



## ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance

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: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cyber Charter School

Initial Effective Date: **September 14, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **February 18, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **August 17, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **November 9, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **December 14, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **February 8, 2022**

Date of Last Revision: **March 8, 2022**

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 a cyber charter school, 21CCCS does not provide in-person learning on a regular day-to-day basis; however, all decisions with regard to students, staff and visitors will be supported by prevention and mitigation policies and procedures consistent with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC, the Pennsylvania Dept of Health (PA DOH) and the Chester County Health Department. The 21CCCS Pandemic Team will continually monitor information from CDC, PA DOH, and Chester County HD, and modify its health and safety plan as necessary.*

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?

*Our students will continue their learning uninterrupted due to the School's asynchronous online education model. Teachers will continue to provide direct instruction, guided support, one-on-one feedback, assessments and progress monitoring. 21CCCS counselors, nurses, teachers and other support staff will ensure continuity of services to address students' academic needs, as well as the social, emotional, mental health, and physical health needs of students and staff. Food services are not provided by the school, but community resources are shared and provided to families based on need.*

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.

<b>ARP ESSER Requirement Strategies, Policies, and Procedures</b>	
<b>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</b>	<p>Requirements for mask wearing for students, staff, and campus visitors will follow the recommendations from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), and Chester County Department of Health (CC DOH).</p> <p>Wearing a mask inside 21st CCCS facilities will be considered optional. A masking mandate may be re-instituted in 21st CCCS facilities if COVID-19 levels move into the high transmission level or as recommended by the CDC, PA DOH and CC DOH.</p>
<b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b>	<p>As of 1/24/22 we have returned to a regular, in person office schedule. Additional mitigation strategies have been implemented throughout the facilities.</p> <p>Employees and visitors are encouraged to follow physical distancing guidelines recommended by the health authorities.</p>
<b>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</b>	<p>Students, staff and campus visitors are encouraged to practice good personal hygiene, including hand washing and using the provided sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer available throughout each campus building.</p>
<b>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</b>	<p>Cleaning and sanitizing of high traffic areas in the buildings will take place daily. Sanitizing wipes will be provided in multiple areas of the building for routine disinfecting of personal high touch items.</p> <p>The Facilities Manager will ensure that all HVAC units are operating at optimal levels for proper ventilation and that air filters are changed on schedule.</p>

<p><b>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine ,in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>The school will notify the CC DOH or the PA DOH of any confirmed case of COVID-19 and will follow the most recent guidance from health departments on contact tracing of 21st CCCS staff.</p> <p>Staff will quarantine or isolate according to the most up to date guidance from the CDC, PA DOH and CCHD.</p>
<p><b>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</b></p>	<p>All students, staff, and campus visitors are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Staff should contact the nurse(s) and then HR with a close contact or known exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>The School has implemented pooled testing as well as a rapid testing program to support early mitigation strategies for individuals who may present symptoms during the regular school day.</p>
<p><b>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</b></p>	<p>21CCCS worked with RiteAid at both campuses to provide a vaccination clinic for staff in March 2021 and a booster clinic for staff in November 2021 . The school also coordinated with the Chester County Intermediate Unit to provide additional vaccination opportunities to staff.</p> <p>Additional vaccination opportunities will be coordinated as needed, following guidance at the federal, state and local levels.</p>
<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>The IEP Team shall determine how to address the needs of those special education students at higher risk of COVID-19 and shall take into consideration services that can be provided in-person or virtually.</p> <p>Protocols for students with disabilities will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate accommodations will be considered to fully support their safety and learning to the extent consistent with this Health and Safety Plan and applicable laws and applicable health and safety guidelines.</p>

<b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials;</b>	Designated staff will work with state and local health officials according to any COVID-19 pandemic developments.
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**Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement**


The Board of Directors/Trustees for **The 21st Century Cyber Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **March 8, 2022** .

The plan was approved by a vote of:

6 **Yes**

0 **No**

Affirmed on: **March 8, 2022**

By:   
Pete Mango (Mar 8, 2022 18:19 EST)

Mr. Peter Mango, 21CCCS Board of Trustees Chairperson