



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: **Chester Upland School District**

Initial Effective Date: **August 30, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **October 19, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **October 28, 2021**

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?

Chester Upland School District (CUSD) implemented a *Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan* throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Policy Lab, and the Chester County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our District community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Prevention and mitigation strategies will be updated as new guidance is made available by these public health organizations. CUSD will continue our efforts to constantly monitor COVID-19 cases. Delaware County's relationship with the Chester County Health Department ended on July 31, 2021. Effective August 1, 2021, Delaware County falls under the PA Department of Health for COVID-19 matters. The Delaware County Health Department is expected to open in January 2022. We will continue to stay in direct contact with the PA Department of Health, and we will follow any mandates as determined by the CDC, Governor, PA Department of Health, and PDE.

Furthermore, CUSD will continue implementation of *BinaxNOW* screening testing through *Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing* (Project: ACE-IT) for any teachers, staff, or students who volunteer to participate and/or who become symptomatic while at school or work. Additionally, CUSD will continue to support vaccination clinics for our teachers, staff, and students. According to updated guidance that was released on July 27, 2021, the CDC recommends that everyone in K-12 schools wear a mask indoors, including teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. The PA Department of Health has recommended that schools follow the CDC guidance. The CDC also recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to the extent possible. However, the decision for any COVID-19 mitigation measures is ultimately that of each school district and its Board of Directors. Due to this updated CDC guidance, low vaccination rates, and the emergence of more transmissible COVID-19 variants, CUSD will continue to require all individuals two years of age and older to wear a face mask in schools and/or Administrative Offices. Three feet of social distancing will also be implemented to the extent possible. Under a Federal order issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation, including school buses operated by public and

private school systems. Therefore, all individuals on CUSD school buses are required to wear face masks at all times. These mitigation measures will be implemented for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. This *Health and Safety Plan* and all COVID-19 mitigation measures/protocols will be reviewed and updated by the *School Reopening Task Force* at least every six months and whenever new guidance is released. Our District will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and CHOP Policy Lab. This information will assist the District when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our *Health and Safety Plan* as necessary. The District stands ready and able to adjust and adapt as needed should there be a spike in COVID-19 cases.

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?

CUSD is committed to providing all students with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Continuity of services delivery will be determined based on the individualized needs of the students served and CUSD's ability to provide those services in compliance with current CDC guidelines. The instructional programming that we put in place is easily and quickly adaptable should it become necessary to move to a hybrid learning instructional model or full remote learning instructional model for a short or long period of time depending on the circumstances.

We will continue to spend a significant amount of time assessing and addressing the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff. The District will continue to use Social and Emotional Learning curricula with all students as a part of our overall strategy to support the mental health and emotional needs of our students. We will be implementing different programs during the start of the 2021-2022 academic year in order to accommodate this most important need. These programs include a continued District-wide multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) framework. All schools will use Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) strategies, such as *Check-In Check-Out*, while integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will partner with local community resources to assist us in addressing the social and emotional needed of our students and staff. Additionally, CUSD will continue to provide a variety of mental and emotional health supports to staff members via the use of the employee assistance program and other solutions.

CUSD is actively preparing for all scenarios and will be prepared to shift to hybrid or remote operations should a spike in COVID-19 cases force temporary or prolonged closures. While we hope additional closures are not a reality, due to the low vaccination rates of teachers, staff, students, families, and community members and the emergence of more transmissible COVID-19 variants, we must be prepared for the possibility of

such an increase in cases in the Fall and Winter. The Food Services program will continue to provide nutritious meals (breakfast and lunch) to students daily. All COVID-19 food prep, serving, and cleaning protocols will continue to be followed and monitored for compliance. Lastly, to promote a healthy and safe environment for students and staff, COVID-19 mitigation guidelines and protocols will be followed and frequent written reminders will be used to help promote compliance in all schools. If students and staff return to a hybrid or full remote learning structure, CUSD will provide all students and families with a Chromebook and hotspot if needed. If schools are closed due to COVID-19, meal distribution at Chester High School, Toby Farms Intermediate School, and Stetser Elementary School will also commence.

In addition, CUSD has approved *Emergency Instructional Time* [Section 520.1 – 2021-2022 School Year]. This can be viewed on the District website on July 30, 2021.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to updated guidance that was released on July 27, 2021, the CDC recommends that everyone in K-12 schools wear a mask indoors, including teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. The PA Department of Health has recommended that schools follow the CDC guidance. CUSD will continue to require all individuals two years of age and older to wear masks in schools and/or Administrative Offices due to low vaccination rates of teachers, staff, students, and community members and the emergence of more transmissible COVID-19 variants. • According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, under a Federal order issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation, including school buses operated by public and private school systems. Therefore, all individuals on CUSD school buses are required to wear face masks at all times.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennsylvania lifted its Order for physical distancing and occupancy limits on May 31, 2021. However, the CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to the extent possible. CUSD schools will implement 3 feet of social distancing to the extent possible.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUSD will consider any additional recommendations from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and/or PDE for additional mitigation strategies when they update their guidance for the 2021-2022 school year. • If necessary due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, the District will adapt and adjust accordingly, including, but not limited to, a return to 6 feet of social distancing or a move to a hybrid learning instructional model or full remote learning instructional model. • The District will also leave in place the social distancing signs/markings on the floors to encourage good social distancing practices.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snacks, when transitioning back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. CUSD will encourage our students, teachers, staff, contractors, and visitors to implement these best practices. • CUSD will have hand sanitizer available in strategic locations and in high-traffic areas. • CUSD will continue to post signs in schools and Administrative Offices reminding students, teachers, staff, contractors, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette. • Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUSD will continue to diligently clean our facilities during the day and at the close of each school day. • CUSD utilizes Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Approved Disinfectants to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. • CUSD will follow the CDC's <i>Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting Schools</i>. • There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces. • Frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school and on buses will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, sink faucet handles/knobs, and drinking fountains.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to utilize Electrostatic sprayers (approved by the EPA to use against COVID-19) to deep clean schools and offices. • If there is a reported case of COVID-19, then increased cleaning and disinfecting of the area(s) the individual occupied will take place. • CUSD will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible.
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUSD's Health and Safety Team will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the PA Department of Health. • CUSD's Health and Safety Team will provide the PA Department of Health a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individuals as reported by the affected person. • CUSD will support and implement modified guidance on isolation and quarantine. <p><u>Modified Guidance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who are considered a possible case of COVID exposure are identified with three criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Temperature above 100.0 2. Show signs of exposure to COVID (fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, sore throat) 3. Known close contact to a confirmed positive COVID case. <p><u>Vaccinated Children (12 years of age and older):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If students show signs of exposure to COVID they will be invited to get rapid COVID testing. Vaccinated children will be able to stay in school if their rapid COVID test is negative and they feel and appear well. • If students rapid COVID test is Positive - they are considered exposed they will be sent home to get medical evaluation, and if well appearing, can return in 5 days to repeat a rapid COVID test at the school. • If students are COVID Test Positive and ill with cough, fever or medical evaluation of COVID illness, they will have to stay home 7 days, and can return when well and COVID test negative.

Unvaccinated Children (under 12 years of age and families who decline vaccination):

- Any unvaccinated student who shows signs of exposure to COVID (fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, sore throat) will be sent home for **7-day** home isolation. After the **5th day of quarantine, a student is then eligible to take the COVID test.** If the test returns negative, the student is eligible to return after completion of 7-day quarantine. (Student is eligible to return on Day 8).
- Any Unvaccinated student who has a rapid COVID test positive, will have to Quarantine **10 days**, and can return to school after a negative COVID test.

Families Who Decline Rapid COVID Testing:

- Families who do not want to have rapid COVID testing, will have to Quarantine for **10 days** with any signs of illness or fever and will not be able to participate in travel or extracurricular activities. Families who do not do testing at school will need to be cleared by their medical provider to return to school after **10 days**. **Families who will not be doing any testing will be offered virtual learning, but will not remain in person.**

Close Contacts to a confirmed positive Covid case within the school community:

- **Vaccinated and Tested negative = Three tests on non-consecutive days in a 7-day period.**
- **Unvaccinated and No Testing = 10 days Quarantine and no activities**

Household Contacts:

- If the **CUSD staff member or student is vaccinated** and the **COVID positive household member is also vaccinated**, then the CUSD staff member or student can **Test-to-Stay** and remain at work/school. He/she will be required to receive 3 rapid COVID-19 tests on non-consecutive days across 7 days. If he/she continues to test negative, then he/she can continue to attend work/school.
- If the **CUSD staff member or student is vaccinated**, but the **COVID positive household member is unvaccinated**,

then the CUSD staff member or student can remain at work/school if they **Test-to-Stay + 10-day monitoring for symptoms**. He/she will be required to receive 3 rapid COVID-19 tests on non-consecutive days across 7 days. He/she must also monitor for symptoms of COVID for 10 days. If he/she continues to test negative and remains symptom-free, then he/she can continue to attend work/school.

- If the **CUSD staff member or student is unvaccinated** and the **COVID positive household member is vaccinated**, then the CUSD staff member or student must **quarantine for 10 days**.
- If the **CUSD staff member or student is unvaccinated** and the **COVID positive household member is unvaccinated**, then the CUSD staff member or student must **quarantine for 20 days**. Step One: Quarantine with COVID positive household member during their quarantine for 10 days. Step Two: Second Quarantine (additional 10 days) begins after COVID positive household member is released from quarantine. Total: 20-day quarantine.

***Rationale provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** Since separation of the person with COVID-19 from others in the home is often not possible, the other members of the household will have *ongoing* exposure, meaning they will be repeatedly exposed until the COVID positive person is no longer able to spread the virus to other people. People with COVID-19 can spread the virus to other people for 10 days after they develop symptoms, or 10 days from the date of their positive test if they do not have symptoms.

Positive Household Contact & CUSD Community Member

	-Vaxxed CUSD Member	-Unvaxxed CUSD Member
+ Vaxxed Household	Test To Stay	10 days
+ Unvaxxed Household	Test To Stay + 10 day monitoring	20 days

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers, staff, contractors, or students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been identified as a probable case must notify their direct supervisor and email the designated CUSD COVID-19 email address immediately. Isolation guidance will be provided to the individual. • Teachers, staff, contractors, or students who have been notified that they have been identified as a close contact of an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 must notify their direct supervisor and email the designated CUSD COVID-19 email address immediately. Quarantine guidance will be provided to the individual. • CUSD will provide regular information about COVID-19 on District website and in parent flyers/letters. • Records will be maintained of any visitors, volunteers, and vendors who enter the building, their reason for being there, the location in the building the visit, and the names of the close contacts that they visit in the building. We will continue to require visitors and vendors to complete the <i>Visitors Acknowledgement of Conduction Screening, Obligation to Report Symptoms</i> form, which states that visitors and vendors agree to complete the CUSD's <i>Health Screening Form</i> and to contact the District immediately if they test positive for COVID-19 or are notified of a known COVID-19 exposure.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow its <i>Immunization and Communicable Diseases, Policy 203</i>, for guidance on communicable diseases as COVID-19 is classified as such. • CUSD will continue implementation of <i>BinaxNOW</i> COVID-19 testing through <i>Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing</i> (Project: ACE-IT) for any teachers, staff, or students who volunteer to participate. CUSD will also continue implementation of <i>Project ACE-IT</i> for individuals who become symptomatic while at school or work. • CUSD will maintain adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for use including gloves and gowns. Face masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes will also be available. • The District will share resources with the learning community to help families understand when to keep children home. • CUSD requires teachers, staff, contractors, and volunteers to self-screen prior to reporting to work and schools and to stay home if experiencing any symptoms as outlined in the chart below.

- CUSD strongly recommends parents and guardians self-screen their child prior to reporting to school and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms as outlined in the chart below.

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of smell or taste (without congestion) • Cough • Shortness of breath • Difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore throat • Chills • Muscle pain • Fever • Headache • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea

- Teachers, staff, students, contractors, volunteers, and visitors shall be sent home if they become ill at work or school.
- CUSD will continue to require all students, staff, and visitors who enter schools and/or Administrative Offices to undergo temperature screening. Staff and visitors will also need to complete a *Health Screening Form*.
- Teachers, staff, contractors, students, and volunteers who are ill must stay home from work and schools.
- Students and staff will go to the nurse immediately if feeling symptomatic while at school/work.
- Teachers, staff, contractors, or students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have been identified as a probable case, or have been identified as a close contact must notify their direct supervisor and email the designated CUSD COVID-19 email address immediately. These individuals will be provided isolation or quarantine guidance as per guidelines from the PA Department of Health.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;

- CUSD will provide information to teachers, staff, and families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- CUSD will continue to partner with the City of Chester, local health agencies, and community organizations to provide vaccine clinics to teachers, staff, students, families, and community members.
- The District will help publicize information regarding vaccination opportunities within the local community.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with

- For students with disabilities and/or a medical diagnosis that require a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP Team may reconvene to

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>develop specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicing students in low incidence programs can be challenging due to, but not limited to, students with medical concerns, students not understanding the importance of wearing a mask, students unable to maintain proper social distancing, students requiring hand-over-hand instruction and support, and students requiring assistance with feeding and/or toileting. • For the reasons listed above, extra precautions will be implemented. These precautions include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a sink is available in the classroom, then staff should thoroughly wash hands immediately before and after working with a student. • Avoid the use of communal objects for student reinforcement. If such objects are used with multiple students, each object should be disinfected immediately before and after student use. • Personal student iPads/Chromebooks/Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices should be disinfected after each use. • Bathrooms and changing tables should be disinfected before and after student use. • Students should be assisted with handwashing if needed.
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUSD has established relationships with state and local health officials, and we are committed to coordinating any efforts related to COVID-19 with those groups. • CUSD's Health and Safety Team will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contact tracing to the PA Department of Health. • CUSD's Health and Safety Team will consult with the PA Department of Health on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Receiver/Board of Directors/Trustees for **CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **October 28, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of: /

☒ Yes

☐ No

Affirmed on: **October 28, 2021**

By:


(Signature* of Receiver)

Nafis Nickels
(Print Name of Receiver)

*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.