



# Uniontown Area School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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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: **Uniontown Area School District**

**Initial Effective Date: August 9, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: Revisions will be presented to the board on September 6, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: August 12, 2022**

- 8-9-21: revised language to align to CDC's updated recommendation for face coverings. (pg. 5)
  - 9-27-21: updated language to reflect Mask Mandate Order (pg.5); added resources for contact tracing (pg.8); implementation of thermographic cameras as a screening-tool (pg. 8)
  - 12-13-21: updated language to reflect the change in requirements for face coverings; removed Mask Mandate Order from plan. (pg.5)
  - 1-6-22: Revised to reflect CDC changes for isolation/quarantine periods for positive cases and close contacts; including household close contacts. CDC changes went into effect on 12/30/21. (pgs7-8)
  - 1-10-22: Revised attachments to include most recent guidelines updated on 1/7/22.
  - 2-1-22: Revised recommendations to quarantine guidance following close contact to a positive case. (pg7-9)
  - 2-28-22: Revised CDC Guidance released on 2/25/22 regarding Masks while on District Transportation: CDC does not require wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.
  - 4-6-22: Reinstated use of student bus passes for district transportation & updates made to Contact Tracing per the CDC/PA-DOH Community Guidelines (pgs. 7-8)
  - 7-22-22: Revised to reflect prevention strategies and recommendations by the CDC for the 2022-2023 school year.
  - 8-12-22: Revised to reflect CDC changes to quarantine and social distancing measures. Updated link to isolation and close contact guidance.
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?
    - **As of March 2022, PDE & PA-DOH will no longer be releasing separate state guidance or recommendations regarding COVID-19 prevention in schools. Per the PDE & PA-DOH, schools should refer to the full CDC guidance to plan for the upcoming school year. In addition, the Coronavirus has been added to the PA-DOH list of communicable diseases. The Uniontown Area School District will monitor the latest recommendations from CDC and will update the district's Health and Safety plans on an as needed basis. When changes are necessary, the plan will be presented to the governing Board for approval. Board policies will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to assure compliance with the health and safety plan. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. Staff and students will receive reminders on self-preventative measures such as, handwashing, good hygiene, and social distancing. In addition to practicing standard and layered preventative measures, the Uniontown Area School District will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff.**
  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?

**The recently updated CDC guidance prioritizes layered prevention strategies that can**

**be implemented by schools to maintain full in-person instruction. 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Uniontown Area School District will develop and prioritize layered prevention strategies in line with most recent CDC guidance with plans being implemented, as needed.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning   CDC</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Face coverings/masks are optional for all students, staff, and guests while on UASD property including district provided transportation regardless of one's vaccination status.</li> <li>• Staff and students will be trained on and reminded of proper mask use:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Information on how to properly wear a face covering will be posted throughout the district buildings.</li> <li>◦ School nurses will provide education on the correct and consistent use of face coverings for individuals, as needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The district will comply with local, state, and/or federal mandates/orders for face coverings, as applicable.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UASD will follow the CDC's requirements/guidance for physical distancing and cohorting, to the maximum extent practicable and when not disruptive to the educational process.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, proper hygiene, and other preventative measures as needed.</li> <li>• Encourage handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer (as deemed appropriate) multiple times a day through staff and daily reminders.</li> <li>• Provide hand soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, as feasible and deemed appropriate.</li> <li>• Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate preventative strategies, including staying home when sick, good hygiene, proper respiratory etiquette and school/district specific protocols.</li> <li>• Perform hand hygiene after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects or materials.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily cleaning of schools with soap and water to decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apply to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles, and drinking fountains.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• At least daily and throughout the day, as deemed appropriate, disinfecting schools and transportation vehicles using EPA- approved disinfectants against COVID-19 to reduce the risk.</li> <li>• Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch.</li> <li>• Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk to students and staff using the facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The district will follow the guidance provided by the CDC in the event contact tracing is needed or recommended based off community/school case counts.</li> <li>• The district will keep count of all self-reported, confirmed cases of COVID-19 for each district building.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. When a self-report is made that an individual has tested positive for Covid-19, the pandemic coordinator in collaboration with building administrators will ensure that a self-report form is completed/submitted.</li> <li>b. Data will be monitored and analyzed to determine the implementation of preventative strategies.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The district will follow appropriate CDC isolation guidance for confirmed cases of COVID-19, including when students and staff are able to return to school following a positive test result. This is further coordinated through school nurses for students and pandemic coordinator for staff in consultation with applicable health departments and/or medical providers.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">8-12-2022 UASD Isolation Guidance.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Students/staff not attending school/work due to exhibiting symptoms are asked to stay home until asymptomatic and/or cleared by a physician to return to school/work.</li> <li>• District procedures will be in accordance, to the maximum extent feasible, with the CDC guidance and recommendations.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/guardians are asked to complete a daily health check on their child(ren) prior to leaving the house for school, daily.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">Symptoms of COVID-19   CDC</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Staff members, including contracted services and substitutes, are to complete a daily health check prior to coming to work.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">Symptoms of COVID-19   CDC</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Per the CDC, any student or staff who has symptoms of infectious disease, including COVID-19, should stay home and consult their medical provider.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="#">COVID FactSheet (cdc.gov)</a></li> <li>b. <a href="#">Symptoms of COVID-19   CDC</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Individuals who are symptomatic may receive health checks/screenings by the nurse (e.g., temperature and symptom screening) which may include checks for history of exposure.</li> <li>• Students/staff not attending school/work due to exhibiting symptoms are asked to stay home until asymptomatic and/or cleared by a physician to return to school/work.</li> <li>• All monitoring practices will be addressed in regards to FERPA, HIPPA, and Confidentiality for all individuals.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Uniontown Area School District has hosted vaccination clinics for students, staff, and community members.</li> <li>• The district will continue to work with community health centers and hospitals to provide brochures and other information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at off-site locations throughout the community.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that any policy regarding face coverings or any other parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students with medical issues-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All implementation strategies will adhere to a student's IEP or 504 plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Special Education Director will work with students who require special accommodations or support.</li> <li>Unique safety protocols for students with complex needs or other vulnerable populations will be addressed on a case by case basis while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), HIPPA, and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.</li> <li>All IEP and 504 meetings will continue to take place as scheduled; meetings will be conducted in-person unless otherwise requested by the parent/guardian. Upon request, arrangements can be made for meetings to be conducted virtually while maintaining HIPPA/FERPA compliance.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination with state and local health officials.</li> </ul>	<p>The district's pandemic coordinator will communicate with the PA Department of Health (DOH), local community health agencies, medical experts/physicians, and Emergency Management agencies to actively monitor all information that is relevant to the health and safety of students and staff and to coordinate strategies and resources in accordance to the district's Health &amp; Safety plan.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Uniontown Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.