



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

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Initial Effective Date:** July 20, 2021

**Date of Last Review:** July 19, 2021

**Date of Last Revision:** July 19, 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 Octorara Area School District (OASD) implemented a health and safety plan during the 2020-2021 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the Center for Disease Controls, Pennsylvania Department of Health, CHOP Policy Lab, and the Chester County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the school community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Octorara also partnered with the Chester County Intermediate Unit to provide vaccination clinics to teachers and staff and shared vaccine clinics opportunities with families to support student health and safety. Currently, 88% of Chester County residents 18 and older have been vaccinated; approximately 54% of eligible Lancaster County residents have been vaccinated.

Octorara will continue to monitor the latest guidance from the Center for Disease Controls, Pennsylvania Department of Health, CHOP Policy Lab, and the Chester County Health Department. This information will help the district to review mitigation strategies for effectiveness and revise the health and safety plan as necessary. The table below describes the strategies, policies, and procedures the Octorara Area School District will employ during the 2021-2022 school year.

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 Octorara Area School District will resume full in person learning for grades K-12 on Monday, August 30, 2021. Students wishing to attend school remotely will be offered instruction through the Octorara Virtual Academy. If needed, Octorara's plan for instruction under the emergency instructional time waiver (Appendix A) will include a combination of in person, synchronous remote, and asynchronous remote to in order to meet the minimum 180 days of instruction and hour requirements at the elementary and secondary levels.

During the 2021-2022 school year the district will employ 7 full-time counselors, 5

full-time intervention specialist, 5 reading specialists, and 1 school psychologist. To date, ESSER funds have been encumbered to: create five K-6 intervention and acceleration classrooms to support student success, add a temporary reading specialist at Octorara Elementary School to provide interventions to students who are not reading at grade level, and continue the mathematics coach initiative at the secondary level, an action step in the Junior Senior High School's ATSI plan. To support math intervention and acceleration at the elementary level, teachers will participate in PaTTAN's math instructional strategies workshops. Octorara has also partnered with Millersville University and West Chester University to provide social work interns at all school buildings.

The district will encumber ESSER funds to contract with CCIU for behavioral specialists to assist in meeting the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students. It will also expand the Junior Senior High School's after school Learning Lab program and provide after school enrichment programs at the Primary Learning Center, Elementary School, and Intermediate School.

Staff professional development, also paid for with ESSER funds, will include refresher courses in Learning Focused Schools (LFS), with an emphasis on training the district's Professional Learning Community Leaders to implement the "Catching Kids Up Acceleration Strategies" model with all learners. Octorara will continue to work with the Chester County Intermediate Unit to implement PBIS and MTSS, especially at the secondary level.

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> ;	<p>-No district staff member, student or visitor will be required to wear a face covering on Octorara's school grounds or in Octorara's school buildings, per the expiration of the PA DOH Universal Face Covering Order on June 28, 2021. Per the current federal order from the CDC, face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, are required on public transportation. This includes school buses operated by public and private school systems. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering when alone on the bus.</p> <p>-Octorara will continue to support all individuals who prefer to wear a face covering. Face covering can be made of disposal materials or made cloth (tight woven fabrics that are breathable) and washed regularly. Face shields are not a substitute for face coverings. To be effective, face coverings must be worn properly such that it covers an individual's nose and mouth, and fits snugly against the sides of the face without gaps.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>1. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>-School buildings and offices will allow for full occupancy with no alterations, restrictions, or physical distancing measures, per the expiration of the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 mitigation order on May 31, 2021.</p> <p>-Octorara will consider additional recommendations from PDE, CDC, DOH, and CCHD, to the greatest extent practicable, as new information becomes available.</p>
<p>2. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p>-Octorara will teach and reinforce frequent and proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette, including how to properly cover coughs and sneezes.</p> <p>-Octorara will encourage hand washing: prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snack, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used.</p> <p>-Octorara will have available hand sanitizer in classrooms and strategic locations of high traffic areas.</p> <p>-Octorara will post signs in buildings reminding students, staff, and visitors of proper respiratory etiquette.</p>
<p>3. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p>-Octorara will continue to use COVID-19 specific EPA approved disinfectants.</p> <p>-Octorara will continue to clean high touch surfaces at least once a day.</p> <p>-When needed, classrooms, hallways, offices and common areas will be disinfected with a backpack sprayer with applicable disinfectant and/or electrostatic fogger.</p> <p>-Devices and materials that must be shared should be cleaned between uses.</p> <p>-The American Industrial Hygiene Association publication “Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 using Engineering Controls” indicates a relative risk reduction (in the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus) of 95% is achieved by establishing 6 air changes per hour (ACH). A relative risk reduction of 99% is achieved by 10 ACH.</p> <p>-Per ASHRAE HVAC, systems will continue to run as engineered having up to 15 cubic feet per minute (CFM) per occupant and up to 10 air changes per hour only at the direction of the facilities director. The district will ensure systems operate properly. Increased circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors may be permitted only at the direction of the facilities director.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>-Indoor Air Quality parameters will be monitored to include temperature and relative humidity for appropriate thermal comfort conducive to a work environment as part of COVID-19 mitigation and general indoor environmental quality due diligence.</p>
<p>4. <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>	<p>-When required, Octorara will report all probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 probable or confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the health department on the prescribed template for such incidents.</p> <p>-When required, Octorara will provide to the health department a list of close contact(s) of individuals who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individual while at school.</p> <p>-When required, Octorara will implement public health guidance on isolation and quarantines.</p> <p>-Student, staff or contractors, who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are identified as a probable case, are encouraged to notify the school nurse immediately. Individuals will be referred to the Chester County Health Department for assistance.</p> <p>-Individuals in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case are encouraged to notify the school nurse immediately. Individuals will be referred to the Chester County Health Department for assistance.</p>
<p>5. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>-Octorara will encourage staff, students, visitors, and contractors to stay home when sick.</p> <p>-Staff, students, and visitor shall be sent home if they become ill while on campus.</p> <p>-Octorara will partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education to implement a voluntary school based screening and testing program for staff and students.</p> <p>-Octorara will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, N95 face covering, eye protection, gloves.</p>
<p>6. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>-Octorara will provide information to families about vaccination clinics and/or how get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member.</p>
<p>7. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>-Accommodations for students with disabilities will be addressed on an individual basis. IEP's and 504 plans will be modified when needed.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>8. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>-Octorara will report cases of COVID-19 and required efforts to contact trace with the state and local health departments.</p> <p>-Octorara will consult with state and local health department on specific cases or issues as needed.</p> <p>-Octorara will continue to coordinate response efforts through the Chester County Intermediate Unit.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for the Octorara Area School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 19, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

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

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

Affirmed on: July 19, 2021

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.