday, July 21, 2022 and approved on July 21, 2022.

I. 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 Minersville Area School District (MASD) is committed to adhering to any and all CDC and PA Department of Health (DOH) guidelines in an effort to support ongoing prevention and mitigation efforts and slow the spread of COVID-19.

This document provides an operational strategy for safe delivery of in-person instruction in K–12 schools through the integration of a package of prevention and control components:

1. Consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in schools
2. Consideration of indicators of community transmission to reflect levels of community risk
3. Phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools:

1. Offer opportunities for vaccinations for the school community as often as possible
2. Building and Grounds Staff will utilize CDC guidelines to clean, sanitize, disinfect, and ventilate learning spaces, surfaces and other common areas.

The following procedures will be implemented:

- All products used meet OSHA & CDC requirements, custodial staff will be trained in appropriate cleaning techniques/product specifications.
- Cleaning supplies will be provided for teachers/staff to routinely clean desks/high touch areas 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, band rooms, training/weight rooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc. will be cleaned/disinfected in accordance with CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines.
- Mechanical filters will be changed and replaced as needed.
- High Touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly
- Water bottle filling stations are available for student and staff use. Individual water bottles/containers are encouraged.

- CDC guidelines will be followed for cleaning/responding to COVID-19 infection.

II. 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 Minersville Area School District will establish an equitable school reopening strategy to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of all students and staff to begin the 2022-2023 school year. The school health and safety planning committee will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Administrators
2. Teachers
3. Student and parent representatives
4. Specialized instructional support personnel (such as school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and nurses)
5. Facilities managers and custodial staff
6. Transportation personnel, school nutrition professionals, and family services representatives.

Consistent with health equity considerations, The Minersville Area School District will conduct active and specific outreach to underserved families – including parents/guardians of students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, students with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in foster care. This communication should be conducted in families' home languages or mode of communication and in alternate formats as needed to facilitate effective communication for individuals with disabilities and, where appropriate, in partnership with trusted community-based organizations.

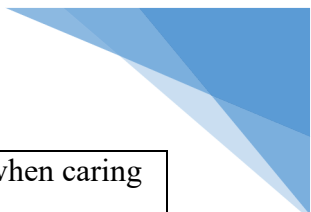
III. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks	<p>--The MASD will follow guidelines, orders, etc. from the CDC, Pennsylvania Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Schuylkill County Health Department regarding the use of face coverings for students, staff, and visitors.</p> <p>--The school nurses will provide instructional information on the universal and correct wearing of face coverings.</p>

<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>--The MASD will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Schuylkill County Health Department guidelines regarding student movement throughout the buildings to the greatest extent possible</p> <p>--The MASD will follow recommendations from the CDC, the PA Department of Health, and the PA Department of Education regarding physical distancing. When feasible, will utilize alternative spaces and limit class sizes.</p> <p>--Class sizes will be balanced to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>Cafeteria: - Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff • Require handwashing for elementary students before and after meal service • Encourage handwashing for secondary students before and after meal service • Maintain Plexiglas dividers at the register and in serving lines • Provide options for non-contact payments • Serve grab-and-go meals where feasible and in multiple locations • Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines; designate entrances and exits; • Purchase and use single-serve condiments and utensils • Use of outdoors when feasible • Meals will be served following the guidelines of the CDC, USDA, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education. <p>Visitors: Visitors will not be permitted to enter the building without a previously scheduled appointment.</p> <p>--The MASD may continue to hold meetings virtually or via phone to the maximum extent possible.</p>
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	<p>--All group activities will be planned in accordance with CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Schuylkill County Health Department guidelines. This includes activities during the school day, in the evening, and all <i>athletic events</i>.</p> <p>--The MASD will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Schuylkill County Health Department guidelines regarding <i>student movement</i> throughout the buildings.</p> <p>--The MASD will follow CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Schuylkill County Health Department guidelines regarding <i>transportation</i> of students.</p>
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	<p>--The nursing staff along with teachers and administrators will teach and reinforce good hygiene measures, such as handwashing, covering of coughs/sneezes, and use of face coverings. This will also be reinforced through various formats (print, video, verbal instruction, etc.).</p> <p>--Hand sanitizing stations will remain in place throughout the buildings.</p> <p>--Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no touch trash can in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas.</p>
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;	<p>--Sharing of items will be limited as much as possible. When absolutely necessary to share items, cleaning and/or quarantining procedure will be put into place.</p> <p>--Students and staff will be encouraged to bring personal/individual water bottles or to refill bottles from the contactless water bottle filling stations.</p> <p>--The MASD may supply water to student athletes during sporting events, practices, etc. Student-athletes are encouraged to bring their own water and are not to share containers.</p>
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<p>--The MASD will limit use of areas used by a sick person and wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection when possible. The 24-hour</p>

	<p>period is calculated from the last time a sick person was present in the area.</p> <p>--The MASD will work with the county and state health departments to determine when students, staff, or visitors should isolate or quarantine at home.</p> <p>--The MASD will work with the county and state health departments to determine when to notify staff and families of a possible case, while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.</p> <p>--The MASD will work with the county and state health departments to determine when isolated or quarantined individuals should return to school/work.</p>
Diagnostic and screening testing;	<p>--The MASD will encourage students, families and staff members to conduct a daily self-check at home for symptoms of COVID-19, in accordance with the PA Department of Health Symptom Monitoring Tool.</p> <p>--The MASD will frequently communicate the symptoms of COVID-19 and encourage self-monitoring for symptoms. All will be instructed to remain home if they are experiencing any symptoms or are feeling ill.</p> <p>--Individuals who are symptomatic in a school building will receive a health assessment, which includes a review for history of exposure. Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms should wear a mask in the building until they can safely return home. Masks will be provided.</p> <p>--The MASD will address privacy concerns of monitoring practices and the potential stigma associated with monitoring and confirmed exposure or cases.</p> <p>--Staff and students must stay home if sick.</p> <p>--The MASD administration will identify a space in each school to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms while they wait for transportation home.</p> <p>--School nurses and other healthcare providers will use Standard and</p>



	<p>Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.</p> <p>--The MASD will collaborate with the school practitioners and health officials as needed.</p>
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	<p>--Vaccine clinics will continue to be offered in collaboration with local health providers. These clinics will be open to the students, staff, parents, guardians, and the community at large.</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and--	<p>--PPE will be provided to vulnerable students/staff as appropriate and as requested.</p> <p>--The administration/faculty will collaborate with families of students with disabilities and will make appropriate accommodations as needed.</p>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials;	<p>--The MASD will follow the federal, state, and local guidelines as updated.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for The Minersville Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 21, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 X YES

 NO

Affirmed on: July 21, 2022

By: _____
(Signature* of Board President)

Keith Adams
(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.