



Chester County Intermediate Unit ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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 County Intermediate Unit and Chester County Technical College High Schools

Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 18, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 18, 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?

The Chester County Intermediate Unit implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies guided by the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Chester County Department of Health. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our school communities, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Further, we played an integral role in providing vaccination clinics for our teachers and staff and partnered with the CCHD to promote vaccine clinics for students. Presently, Chester County has experienced one of the highest rates of vaccinations in the Commonwealth with 88% of all residents 18 years and older receiving one of the vaccines.

Our Intermediate Unit will continue to stay abreast of the evolving guidance from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and our Chester County Department of Health. This information will assist us when reviewing our mitigation strategies for effectiveness. The guidance will also be used to revise our health and safety plan and protocols as necessary.

The table directly below provides the general guidance from Chester County Health Department relative to county levels of transmission. The larger table beyond identifies the strategies, policies, and procedures that we will employ in the 2021-2022 school year.

County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000	7-Day Percent Positivity	Overall Approach
Low	<10	<5.0%	Largely through individual prevention behaviors and public health's identification and isolation of cases and clusters.
Moderate	10-49	5.0% - 7.9%	Adherence to individual and selected community level prevention strategies
Substantial	50 - 99	8.0% - 9.9%	Limiting of some everyday activities to limit contact between individuals
Very High	≥100	≥10%	Significant limiting of a variety of activities to limit contact between individuals and preserve essential community activities and services

- 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 Chester County Intermediate Unit provides a variety of school-based programs for students Preschool through adult. The educational services we provide in these settings are comprehensive and can support the academic, social, emotional, physical, and mental health needs of our students. Our ability to provide a continuity of educational programming was proven in the 2020-2021 school year. We provided in-person instruction throughout the entire year and were able to continue uninterrupted with instruction during necessary, intermittent school closures. We expect this experience to continue into the next school year.

Additionally, we plan to submit for board approval in August 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year Emergency Instructional Time per Section 520.1.

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all CCIU settings, students and staff, regardless of vaccination, will be expected to wear masks indoors based on the following conditions. <table border="1" data-bbox="730 456 1906 761"> <thead> <tr> <th>County Transmission Level</th> <th>7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000</th> <th></th> <th>7-Day Percent Positivity</th> <th>Masking Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Low</td> <td><10</td> <td>AND</td> <td><5.0%</td> <td>Masking recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>10-49</td> <td>OR</td> <td>5.0% - 7.9%</td> <td>Masking required for all</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Substantial</td> <td>50 - 99</td> <td>OR</td> <td>8.0% - 9.9%</td> <td>Masking required for all</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High</td> <td>≥ 100</td> <td>OR</td> <td>≥ 10%</td> <td>Masking required for all</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In CCIU settings where students are not present such as office buildings, all staff and visitors are to wear a mask in all public spaces (hallways, corridors, etc.). In private spaces such as offices or conference rooms and in which no students are present, all fully vaccinated persons may remove their masks. Per CDC guidance, masks do not need to be worn outdoors. Masks are required for students and staff on transportation. 	County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status	Low	<10	AND	<5.0%	Masking recommended	Moderate	10-49	OR	5.0% - 7.9%	Masking required for all	Substantial	50 - 99	OR	8.0% - 9.9%	Masking required for all	High	≥ 100	OR	≥ 10%	Masking required for all
County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status																						
Low	<10	AND	<5.0%	Masking recommended																						
Moderate	10-49	OR	5.0% - 7.9%	Masking required for all																						
Substantial	50 - 99	OR	8.0% - 9.9%	Masking required for all																						
High	≥ 100	OR	≥ 10%	Masking required for all																						
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with 3 feet or greater being the social distancing expectations to the greatest extent practicable. We will consider the guidance from our local and state health departments should conditions necessitate implementing greater social distance mitigation strategies. For cafeteria settings, we will maximize distancing to the greatest extent practicable. There is no longer a need to limit food service approaches to single use items or packaged meals. However, there may be instances where this occurs to support distancing practices (ex. Using classrooms for lunch) 																									
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice encourages hand washing prior to and after meals and snacks, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing. Our schools will encourage our students and staff to follow these best practices. 																									

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our schools will have available hand sanitizer in classrooms, public areas, and other strategic locations. • Our schools will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette.
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be routine and daily cleaning of our school buildings with attention to high traffic and high touch areas. • If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19, a cleaning and disinfecting of the area will occur. • Our school buildings will ensure that ventilation systems operate properly.
<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"> • Our schools will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the health department on the prescribed template for such instances. • We will provide the Chester County Health Department, as required, a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school to the best of our ability. • We will support and implement public health guidance on isolation and quarantines. The CCIU has adopted a modified quarantine as outlined by the CDC, PA Department of Health, and the Chester County Health Department. Students and staff who are a close contact to a positive or probable case and are vaccinated and asymptomatic will not need to quarantine. • Student or staff, who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is a probable case, shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual. Per CDC guidance in a school setting for students only, if affected students are wearing a mask, the close contacts will not need to quarantine provided they are asymptomatic. • Student or staff, who was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, must notify the program administrator/principal immediately. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or Chester County Health Department. • Additional guidance provided by CDC, PADOH, and CCHD to will be considered throughout the implementation of this plan.
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will follow our Immunization and Communicable Diseases Policy #203 for guidance on communicable diseases as COVID-19 is classified as such. • We will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, N95 face covering, eye protection, gloves.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will require staff to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19. • Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms outlined in the chart below. • Staff and students, who are ill must stay home from work, programs, and schools. • Staff and students shall be sent home if they become ill at work, school, program or service. • Students and staff shall report immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine as per guidelines of the CDC or Chester County Health Department. • The CCIU will partner with PADOH and CCHD in being the county lead for a testing program that includes pool testing, and rapid antigen testing.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our schools will provide information to staff and families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that required a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP team may reconvene to develop a specially designed instruction or strategies to meet the needs of the student.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our schools will report cases of COVID-19 and its efforts on contact tracing with the Chester County Health Department. • We will consult with the health department on specific cases or issues as needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Chester County Intermediate Unit** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 18, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 10 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on: August 18, 2021

By:

Bonnie J. Wolff

(Signature of Board President)*

Bonnie J. Wolff

(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.