



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: **St. Matthew Catholic School**

Initial Effective Date: August 24, 2021

Date of Last Review: 2020-2021 School Year

Date of Last Revision: August 24, 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 health and safety of the Saint Matthew Catholic School students, families, volunteers, staff, and administration remains the top priority of our school. The Saint Matthew Catholic School Administration, the Diocesan Education Office Administration, and the Pandemic Response Team continue to take critical steps making decisions that protect the health and safety of our school community in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saint Matthew Catholic School has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all students, families, volunteers, staff, and administration as our school moves forward.

Protocols include the following:

- Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the building
- Following communicable disease reporting procedures
- Practicing appropriate hygiene etiquette
- Optional use of face coverings/adherence to health and safety plans
- Cleaning and disinfecting one's workspace
- Maintaining physical distancing protocols when feasible
- Staying informed of CDC's guidance relative to travel
- Maintaining best practices in regards to mitigation efforts

Expectations will be dependent on the latest mandates, edicts, and orders issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Diocesan Administration, the Saint Matthew Catholic School Administration, and the SBS Pandemic Response Team will continue to monitor communications from these entities. As conditions change related to COVID - 19, all protocols are subject to change.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	<p>Mask wearing will be optional for the students at St. Matthew Catholic School.</p> <p>Recognizing that the situation with COVID-19 remains fluid, t St. Matthew Catholic School may require students to wear masks if circumstances change or if state or federal mandates are issued. Factors that may influence changes to the mask policy would include an increase in the COVID-19 transmission levels in a geographic area, illness of a family member, or travel to a high positivity area.</p> <p>The impact of the pandemic has affected St. Matthew Catholic School over the past 18 months. As students,</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>families, administrators, faculty, staff, and pastors look forward to the new academic year, St. Matthew Catholic School remains committed to the health and safety of everyone. While the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, St. Matthew Catholic School community encouraged to maintain a spirit of flexibility, patience, understanding, and profound respect for the wishes of others and each individual situation.</p> <p>St. Matthew Catholic School will continue to communicate with families, administrators, faculty, and staff as developments occur.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>St. Matthew Catholic School will be required to have a minimum of three feet distance between the spacing of student desks in the classroom and students physically in the cafeteria and other areas of the school utilized by the students.</p> <p>The maximum number of students in any given classroom will depend on the size of the classroom.</p> <p>St. Matthew Catholic School will utilize outdoor spaces surrounding the school as weather and conditions permit.</p>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Students will be reminded by teachers, staff, and through daily announcements about proper hygiene including covering coughs and sneezes, handwashing, the need for social distancing etc.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Classrooms are to be cleaned and disinfected daily. Teachers and staff are to have access to wipes and sanitizing sprays which can be used throughout the day as necessary. Hand sanitizing stations are to be located throughout the</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>school. HVAC system filters are to be maintained on a predetermined scheduled basis to help with air quality throughout each building. If available, UV lamps may be used in the school as needed.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>St. Matthew 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 must 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>In addition to DOH's testing program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) have expanded COVID-19 testing capacity at a national level. Through the federal Operation Expanded Testing (ET) program, free COVID-19 testing is being offered to all K-12 schools through a regional contractor. Additional information about this program for our school will be forthcoming. At the publishing of this Health and Safety plan this has not yet been established for our school but is being looked into.</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>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>When St. Matthew Catholic School receives vaccination information they will share with the information with their families.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>St. Matthew Catholic School will provide reasonable accommodations, when feasible, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	St. Matthew Catholic School will coordinate with state and local officials.