



# 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: **Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School**

**Initial Effective Date: July 29, 2020**

**Date of Last Review: June 27, 2022, January 25, 2023, August 9, 2023, September 19, 2023**

**Date of Last Revision: August 24, 2022, January 25, 2023, September 1, 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?**

The team is prepared and follows CDC and Allegheny County Department of Health guidelines.

The Board of Trustees and the Administration will continue to review and discuss recommendations for the 2023 - 2024 school year from the Allegheny County Department of Health and other organizations, such as the CDC, and determine what the school needs to continue to do in order to remain open for full-time, in-person instruction during the 2023-2024 school year and beyond. UPCS opened its doors to staff on August 9, 2023 and in-person learning for students on August 23, 2023, and utilized practices that contribute to the safe and effective operations of our programs.

Our goal is to review the plan a minimum of every semester to update as needed. UPCS is prepared to adhere to any existing, valid and binding orders from the PA Department of Health and to follow the CDC guidelines.

If the school is experiencing an outbreak, we will consider adding additional prevention strategies.

- 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 students and staff will continue to have access to our Administration and Student Services Team. The Administration Team includes the CEO/ Principal, Director of Special Education, Federal Programs Instructional Coordinator, Dean of Students and the Attendance Officer. The Student Service Team includes our school nurse, school psychologist, social worker, two counselors, school based therapists and three behavioral specialists. UPCS is fully committed to focus our efforts on the loss of education from the schools being forced to close in March, 2020, and continue to work on closing the achievement gap from our students falling further behind academically. The school

purchased new software and technology and expanded funding from ESSER to ensure that all students have access to the programs and services that they need to academically succeed. We will continue to provide updated devices to students and families. If the internet is not an option for our students and families, UPCS will provide printed materials and packets if necessary.

If a hybrid or virtual learning environment is necessary, we will work together to ensure that not just academic needs of students are met, but all of the needs of our students are met using a variety of tools and resources. UPCS has the ability to provide a Chromebook to every student in the event of working remotely. Digital tools such as Google Classroom and Go Guardian will be made available for all high school students.. Communication tools will include Google Meet, Google Suite, phone, or any other variety of other methods of communication.

Our food services will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to our students Monday through Friday, throughout the school year. Our Homeless/Foster Care Liaison will continue to work with families and provide alternative approaches to ensure that our students do not go without food. UPCS will continue to review PDE’s Evidence Resource Center (ERC) as we need strategies to continue services for students and staff. For the 2023-2024 school year, we are providing in person learning (5 days a week) for all of our students.

The decision to close the school and move to remote instruction will be made by the CEO based on: 1. An inability to adequately staff the school based on absenteeism among faculty and/or staff. Targeted closures will be utilized only when necessary. 2. Allegheny County CDC recommendations.

We will continue to require an individualized approach for students with disabilities consistent with the student’s IEP or 504 Plans.

As conditions change throughout the year in relation to COVID protocols, we will ensure communication is maintained with all employees, schools, and stakeholders in the programs and districts we serve.

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><b>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b></p>	<p>Effective Thursday, January 13, 2023 Allegheny County COVID-19 Community Level is LOW.</p>

	<p>UPCS will continue to follow the Allegheny DOH and CDC on protocol to follow. If Allegheny County is in Low Community Level the masks are optional. If Allegheny County is in the MEDIUM community level masks are recommended. If Allegheny county is in the HIGH community level masks will be required.</p> <p>In the absence of a binding order, a mask will not be required at low and medium community levels. It is acceptable for anyone who wishes to wear a mask, as defined by Allegheny DOH, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Urban Pathways will continue to follow the guidance from CDC and follow the COVID-19 Community Level.</p> <p>If Allegheny County Community Level is high, students and staff will be required to wear a mask during the school day, regardless of vaccination status.</p>
<p><b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<p>Strategies will be implemented to maintain maximized physical distancing in classrooms, lunch, and during transitions in the hallways. When feasible, we will reduce class sizes and continue to seat all students facing in one direction.</p> <p>Students will return to school maintaining our heightened safety procedures to provide protection against the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>UPCS has plexiglass barriers in areas that host interactions at lunch and at the entrance to the offices where 1:1 staff/student interactions must occur. The school psychologist and speech therapist will be provided a plexiglass barrier during 1:1 testing/interactions.</p> <p>Limit small group instruction in close quarters - maintain distance in classroom seating. UPCS purchased all new desks for students that will provide social distancing while working in groups.</p> <p>Daily arrival will be through designated doors. All students, staff and visitors will walk through the metal detector where the thermal imaging system will accurately measure surface skin temperature without being physically close to the person entering the building.</p>

	<p>Students will eat at lunch with no more than 3 students per table, all facing in one direction. Students will be required to remain seated (after receiving lunch) and face forward until dismissal.</p>
<p><b>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></b></p>	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to maintain healthy hand washing habits and respiratory etiquette throughout the school day.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer dispensers will be at the school entrance, in each classroom and throughout the school building.</p> <p>Educational opportunities will be provided to students on the need for proper personal hygiene. Students will be taught how to disinfect their personal spaces properly.</p> <p>Teach/remind students of coughing/sneezing etiquette.</p> <p>Signs for healthy measures will be posted in the restrooms, all classrooms and key locations throughout the building,</p>
<p><b>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></b></p>	<p>Increased frequency of cleaning routines and sanitization procedures will be maintained in the building. Custodial staff will clean high touch surfaces throughout the day. The kitchen area will also undergo increased cleaning and sanitization routines.</p> <p>Frequently (multiple times throughout the day) clean and disinfect regularly touched surfaces and objects within the school including door handles, sink handles, railing, and supplies.</p> <p>Sharing of supplies will be limited.</p> <p>Water fountains will return to having water filling stations if Allegheny County returns to the HIGH Community Level. UPCS will provide each student with a reusable water bottle at the beginning of the school year. Currently, the water fountain is being utilized as normal. If the county returns to the MEDIUM Level of Positivity, the water fountain will be turned off and we will only use the filling station as a precaution.</p> <p>The building will be deep cleaned twice a week using the fogging system with Zero Hazard. If someone in the building tests positive for COVID-19, the building will be deep cleaned that day.</p> <p>The ventilation of the building and classrooms have been inspected and approved by the building management. The air filters have all been changed to HEPA Filters.</p>

	<p>Every classroom and offices throughout the building has an Air Purifying System with HEPA filters and UV-C Lighting.</p>
<p>e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p>Students or staff who have symptoms of respiratory infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, should stay home. Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19 to other people.</p> <p>The school nurse will instruct faculty, staff, students, and parents to consult with their healthcare provided for COVID related questions.</p> <p>UPCS will consider suspending high-risk activities to control a school - or - program-associated outbreak. If the school experiences an outbreak, UPCS will work with the Allegheny County health department and follow CDC guidelines.</p>
<p>f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u> and <u>screening testing</u>;</b></p>	<p>UPCS will adhere to any existing, valid and binding orders from the DOH regarding contact tracing, isolation and quarantining.</p> <p>Students and staff are asked to use the COVID-19 daily self-screener for symptoms prior to reporting to the school. If symptoms are discovered students and staff are being directed to stay home and follow-up with their PCP for appropriate testing as necessary.</p> <p>Students and staff should not come to school if they are sick.</p> <p>We will review any recommendations from the CDC and determine prevention and mitigation measures, based on our community/school needs.</p> <p>Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms will be referred to their primary care physician or to local providers for rapid testing.</p> <p>Return to school will be permitted after the 5th day of testing positive, IF the student or staff member is not experiencing a fever for a minimum of 24 hours without medication.</p>
<p>g. <b><u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<p>The school will maintain close communication with community partners who can provide updated information on vaccine distribution efforts in Allegheny County. UPCS will share information regarding vaccination opportunities with the school community.</p> <p>UPCS continues to promote COVID-19 vaccinations through education to students and staff.</p>
<p>h. <b><u>Appropriate accommodations for students with</u></b></p>	<p>UPCS will provide necessary accommodations for students, as deemed appropriate by IEP teams, with respect to health and</p>



<p><b>disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>safety policies. We will also follow the 504 accommodations with respect to health and safety. Students with complex medical, social/emotional or academic needs will be addressed on an individual basis to address their unique and individualized needs.</p>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>UPCS will continue to maintain close communication and coordination with officials at the AIU-2, AIU-3, CDC and Allegheny County DOH for any changes or updates to requirements and recommendations.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **July 29, 2020**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

  5   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **August 17, 2020**

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.