



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

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Tredyffrin-Easttown School District**

Initial Effective Date: July 30, 2021

Date of Last Review: January 24, 2022

Date of Last Revision: January 24, 2022

- 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 TESD administration will continually review guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), and the Chester County Health Department (CCHD).

- 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?**

Tredyffrin-Easttown School District provides a variety of programs for students age Kindergarten through age 21. These services are robust and comprehensive, and designed to meet our students' academic, social, emotional, mental health and school-based physical health needs.

TESD resumed full-time, in-person instruction in the 2021-22 school year, while piloting a high school elective course in a hybrid format that combines in-person and virtual learning. Families also had the option to enroll their child in the Brandywine Virtual Academy if they preferred a virtual program.

Academic needs

Students accessed all educational services they previously could access during the school day, including all pre-referral intervention programming such as reading support, multi-tiered intervention support and special education services.

During summer 2021, the District offered several summer programs: ELD camp, elementary reading camp, the ASPIRE math support camp, middle school Bridge for 7th and 8th graders who struggled this past year, and special education Extended School Year and/or compensatory COVID-19 programming.

Student social, emotional and mental health needs

All previously existing mental health and social support structures have been available to students, including our developmental guidance program, resiliency initiative, class meetings, the suicide prevention program SOS, and partnerships with community organizations such as ARCH.

Staff social, emotional and mental health needs

All employees and their families are eligible to participate in the employee assistance program, and employees receive frequent information about the employee assistance offerings. Employees also receive training related to mental health during in-service programs, and the employee safety committee frequently circulates information about best practices in health and safety.

Student and staff health needs

Student health needs will be addressed through our comprehensive school nursing services. The District will follow CCHD guidance related to communicable diseases, including COVID-19. Positive COVID-19 test results should be reported to the school nurse (for students) or Director of Personnel (for staff).

Food services

The Food and Nutrition Services Department will continue the USDA Seamless Summer Operation (SSO) during the school year, while offering our normal menu and cafeteria services. If the District were to close for an extended period of time due to health and safety reasons, we would reinstate the weekly meal packages (consisting of 7 breakfast and 7 lunches per student).

- 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 ;	Requirements to wear a mask will be in accordance with recommendations from the CCHD, PA DOH, CDC and PDE.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	Requirements for physical distancing will be in accordance with recommendations from the CCHD, PA DOH, CDC and PDE. The District may adjust limits on spectators at school events based on transmission rates, and in consultation with the CCHD or other public health authorities.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will continue to be implemented or adjusted in accordance with guidance from CCHD, PA DOH, CDC and PDE.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>The District will continue to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. This includes training students and staff on proper handwashing techniques and on ways to reduce risk while sneezing or coughing. Hand sanitizer supplies and stations will continue to be in place throughout all facilities.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>Cleaning and maintenance processes will continue to be implemented or adjusted in accordance with guidance from CCHD, PA DOH, CDC and PDE.</p> <p>District HVAC systems have been balanced to meet American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and International Mechanical Code (IMC) requirements for the exchange of outside air and ventilation.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Contact tracing and responses to positive cases will be implemented or adjusted in accordance with guidance from CCHD, PA DOH, CDC and PDE.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>Diagnostic and screening testing will be implemented or adjusted in accordance with guidance from CCHD, PA DOH, CDC and PDE.</p> <p>At present, the District is able to implement the rapid antigen test BinaxNOW under Project ACE-IT.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District supports vaccination for those eligible to receive one. Prior to the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the District partnered with Springfield Pharmacy, hosting vaccination clinics at Conestoga High School and Valley Forge Middle School. This resulted in over 1300 people obtaining vaccination. The District also collaborated with the CCHD in facilitating vaccination opportunities for all school staff.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>During the current school year, the District continued its partnership with Springfield Pharmacy to host vaccine clinics in November and December 2021 and January 2022. Approximately 2300 individuals were vaccinated/boosted. The District is willing to continue to partner with community providers and host additional vaccination clinics.</p> <p>The District has publicized information on how to obtain vaccination on our website and in the District e-newsletter.</p> <p>The CDC has also published information on the vaccine and how to get one.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The District will continue to provide accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities to access our programming through a student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or Section 504 Plan process.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The District will coordinate with the CCHD and follow their guidance regarding the reporting of positive COVID-19 cases.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Tredyffrin-Easttown School District reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on January 24, 2022.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **January 24, 2022**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.

**TESD COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
2021-2022 School Year**

Effective August 16, 2021
Updated January 24, 2022

The Tredyffrin/Easttown School District is committed to providing full-time, in-person instruction for TESD students during the 2021-2022 school year. The purpose of this document is to operationalize the District's COVID-19 mitigation efforts. This COVID-19 mitigation plan will be updated and re-published as needed based on evolving health guidance.

On July 30, the Health & Safety Plan required to access the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP/ESSER) funds was provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This Health & Safety Plan serves as a framework for the COVID-19 mitigation plan.

Health Authority Guidance and Collaboration

The District is committed to following the [guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and will engage in ongoing consultation with the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). The Chester County Health Department will continue to guide the District in responding to COVID-19 cases in the schools, including contact tracing and quarantine. [Current COVID-19 information for schools is available on the CCHD website.](#)

The COVID-19 operational plan addresses the following protocols:

1. Masking
2. Symptom screening
3. Physical distancing
4. Handwashing & respiratory etiquette
5. Facilities: cleaning and ventilation
6. Responding to a COVID-19 case involving the school: contact tracing, quarantining
7. Conducting diagnostic and screening testing of COVID-19
8. Vaccination promotion
9. Accommodating students with disabilities
10. Communication

This mitigation plan went into effect on Monday, August 16, 2021. Anyone on school premises is obligated to follow the protocols described in this plan. Visitors, including families, may contact their child's building principal with any questions.

Masking

Wearing a properly fitting mask serves as a strong protective measure for both the individual wearing the mask and others around them. Information on the proper use of masks is available on the [CDC website](#).

The District can provide a mask to individuals who need them in schools or on buses.

The table below identifies District requirements for mask wearing, effective August 16, 2021 and January 24, 2022.

Location	Status
On a school bus or school vehicle	<p>Required. School buses are considered public transit and thus masks are required for all riders.</p> <p>If mask wearing would create a risk to workplace health, safety or job duty, the driver may remove their mask.</p>
Indoors - all District buildings	Required for anyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status.
Outdoors	<p>Masking is optional but welcome during outdoor activities such as recess, activity or PE.</p> <p>Outdoor events outside of the school day: the District will follow current CDC guidance.</p>
Sports, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities	Due to the varied nature of each activity, the Director of Safety & Student Services will work with the relevant building level staff (Principal, Athletic Director, advisors and others) in identifying masking requirements. Guidance from organizations such as PIAA and PMEA will be used.
Questions you may have about masking	
What is the impact of masking on contact tracing or quarantine?	<p>Wearing a mask may not prevent you from being included in contact tracing efforts, but greatly reduces the risk of required quarantine for students and staff.</p> <p>Current guidance from the CCHD and CDC identify that for K-12 indoor classroom settings, the close contact definition excludes students within 3-6 feet of a positive COVID-19 case when both students were wearing a proper mask and other prevention strategies were in place.</p> <p>District staff will continue to conduct contact tracing and consult with the CCHD as to specific cases.</p>

Are there exemptions to the masking requirement?	Individuals who believe they qualify for an exception due to a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or for any other legally valid reason should contact their supervisor (staff) or building principal (students).
Staff: can I remove my mask if I am alone in my space?	If an employee is alone in their space with a door that closes, they may remove their mask. Other exceptions may occur with other protective factors in place after discussion with the Pandemic Team.

Symptom Screening

Students and staff should not come to school or work if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after an exposure.

At present, the CDC identifies the following symptoms. These symptoms may be present even among the vaccinated. Please note this is an update from last year in which symptoms were categorized. If your child has one of these symptoms, you should keep your child home from school.

Fever or chills	Cough	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fatigue	Muscle or body aches	Headache
New loss of taste or smell	Sore throat	Congestion or runny nose
Nausea or vomiting	Diarrhea	

By sending your child to school, families are affirming the following:

1. My child does not have any of these symptoms.
2. My child has not been directed to quarantine.
3. My child is not otherwise ill or sick.

If the family cannot affirm these three statements, they should contact the school nurse and school attendance office and inform them that your child will be home sick from school.

If your child demonstrates symptoms during the school day, they will see the school nurse and you will be contacted.

Students or staff with documented chronic health conditions such as seasonal allergies should follow up with their school nurse (students) or Human Resources (staff).

Physical Distancing

The District will work to maintain at least 3 feet of physical distancing between students to the fullest extent feasible. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and adults. The CDC has identified that inability to maintain these recommendations should not be a barrier to full time in-person instruction, provided the District implements other prevention strategies such as mask wearing.

Physical distancing of less than 3 feet may occur in classroom activities, building transitions, transportation, lunch, or other times during the day. This emphasizes the need for correct and consistent wearing of masks.

Public events & meetings: the District will continue to aim to create as much physical distancing as possible.

Lunch: Schools will endeavor to create as much physical distancing as possible during the lunch periods; however, 3-6 feet cannot be guaranteed. As was supported during the 2020-2021 school year, if a family wishes to remove their student from the building during lunch period, they may do so.

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette

TESD will continue to promote and practice proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) for all students and staff. Proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds will be reinforced. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be accessible when handwashing with soap and water is not possible. Posters will be placed throughout the buildings to reinforce this practice.

Facilities & Ventilation

All District facilities will continue to be cleaned and maintained on regularly scheduled frequencies. District HVAC systems have been balanced to meet American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and International Mechanical Code (IMC) requirements for the exchange of outside air and ventilation.

Responding to a COVID-19 Case

The District will continue to assist the CCHD in conducting contact tracing and providing the CCHD's quarantine order to impacted individuals. The CCHD is authorized to order the quarantine of individuals affected by a public health threat, and the District assists by providing the information to affected individuals.

Contact tracing & reporting of cases

On January 20, 2022, the Chester County Health Department updated their guidance regarding contact tracing. The protocol for positive COVID-19 cases has not changed. School districts are no longer authorized by the CCHD to provide quarantine letters to individuals who are identified as close contacts to positive cases. As a result, all County school districts have been directed to discontinue contact tracing. If the CCHD modifies their direction regarding report of cases and contact tracing, the District will adjust its practices in accordance with the guidance.

Close contact

The District will follow the definition of the CDC for close contacts. definition is available on the CDC website.

Quarantine

The District will follow the quarantine [rules presented by CCHD](#).

[Instructions for those identified as close contacts are available on the CCHD website](#).

COVID-19 Testing

The District has been supplied with rapid test kits from the CCHD and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

The CCHD has recommended that the District only conduct testing for the following circumstances, in priority order:

1. Symptomatic students or staff
2. Close contacts who are quarantining and are on Day 5 or later. (Testing is not required to return to school.)

As such, the District will no longer conduct regular or situational assurance testing of students and staff.

Vaccination & Booster Promotion

The District supports vaccination for those eligible to receive one. Prior to the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the District partnered with Springfield Pharmacy and hosted vaccination clinics at Conestoga High School and Valley Forge Middle School, resulting in over 1300 people obtaining vaccination. The District also collaborated with the CCHD in facilitating vaccination opportunities for school staff. To date, approximately 2300 shots have been administered to eligible students and adults during the current school year.

[Information on where to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination is available on the TESD website](#).

The District is willing to continue its partnership with community providers and host additional vaccination clinics.

To assist with contact tracing efforts, the District will ask families to voluntarily disclose their child's vaccination status when completing the emergency information section in PowerSchool. Disclosing this information is not required, but it will be useful to know when contact tracing is needed in response to a positive COVID-19 case.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

The District will continue to provide accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities to access our programming through a student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or Section 504 Plan process. Families of students with identified needs should contact their child's case manager or building principal with questions.

Communication

The District will continue to post COVID-19 information on its website at www.tesd.net/COVID2122 and communicate to families through email (SchoolMessenger), public presentations, and School Board meetings. Questions and feedback regarding COVID-19 can be provided via email to TECovidFeedback@tesd.net. This email account is monitored by the Director of Safety and Student Services, along with other members of the TESD administrative team.