



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Montessori Regional Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: **July 21, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **June 10, 2024,**

Date of Last Revision: **November 30, 2023**

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?

Montessori Regional Charter School has implemented a Health and Safety Plan utilizing strategies and guidance from the CDC, PADOH, and PDE. MRCS will continue to follow the guidance and expectations from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control, related to COVID-19.

- Prior to the arrival to school, parents/guardians will be responsible for monitoring student symptoms. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, a cough, shortness of breath, or lost of taste or smell, they must stay home.
  - Trained maintenance personnel will follow a cleaning and disinfecting **protocol checklist** following CDC/PDOH and routinely address each part of the school campus including foyers and entrances, classrooms, bathrooms, common areas such as stairwells and hallways, large common rooms such as staff room and cafeterias, and bus transportation.
  - Hand Sanitizer dispensers have been placed in each of the classrooms, common areas, hallways, stairwells and foyers.
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?
    - MRCS expects a full return to in-person, face to face learning for the 2023-2024 school year.
    - If families want information or require additional supports, MRCS will provide a list of community resources outside of the school.
    - All MRCS students will have access to a one-to-one device, a Chromebook supplied by the school. Students will utilize these devices in school and have

access to Google Classroom and Google Meets.

- In the event that MRCS has to transition to remote or hybrid instruction, students will receive their lessons through both synchronous and asynchronous means. In addition, if a student does not have access to internet, paper copies can be provided for assignments.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MRCS will follow the CDC guidance on the universal and correct wearing of masks.</li></ul>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students and staff are encouraged to physically distance as much as possible in hallways and stairways.</li><li>• Students and staff are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing.</li></ul>
c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene habits on a regular schedule - students and staff will be expected to wash/sanitize their hands when entering the building, before eating, after using the restroom, and various other times throughout the day.</li><li>• Best Practices for hygiene posters will be placed in each classroom, bathroom, foyer, common area and lunchroom.</li></ul>
d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom and in high traffic areas.</li><li>• Using EPA approved disinfectants, staff will routinely clean all common area surfaces (door handles, handrails, switches, phones, bathrooms).</li></ul>



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will have the option to use water bottles at the water bottle filler stations.</li> <li>• Bipolar ionizers have been installed in each classroom to reduce pathogens, allergens and particles in air.</li> </ul>
<p>e. <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;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A positive case of COVID-19 within a household will be assessed through the school nurse with consultation with the Department of Health as needed.</li> <li>• MRCS will follow CDC guidance on isolation and quarantines.</li> <li>• A student, staff member, or contractor who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is a probable case shall immediately notify the school nurse and/or their direct supervisor.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRCS will encourage students/families and staff members to conduct a daily self-check at home for symptoms of COVID-19, in accordance with the PA Department of Health Symptom Monitoring Tool.</li> <li>• MRCS will maintain adequate PPE for student and staff use.</li> </ul>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRCS will make the school community aware of available resources for COVID-19 vaccinations.</li> </ul>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRCS staff will collaborate with families of students with disabilities and will make appropriate accommodations on an as needed basis.</li> </ul>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRCS will maintain existing partnerships with the Erie County Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Correspondence will occur as needed.</li> </ul>



## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Montessori Regional Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 20, 2024**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

4 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **June 20, 2024**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

MELVYN M. NAIR

(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.