



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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: Montgomery County Youth Center

Initial Effective Date: August 30, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 27, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 27, 2021

1. How will the Youth Center, 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 Montgomery County Youth Center plans for a safe Return to in-person instruction five days per week in the 2021-2022 school year. The Youth Center will continue regular communication and consultation with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health to ensure our strategies, policies, and procedures are in full alignment with county, state and federal recommendations. The Youth Center has invested a significant amount of time in ensuring a safe return to school. The Youth Center has implemented many strategies that include mask wearing, modified teaching spaces and protective barriers for teachers in our classrooms. The Youth Center is committed to educating students and staff on enhanced health and safety protocols. The Food Service Department has also has implemented many safe practices for food distribution to the students and staff at the Youth Center.

2. How will the Youth Center 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 Montgomery County Youth Center will provide in-person services related to the student's academic, social, emotional, mental health and food service needs while we safely operate within the facility. The monitoring of the student and staff health is paramount to the safe operation of the Youth Center. Should transmission levels increase at the Youth Center or in the community, the Youth Center will revisit and update its health and safety plan to provide services virtually or remotely to the students at the Youth Center. The Youth Center will continue to communicate with county health officials to ensure our plan reflects best practice and will update protocols and procedures as needed.

3. Use the table below to explain how the Youth Center 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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>The Youth Center has reviewed and considered the CDC recommendations for universal and correct wearing of masks.</p> <p>The Youth Center will follow the mandates and directives of the PA Department of Health and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health for universal and correct wearing of masks.</p> <p>Masks are worn in the classroom by teachers, staff and students.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Instruction Spaces: Student desks will be physically distanced to the greatest extent feasible.</p> <p>All students will sit forward facing at all time.</p> <p>Sneeze guards are in the classrooms.</p> <p>Unnecessary furniture has been removed from the classrooms.</p> <p>Teacher spaces will be in each classroom.</p> <p>Dining Room tables have sneeze guards.</p> <p>Spaces will be arranged to promote social distancing.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>When handwashing, individuals should use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds.</p> <p>Signs will be displayed in designated areas for student and staff with pictures and reminders to enforce proper hygiene.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer is available throughout the facility. Teachers have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available in the classrooms.</p> <p>Supplies will be maintained throughout the facility including soap, hand sanitizer,</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>disinfectant wipes, paper towels and trash cans.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>The Youth Center has established protocols for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects within the facility including door handles, sinks and drinking fountains.</p> <p>Hand sanitizers are available throughout the facility.</p> <p>Disposable cups are made available.</p> <p>High touch surfaces are cleaned throughout the day by staff.</p> <p>Supplemental cleaning will be done as needed.</p> <p>Disinfectant Spray gun will be used as needed along with disinfectant sprays for clean surfaces and high touch areas.</p> <p>Filters are changed as needed to improve air ventilation.</p> <p>Vehicles have disinfectant wipes available for use.</p>
<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>	<p>The Youth Center will collaborate with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health to conduct contact tracing and determine periods of quarantine for infected and/or exposed individuals.</p> <p>Contact tracing will be initiated for any individuals who are within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a person who tests positive for Covid-19.</p> <p>The Youth Center along with the Medical Department and based on the Health Department and CDC requirements will determine isolation and quarantine periods for any student or staff that tests positive for COVID-19. The Youth Center</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>has Rapid COVID tests available to test any student or staff for COVID-19.</p> <p>The Facility will follow CDC guidelines for those who experience a close contact.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>The Montgomery County Youth Center has rapid antigen testing available on-site. Every new admission is tested for COVID-19 at the Youth Center.</p> <p>Rapid antigen testing may be used for assurance testing.</p> <p>Rapid antigen testing will be used to protect the staff and students at the Youth Center and will be used as needed.</p> <p>Residents/Students temperatures checked daily by the Youth Center's Medical Department.</p> <p>The Youth Center uses daily health screening for students to monitor the health of the residents.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The Montgomery County Office of Public Health provides vaccination opportunities and announcements are posted in the facility when applicable.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The Montgomery County Youth Center provide students the applicable accommodation while in our care.</p> <p>Administration and Medical Department determine the appropriate accommodations as needed for students in our care.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Youth Center will continue to consult with Montgomery County Office of Public Health, Commissioner Office and the PA Department of Health to ensure the Youth Center is aligned with state and health initiatives related to the pandemic.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Montgomery County Board of Managers will review and approve the Health and Safety Plan at the September 2021 Board Meeting.

Joseph Viti, Executive Director Montgomery County Youth Center

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **September 28, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

JEFFREY McCabe

(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.