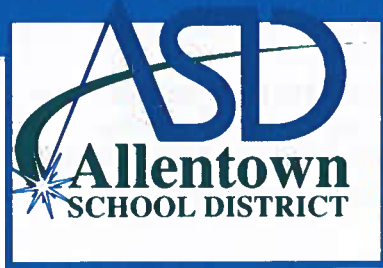


ASD ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

Last Revision: August 2023



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Initial Effective Date:	July 2020
Date of Last Review:	August 2023
Date of Last Revision:	August 2023

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 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.

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 Allentown School District will continue to offer a full, in-person instructional model in addition to a Virtual Campus option for students who qualify. In order to continuously and safely open/operate schools for in-person learning, the Allentown School District (ASD) will adhere to layered measures within all schools and buildings. All district staff, students, volunteers, and visitors will be required to adhere to the layered measures.

We will continue to monitor and review the latest guidance and recommendations from the CDC, PA DOH, The Allentown Health Bureau, St. Luke's and LVHN. The local and state guidance will be reviewed and considered when determining appropriate prevention and mitigation strategies. We will continue to monitor the community and county data to determine the impact upon and within the ASD.

**This plan is a fluid document and subject to change as needed.*

COVID Community Levels

*ASD is continually monitoring the COVID Community Levels. The COVID-19 Community Levels are a tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be **low**, **medium**, or **high** and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID- 19 cases in an area.

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID-19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are <u>at high risk for severe illness</u>, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID-19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a <u>mask</u> indoors in public Stay <u>up to date</u> with COVID-19 vaccines <u>Get tested</u> if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people <u>at high risk for severe illness</u>
<p>People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.</p>		

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?

Academic Needs

In person learning and Virtual Campus will be the primary instructional models for all ASD K- 12 students for the **2023-2024** school year. To help address the issue of learning loss, the Allentown

School District implemented a 2023 Summer Scholar Program. In addition, ESY was provided for our special education students.

After-school programming will be provided to address learning loss and accelerate learning recovery through an extended learning day model.

ASD will continue to communicate with all stakeholders to ensure all staff, professional students, families, and the community are informed and able to safely engage in the education process.

All students will be provisioned a device that is to be used in classrooms in support of the required instructional model and in fulfillment of standards-based core curricular needs.

Continue to provide a continuum of evidence-based academic, behavioral, social, and emotional supports aligned with student needs

Foster Supportive Learning Environments

Place equitable, trauma-informed principles at the core of planning to create a safe and inclusive space for learning, form positive and supportive relationships, and support students and staff mentally and socially recover.

- SEL Initiatives
- Continued expansion, practice and training of Restorative Practices
- Creating supportive school environments and the establishment of strong teacher-student relationships are effective steps to accelerate recovery from learning loss.

Student Health, Social and Emotional Support

ASD will continue to use a tiered approach to promote student's feelings of safety and support. Our goal is to develop a safe and supportive environment with a focus on relationships. This will continue to be a critical component in the upcoming school year.

- The integration of Social Emotional Learning, Trauma Informed Practices, PBIS, Calming Spaces, Mindfulness and Restorative Practices will promote and support student's positive mental health.

Programs

- Student Assistance Program, SAP (Tier 2 - 3/ Moderate - High)
- Mental Health Supports (Tier 2 - 3/ Moderate - High)

Staff Social and Emotional Support

- EAP (Employee Assistance Program)
- Behavioral Health Support through staff benefit package
- Trainings through Safe Schools

Meal Service

- The District will continue to operate its school breakfast and lunch program, serving all students who attend school for in person instruction. Additionally, those students who attend school virtually will have the option to schedule a daily period to eat lunch in the school cafeteria.

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.***

The table below reflects ASD guidance documents developed and updated for key stakeholder groups related to COVID 19 prevention and mitigation strategies, policies, and procedures. All documents are fluid and will continue to be revised based on guidance from the CDC, PDE, CLIU21, and local healthcare partners.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wearing of masks will be optional in all ASD buildings. Students, staff, and visitors may choose to mask at any time. • The district recognizes that masking is a personal decision and anyone who feels wearing a mask is the best decision for them shall be encouraged to do so. • Those who are immunocompromised, or at high risk for severe illness, should talk to their healthcare provider about masking. • Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 while in school, will be asked to put a mask on immediately. • Anyone returning to school post COVID-19 infection after a 5-day quarantine, shall wear a mask from day 6 through day 10 upon return. • Masks will also be optional during transport on buses operated by the transportation contractor (First Student). • ASD will continue to offer masks to those who choose to mask. • Masking decision updates and or changes will be made based on recommendations from the CDC, the PA Department of Health and local COVID-19 data including but not limited to the COVID Community Level for Lehigh County, positivity rates, new regulations, vaccination rates, etc.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Social distancing is no longer a CDC requirement.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Signage for buildings is posted and highly visible locations throughout the district. • Frequent handwashing. • Handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer (FDA approved) will be used within all buildings, classrooms, etc. where applicable. When handwashing is not a viable option, hand sanitizer will be used. All classrooms (1000) throughout the district are equipped with hand sanitizer for use by all.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory Etiquette guidance from the CDC will be used throughout all instructional spaces, cafeterias, etc. to support ASD mitigation and prevention efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition, staff will be encouraged to practice regular handwashing and respiratory etiquette: ○ Teach and reinforce <u>handwashing</u> with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used. ○ Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when not wearing a mask and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. ○ Some students with disabilities may need assistance with handwashing and respiratory etiquette behaviors. • Adequate supplies: Support <u>healthy hygiene</u> behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, a way to dry hands, tissues, face masks (as feasible), and no-touch/foot- pedal trash cans. If soap and water are not readily available, schools can provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>CDC guidance for <u>Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation</u></p> <p>In accordance with the most recent CDC guidance, cleaning and sanitizing will occur daily and will include wiping and fine mist spraying with a disinfectant product from the EPA List N. Recommended contact times for the disinfecting products will be followed. Primary cleaning and disinfection will be directed toward common contact surfaces.</p> <p>All potential touch surfaces including floors, tables, counters, desktops, doorknobs, switch plates, railings, kitchen and cafeteria furnishings, and bathroom fixtures will be aggressively cleaned and disinfected. Disinfection procedures will be done with a disinfectant/cleaner, 3M™ Quat Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate (5H) – EPA registration # 6836-78-10350. Any other disinfection agents needed for school procedures will meet the criteria defined in the U.S. EPA's "Emerging Pathogen Policy specific to COVID-19" – "List N".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All HVAC systems will be operational on a continuous flow basis to provide dilution and air exchange (exhaust fans in gang bathrooms or individual classroom

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>bathrooms will be on as well to increase air exchange). Fresh air introduction will be maximized for dilution as well and will be monitored to prevent humidity issues inside the buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district has approximately 250 rooftop HVAC units and their cleaning and filter maintenance is contracted to McClure Co. ®, the cooling chillers are controlled by Johnson Controls ® and maintained, cleaned, and sanitized by Proasys ®. All individual room unit ventilators are maintained by District maintenance personnel. • All HVAC maintenance and filter change intervals follow ASHRAE (The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air- Conditioning Engineers) recommended guidelines modified by local climate requirements (for example some filter replacement may be needed more frequently than ASHRAE recommends). • Training for custodial and maintenance staff was provided on August 26, 2022 included Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness Training with a COVID-19 segment. At that time additional training will be provided on Asbestos Awareness and Right to Know/GHS. Testing will be performed to determine attendee understanding of the presented material.
<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>COVID-19 Information: https://www.allentownsd.org/OurDistrict/COVID19 Info</p> <p>As of March 3, 2022, ASD discontinued contact tracing. It is no longer required.</p> <p>COVID-19 Scenarios: https://bit.ly/3AEhYPz</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>Diagnostic Testing Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of diagnostic testing sites throughout the Allentown city limits is available in the health room in each building and on the ASD website using the COVID 19 tab. Additionally, sites that offer testing to uninsured and underinsured are included. • Information on how to obtain free testing kits is shared with staff and families when available.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>List of testing sites in Allentown (will be posted in each health room) https://bit.ly/3H9x8i8</p> <p>COVID-19 Screening Process and Protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and students are encouraged to conduct a self-screen for COVID symptoms prior to coming into school buildings. Staff and students will be required to stay home if they are sick and speak to their healthcare provider if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Per the CDC possible symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and or diarrhea. This list does not include all possible symptoms. Symptoms may change with new COVID-19 variants. The COVID-19 scenarios document will be followed for return to school guidance.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<p><u>Efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to school communities:</u></p> <p>The Allentown School District will continue to partner with The Allentown Health Bureau and our local health partners to provide COVID - 19 vaccinations to staff, students and the community, if needed, in addition to providing student vaccination clinics for routine vaccinations</p> <p>Vaccination Clinic Information (updated as clinics are scheduled) https://bit.ly/3HfrRFR</p>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASD will continue to implement an individualized approach for students with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan. Adaptation and alternatives to prevention strategies will be considered while maintaining efforts to protect students and staff. Families and Community partners can refer to the COVID 19 tab on the ASD website to read more about appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Health Partner Meetings are held regularly and include the Allentown Health Bureau, LVHN and St. Luke's Healthcare representatives. ASD representatives also participate with the Emergency Preparedness Council through the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit.</p>

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 Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Allentown School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on (ENTER DATE HERE).

The plan was approved by a vote of:

☐ Yes
☐ No

Affirmed on:

By:

Audrey L. Mathison
(Signature* of Board President)

Audrey L. Mathison
(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.