



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: Laurel Highlands SD

Initial Effective Date: June 21, 2023

Date of Last Review: 6/21/23 and ongoing in alignment with State/CDC/DOH guidance updates.

Date of Last Revision: 6/21/23

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 Laurel Highlands School District, per board approval, will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC and update our Health and Safety Plans as needed. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the greatest extent feasible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. The LHSD will implement and follow all legal requirements and when feasible apply the most updated CDC/DOH guidelines and recommendations in reporting and addressing COVID-19 and associated variant outbreaks.

Parents, students and staff will consistently be made aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (as well as preventive measures) through multiple communications as well as signage throughout the schools. Visitors entering the building will be on an "as needed" basis only if possible and in alignment with CDC/DOH guidelines. Symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. No child with symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school. All staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work, and will stay home if ill. Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic. New procedures/markings will be put in the buildings to limit high traffic areas and congestion when feasible. Currently (may change at any point), wearing masks is optional in Pennsylvania. Removing symptomatic children/staff from the schools, will decrease the overall risk of infection in a given classroom. However, students and staff will have masks made available to them at all times in the event that their use is required, including in a school vehicle, if the individual becomes symptomatic, or if the minimum social distancing cannot be maintained. Staff, not able to socially distance from students, will utilize a face shield/mask. Staff will notify principal if unable to wear a mask due to a medical condition.

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?

Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate including virtual if needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals if needed for students throughout the entire year.

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently (may change at any point), wearing masks is optional in Pennsylvania. ● The district will take into consideration all Commonwealth and CDC/DOH guidance in regard to masking. ● The LHSD will implement and follow all legal requirements and when feasible apply the most updated CDC/DOH guidelines and recommendations in reporting and addressing COVID-19 and associated variant outbreaks. ● Currently, the Order is removed/edited, therefore, wearing masks will not be required of students while in school but will optional. ● Removing symptomatic children/staff from the schools, will decrease the overall risk of infection in a given classroom. However, students and staff will have masks made available to them at all times in the event that their use is required, including in a school vehicle, if the individual becomes symptomatic, or if the minimum social distancing cannot be maintained. ● Staff, not able to socially distance from students, will utilize a face shield/mask.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed and implemented when feasible. ● For those who are required to wear a mask, correct and consistent <u>mask use</u> is a critical step everyone can take to reduce their risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staff and students will be trained on and reminded of proper mask use.
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the classrooms, additional furniture has been removed to allow for as much space as possible to assist in spreading desks apart. ● Classroom configurations have been altered for maximal social distancing as feasible. ● One way traffic patterns have been established at each school. ● Additional lunch periods have been added. ● Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of air when possible. ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of air when possible. ● All individuals in school will be encouraged to sanitize/wash their hands on a frequent basis. Every school has received additional hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, wipes and masks for any student or staff member who needs them. ● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good

	<p>hygiene, proper respiratory etiquette and school/district specific protocols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Since COVID is an airborne virus, air purifying systems have been installed in kitchens, nurses offices, and in high traffic areas. In addition, these units have Ozone capability to thoroughly clean any space that may be contaminated by a person with COVID symptoms. ● In addition to daily scheduled cleaning of the buildings, all high-touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly, door handles, light switches, playground equipment, and student desks as needed. ● Drinking fountains will be turned off and are replaced with DOH/CDC approved refilling mechanisms. ● Students and staff will be encouraged to use individual water bottles from home or disposable plastic bottles. ● Buses and vans will be disinfected on a regular basis. ● Once per week, all buildings will receive a deep cleaning in addition to regularly scheduled cleaning. Deep cleaning will include spraying every building with electrostatic sprayers. ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of air when possible. ● Since COVID is an airborne virus, air purifying systems have been purchased and installed in kitchens, nurses offices, and in high traffic areas. In addition, these units have Ozone capability to thoroughly clean any space that

	<p>may be contaminated by a person with COVID symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to daily scheduled cleaning of the buildings, all high-touch surfaces will be disinfected regularly, door handles, light switches, playground equipment, and student desks as needed. Drinking fountains will be turned off and are replaced with DOH/CDC approved refilling mechanisms. • Students and staff will be encouraged to use individual water bottles from home or disposable plastic bottles. • Buses and vans will be disinfected on a regular basis. • Once per week, all buildings will receive a deep cleaning in addition to regularly scheduled cleaning. Deep cleaning will include spraying every building with electrostatic sprayers. • Effective 2/26/23, all custodial schedules will be returned to CBA timelines. Therefore, the high and middle schools will have twenty-four hour (24) cleaning. All buildings will continue to be cleaned during the school day with an emphasis on sanitizing and disinfecting all high-traffic areas. • Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<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"> • Each case (or possible case) will be handled on an individual basis as each case may have different factors that impact the decision making process. • All stakeholders should not come to school and should notify school officials if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are diagnosed with COVID-19 symptoms, are waiting test results, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or a confirmed case.

- The district has identified isolation rooms in all our schools to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive but does not have symptoms.
- Families should develop a plan with family members to be prepared to bring your child home if they are exhibiting symptoms.
- In general, if a student or staff member is identified with COVID symptoms while in school or prior to attending school the district will consider the prescribed CDC Guidance/DOH "Self-Reporting" and "Line-List" protocols should they be in place and implemented when feasible.
- We will immediately separate individuals with symptoms. The LHSD will implement and follow all legal requirements and when feasible apply the most updated CDC/DOH guidelines and recommendations in reporting and addressing COVID-19 and associated variant outbreaks.
- We will contact family members immediately and place the student/faculty member in the isolation room.
- Areas used by the sick will be closed off and areas will not be used until after a thorough cleaning/disinfection.
- Advise sick individuals and family that they should not return to school until they have a physician's excuse and have followed all CDC/DOH guidelines.
- The health department will also take the lead on guidance and contact tracing, isolation/quarantine of ill students and staff, and any further actions needed to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- The LHSD adhere to and implement when feasible the most recent CDC/DOH

	<p>guidance/recommendations regarding contact tracing and isolation/quarantine procedures for students and staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will notify staff and families of cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality. ● Notify stakeholders of any closures or restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 exposure. ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. No child with symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school. Random temperature checks will be done by security as students enter. All late students and/or visitors will have their temperatures checked. ● All staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work, and will stay home if ill. ● Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic. ● All stakeholders should not come to school and should notify school officials if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are diagnosed with COVID-19 symptoms, are waiting test results, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or a confirmed case. ● The district has identified isolation rooms in all our schools to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive but does not have symptoms. ● Families should develop a plan with family members to be prepared to bring your child home they are exhibiting symptoms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The district will continue to promote vaccination drives and open vaccination clinics when feasible. In addition, the district has already teamed with UPMC for vaccination clinics on site at the Laurel Highlands High School and at IU1 facility sites. ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that any procedure regarding face coverings or any other parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues. ● Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws should be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety protocols and procedures. ● Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each case (or possible case) will be handled on an individual basis as each case may have different factors that impact the decision making process. In general, if a student or staff member is identified with COVID symptoms while in school or prior to attending school the district will follow the prescribed CDC/DOH "Self-Reporting" and "Line-List" protocols should they be in place when feasible. ● We will immediately separate individuals with symptoms. ● We will contact family members immediately and place the student/faculty member in the

	<p>isolation room. The LHSD will implement and follow all legal requirements and when feasible apply the most updated CDC/DOH guidelines and recommendations in reporting and addressing COVID-19 and associated variant outbreaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas used by the sick will be closed off and areas will not be used until after a thorough cleaning/disinfection.• Advise sick individuals and family that they should not return to school until they have a physician's excuse and have followed all CDC/DOH guidelines.• The health department will also take the lead on guidance and contact tracing, isolation/quarantine of ill students and staff, and any further actions needed to contain the spread of COVID-19.• We will notify staff and families of cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.• Notify stakeholders of any closures or restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 exposure.• Please Note: All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.
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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for LAUREL HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on June 21, 2023.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

1 Absent

Affirmed on: June 21, 2023

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

JOSEPH P. D'ANDREA

(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.

