



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: **Saint Nicholas Catholic School (Northern Cambria Catholic School)**

Initial Effective Date: August 26, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 16, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 16, 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?
 - Signage
 - Practice Social Distancing where possible
 - Hallway procedures
 - Increased Cleaning and Sanitizing
 - Promote handwashing and use of hand sanitizer
 - Hand sanitizing stations outside of every classroom and in common areas
 - Training of Staff and Students
 - Temperature Checks
 - Lunch Modifications
 - Playground Modifications

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?
 - All procedures will be followed in conjunction with the local public school district concerning continuity of food services and health services

 - All procedures will be followed to provide remote learning in times of quarantine and closure so as not to interrupt the students' academic needs

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 masks;</p>	<p>Mask wearing will be optional for the students and staff at St. Nicholas Catholic School.</p> <p>If any of the following occur: federal or state mandates, significant increase in the transmission levels in the local area, illness of a family member or travel to a high positivity area the school may require mask wearing.</p> <p>St. Nicholas Catholic School as part of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is committed to the health and safety of everyone. We will maintain a spirit of flexibility, patience and understanding and respect for others in each individual situation.</p> <p>St. Nicholas Catholic School will continue to communicate with families, faculty and staff as new developments occur.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>St. Nicholas Catholic School will continue to promote the practice of social distancing. We will have a 3 ft. distance spacing between students in the classroom, cafeteria and other areas of the school. Lexan desk barriers are in place in elementary classrooms.</p> <p>Teachers are encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces as weather and conditions permit.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Faculty, staff and students will be required / encouraged to wash their hands many times throughout the day and use sanitizer often. Signage is placed throughout the building and students will be reminded to help keep everyone healthy on morning announcements. Students and staff will be taught proper hygiene including how to cover coughs and sneezes.</p> <p>Hand Sanitizer stations are installed at each classroom door.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Classrooms will be cleaned/sanitized every day following school</p> <p>Bathrooms will be cleaned daily. High Contact areas such as bathroom fixtures, water fountains, hand railings, etc will be cleaned twice daily.</p> <p>Water fountains will be used only to fill individual water bottles under adult supervision.</p> <p>Each classroom teacher will be supplied with disinfectant cleaner to maintain consistent cleanliness within the classroom environment.</p> <p>Hand Sanitizer stations are installed at each classroom door.</p> <p>Signage is posted throughout the building to remind everyone of good hygiene habits as well as social distancing</p> <p>Classroom and Hallway windows will be open as much as possible. Air conditioners will be in use when necessary. Filters will be cleaned on a regular basis.</p> <p>Classroom doors will be open, and fans will be in use as much as possible</p> <p>Air purifiers will be in use.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Saint Nicholas Catholic School will comply with the quarantine and isolations as directed by the PA Department of Health (DOH). These orders of quarantine/isolation will be communicated through the Diocesan Education Office (DEO) to the school and will occur ASAP after the DEO receives the paperwork about the exposure or COVID+ diagnosis from the COVID response person at the school. All paperwork will be filled out immediately upon notification of an exposure or COVID+ situation and turned into the DEO as soon as it is completed.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Families and staff will be reminded on a regular basis about monitoring for COVID 19 symptoms and the need to stay home when necessary.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Daily temperature checks will continue with non-contact thermometers for a health screening purpose prior to entering the school for the day.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	As Saint Nicholas Catholic School receives information concerning vaccinations, we will share the information with our families.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Saint Nicholas Catholic School will provide reasonable accommodations when feasible to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	The Diocesan Education Office will coordinate with state and local officials for Saint Nicholas Catholic School.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Saint Nicholas Catholic School (Northern Cambria Catholic School)** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

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

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.