



# American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Health and Safety Plan

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Allegheny Valley School District (AVSD)**

**Initial Effective Date: August 17, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: July 27, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: July 28, 2021**

- 1. How will the Local Education Agency (LEA), to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (Centers for Disease Control) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

*The LEA will monitor the latest recommendations from Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA Department of Health), Allegheny County Health Department (Allegheny County Health Department), and Centers for Disease Control (Centers for Disease Control) to update the Health and Safety Plan as needed. The plan will be presented to the school board and then posted on the school district webpage. Allegheny Valley School District (AVSD)*

facilities and practices will be adapted from these guidelines to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation strategies are followed.

**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?**

*Educational models will be adapted to meet the needs of the students as appropriate. Academics will be addressed through plans for in-person, hybrid, and virtual instruction, to be utilized as needed. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored, and provided for by in-house and contracted health care providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists as needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals for all school-aged students within the school district, throughout the entire year.*

**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 Centers for Disease Control.**

<p><b>A. Universal and correct wearing of masks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ARP ESSER requires school districts and charter schools to develop mitigation plans in line with the most recent Center for Disease Control guidance with plans being updated every six months as needed. <b>At the current time, fully vaccinated students and staff are not required to wear a mask.</b></li><li>• <a href="#">Mandatory masking on school busses and vans.</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Masks will be mandatory for PK-12 students and staff to begin the school year.</a></li><li>• Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Masks will not be required for K-6 students when outside for recess</li> <li>● As mask-wearing mandates change, the requirement to wear masks on school district property and at school district events may be altered.</li> <li>● Training on proper mask use will be demonstrated to students and staff.</li> <li>● Reminders of mask use as well as proper masking will be in many forms, including verbal, via signage, and on electronic media.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distancing will follow Centers for Disease Control and Department of Health recommendations to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>● The maximum socially-distanced capacity for each room will be established.</li> <li>● Direction of desks may be modified to maximize proximity.</li> <li>● Student seating may be limited to one side of tables/desks.</li> <li>● Balancing class numbers and adjustment of roster sizes to the greatest extent possible.</li> <li>● Temporarily remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms if/as needed.</li> <li>● Encourage staff to maintain distancing from other adults to the maximum extent feasible.</li> <li>● Staff should maintain appropriate distancing from students, whenever possible, and when not disruptive or detrimental to the educational process.</li> <li>● Limit physical interaction when engaged in partner or group work.</li> <li>● Establish appropriate distance between the teacher desk/board and student desks.</li> <li>● Identify large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, large group instruction areas, outdoor facilities (weather permitting) to be utilized for social distancing when necessary.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PK-12 students will be distanced at 6 ft during lunch and activities that require masks to be removed, such as playing an instrument.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs/sneezes, and face coverings.</li> <li>● Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer with an appropriate alcohol content, cleaning wipes/disinfectant spray, tissues, and paper towels for use in classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.</li> <li>● Post signage throughout District facilities and buses to communicate the prevention/spread of the virus.</li> <li>● Practice preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, proper respiratory etiquette, and school/district specific protocols.</li> <li>● Promote the use of the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of tissues and other potentially contaminated items after use.</li> <li>● Ensure regular disposal of waste receptacle contents.</li> <li>● Perform hand hygiene after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects or materials.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation;</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schedule cleaning to maximize sanitary conditions and decrease the amount of virus that may be on surfaces and objects, thereby reducing risks of exposure.</li> <li>● Apply sanitizing products to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, etc.</li> <li>● Disinfect school facilities and transportation vehicles using approved disinfectants to reduce the risk of contraction and/or spread.</li> <li>● Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch.</li> <li>● Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and</li> </ul>

	<p>increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Avoid the use of windows and doors as a mechanism for increased ventilation if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.</li> <li>● Continued use of a cleaning checklist for high touch surfaces that is clearly posted on classroom doors.</li> </ul>
<p><b>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;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration between school administrators and school nurses to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.</li> <li>● School nurses and other healthcare providers should use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people.</li> <li>● Follow established procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.</li> <li>● Contact and coordinate with the local health authority Allegheny County Health Department when acting in response to a known or suspected communicable disease.</li> <li>● Contact the local health authority (Allegheny County Health Department) for further guidance if parent/guardian or caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor.</li> <li>● Complete and submit contact tracing paperwork.</li> <li>● Distribute notifications to building staff and students with appropriate related information as needed.</li> <li>● Ensure that the development of policies and procedures are based on Centers for Disease Control guidelines, where appropriate.</li> <li>● Work closely with the community health center nurses to follow-up and complete contract tracing.</li> <li>● Contact tracing will continue to identify and</li> </ul>

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quarantine close contacts when positive COVID cases are identified **with the following exceptions under the current Centers for Disease Control guidelines.**

- **1. Exception in Centers for Disease Control guidelines:**
- **In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:**
  - **both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks;**

*and*

- **other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.**
- **Guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department**
- **This exception does not apply to teachers,**
  - **staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.**
- **2. Except in certain circumstances,**
- **people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine. However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:**
  - **People who have been fully vaccinated**
  - **People who were previously diagnosed with**

	<p><b>COVID-19 within the last three months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Guidance from the Allegheny County Health Department</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>F. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor and act upon signs and symptoms of students and staff daily, upon arrival.</li> <li>● Address privacy concerns, associated monitoring practices, confirmed exposure or cases by ensuring compliance with (HIPAA)/(FERPA).</li> <li>● Encourage staff to use appropriate stay-at-home decision making when ill/ sick.</li> <li>● Encourage parents to keep their child(ren) home when ill/sick</li> </ul>
<p><b>G. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Work with local health centers and hospitals to host additional on-site vaccination sessions.</li> <li>● Provide brochures and other information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations on site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>H. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure that all procedures and practices related to face coverings and all other parts of the health and safety plans accommodate the needs of students with disabilities.</li> <li>● Comply with federal and state laws for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedure</li> </ul>
<p><b>I. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LEA will work cooperatively with the board of directors, Joint Task Forces, the PA Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Allegheny County Health Department, to coordinate resources and implement processes and procedures in accordance with the health and safety plan.</li> <li>● Utilize a chain-of-command approach to all elements of the health and safety plan that includes the related agencies and officials. Attend Allegheny County Health Department</li> </ul>

	virtual meetings.
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## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **The Allegheny Valley School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 17, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

**Yes**

**No**

Affirmed on: August 17, **2021**

By:

*(Signature\* of Board President)*

Larry Pollick

*(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.

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