



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: Sylvan Heights Science Charter School

Initial Effective Date: 7/31/2021

Date of Last Review: 7/26/2021

Date of Last Revision: 1/24/2022

Date of Last Revision: March 28, 2022

Date of Last Revision: September 19, 2022

Date of Last Revision: January 23, 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?

Instructional Model for the 2022-2023 School Year:

Sylvan Heights Science Charter School is scheduled to provide full-time, in-person learning for all students for the 2022 - 2023 school year. The Charter School is prepared to provide virtual/ remote instruction to all students, or smaller groups, should the Charter School experience temporary school wide closures as a result of COVID-19 and its impacts. To ensure equity, all students will receive a school-issued iPad, case, charger, charging cord, and school supplies (pencil, paper, etc.). The Charter School will provide internet hot spots to those families who do not have internet access. School personnel are prepared to provide door to door delivery of all technology and supplies to those families unable to pick up necessary items at the school site due to lack of transportation. All students will be expected to return to full in-person learning once the temporary school closure or student quarantining period has ended.

Instruction Model for the 2021 - 2022 School Year:

Sylvan Heights Science Charter School returned to full-time, in-person learning for all students at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The Charter School is prepared to provide virtual/remote instruction to all students should the Charter School experience temporary school-wide closures, or for smaller student groups needing to quarantine due to their exposure to COVID-19. To ensure equity, all students will receive a Sylvan Heights Science Charter School issued i-Pad, case, charger, charging cord and school supplies (pencil pouch, pencils, sharpener, erasers, paper etc.). The Charter School will provide hot spots to those families who do not have internet access. School personnel are prepared to provide door to door

delivery of all technology and supplies to those families unable to pick-up necessary items at the school site due to lack of transportation. All students will be expected to return to full in-person learning once the temporary school closure or student quarantining period has ended.

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 Charter School will utilize a combination of permanent staff (i.e. school counselor) and contracted service providers (i.e. Licensed Social Worker, behavior support specialists, etc.) to provide services for students in need of social and emotional support. Needs assessments will be administered to students upon their return to school to establish a baseline of potential services which will support and promote the mental health student body.
 - The administrative team and content specialists will be developing academic remediation and enrichment strategies to support and promote higher levels of student achievement and identify any potential student learning gaps.
 - Sylvan Heights will implement Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school-wide for the 2021-2022 school year. This will allow the School to model and teach effective behaviors and implement research-based proven programs and strategies. In addition, student behavior data will be collected and analyzed by utilizing the School-Wide Information System (SWIS). Strategic interventions will be planned by the PBIS team with implementation and results closely monitored. During the 2022-2023 school year, the School has continued to implement and revise the PBIS school-wide program based on the data collected via SWIS system.
 - As previously anticipated, Sylvan Heights has begun professional development and implementation of Responsive Classroom during the 2022-2023 school year to further address student needs as they relate to trauma.
 - Sylvan Heights continues to meet the requirement for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Therefore, all students are eligible for free breakfasts and lunches.

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.

Sylvan Heights Science Charter School welcomed students and staff back to the physical school building for in-person instruction on August 25, 2021. Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the Acting Secretary of Health's school masking order on December 10, 2021. Per the Pennsylvania Department of Education: School entities still possess the authority and are encouraged to require masks in their facilities as

recommended by CDC. Masking in school settings minimizes the spread of COVID-19, particularly in settings where individuals and students are not vaccinated, and allows for reduced quarantining to keep individual students and staff in school. Therefore, the Sylvan Heights Science Charter School Board of Trustees voted in favor of requiring masks for all students, staff and visitors while inside the school building except while eating or drinking at the December 20, 2021 monthly meeting.

On March 28, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to remove the mask requirement for staff, students and visitors based on documented declining COVID cases in Dauphin county.

January 23, 2023: The COVID-19 Community Level transmission rate for Dauphin County continues to be reported as low. [CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View](#)

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. <u>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</u></p>	<p>Sylvan Heights Science Charter School brought students and staff back to the physical school building for full-time in-person learning beginning August 25, 2021 for the duration of the 2021-2022 school year. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the Acting Secretary of Health’s school masking order on December 10, 2021. Per the Pennsylvania Department of Education: School entities still possess the authority and are encouraged to require masks in their facilities as recommended by CDC. Masking in school settings minimizes the spread of COVID-19, particularly in settings where individuals and students are not vaccinated, and allows for reduced quarantining to keep individual students and staff in school. Therefore, the Sylvan Heights Science Charter School Board of Trustees voted at the December 20, 2021 monthly Board Meeting in favor of requiring masks for all students, staff and visitors while inside the school building except while eating or drinking.</p> <p>March 28, 2022: On March 28, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to remove the mask requirement for staff, students and visitors</p>

	<p>based on documented declining COVID cases in Dauphin county.</p> <p>January 23, 2023: The School will continue to provide adult and child sized masks at the entrance ways to the school building for visitor, staff and student use. Classroom teachers, school nursing staff and front office staff will continue to maintain a supply of masks so that individuals will have mask access throughout the school day as needed.</p>
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</u></p>	<p>Classrooms will serve as pods with no more than 22 students in each pod/classroom. Students will be socially distanced per the CDC guidelines whenever feasible. Students will participate in outdoor play per grade level (maximum 44 students). The School will develop a master schedule for transitioning (i.e. to restrooms, lunch, dismissal, etc.) to maintain integrity of pods and reduce COVID-19 transmission. Breakfast will be served within classrooms; students will use plastic shields while in the act of eating and masks are not able to be used. Students will eat in the cafeteria during lunch in their assigned pod whenever feasible. Floor and wall stickers will be used throughout the school to indicate proper physical distancing requirements as per CDC and PA DOH guidance.</p> <p>March 28, 2022: On March 28, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation to no longer restrict student movement within the school building/grounds/play area to classroom pods.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash hands with soap and water at regular intervals throughout the day, especially before and after eating lunch and using the restroom. Handwashing signs are posted in all sink areas (i.e. lavatories, prep kitchen, staff kitchen, etc.) to show the proper way to effectively wash hands.</p>

	<p>When hand washing is not available, students will have supervised access to school-issued hand sanitizer within all classroom spaces, especially following touching of shared items.</p> <p>Students will receive instruction on how to properly wash their hands, and cover coughs/ sneezes with their elbows.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Sylvan Heights continues to contract with a licensed, certified cleaning company to provide systematic daily cleaning during the evening hours.</p> <p>Any area of the building in which there was a confirmed COVID-19 case, is completely wiped down with disinfectant before students/staff are allowed to return to the identified area.</p> <p>All staff are required to routinely clean and sanitize their assigned workspaces, classrooms, or other designated areas. Additionally, Sylvan Heights has assigned an additional daytime staff member to disinfect/wipe down high touch areas such as light switches, door knobs, bathroom faucets, etc. Sylvan Heights will also be providing water bottles and gallons of water to reduce hallway traffic, thus eliminating the need for water fountains.</p> <p>Sylvan Heights will maximize proper ventilation by allowing classroom doors to remain open throughout the instructional day, with door locks engaged in the event of an emergency requiring lockdown.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</u></p>	<p>Continued pre-screening measures will be implemented to prevent staff, visitors, volunteers, contractors and students who appear to be symptomatic from entering the school building.</p>

	<p>Parents and guardians will be asked to monitor their students for any potential symptoms prior to sending them to school. Consultation with the Principal/ CAO and/ or the school nurse with regard to whether or not to send a potentially symptomatic child to school will continue to be the recommendation.</p> <p>A student who presents with a fever of 100.4 or higher upon arrival will be taken to an isolation room. Parents will be notified immediately to pick up the child.</p> <p>Sylvan Heights will follow contact tracing guidance and recommendations as established by the CDC and PA Department of Health. In addition, the School will maintain a running total of case counts along with the quarantine and isolation information. Frequent notification will take place if and when needed through the School's website, emails, ClassDojo, and School Messenger system.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></p>	<p>Sylvan Heights will continue to monitor students and staff closely for any signs of COVID-19.</p> <p>Prior to daily arrival, all parents will be required to screen their children at home for any potential signs of COVID-19. Students who present with any symptoms and/ or fever should remain at home.</p> <p>Upon arrival, all students will have their temperatures checked by trained staff at the exit point closest to their vehicle. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or above, the student is to remain in the car and go home with their parents and remain at home for the CDC guideline time. If a student arrives on the bus and has a fever, they will be directed to the trailer entrance/isolation area where they will remain until someone comes for them. Teachers, administrators, and support staff will visually monitor students</p>

	<p>throughout the day and report any suspected illness to the Nurse for further screening.</p> <p>January 23, 2023: Students' temperatures will be taken at the entrance point of the school building.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>Sylvan Heights will continue to support the efforts of the PA Department of Health by publicizing sites at which COVID-19 vaccinations are available to our school community via multiple means (i.e. Class Dojo, links on school website, flyers, etc.).</p> <p>The School will continue to present the most up-to-date COVID-19 information to staff and parents on vaccinations.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Sylvan Heights will make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies as per the students' IEPs.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>Sylvan Heights will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials with respect to contact tracing, isolation, quarantine, and re-entry following an identified case of COVID-19.</p> <p>Evidence from the 2020-2021 school year has demonstrated that COVID-19 is an ever-evolving virus and circumstances can change quickly. Therefore, the Charter School has adopted the Pennsylvania Department of Health 2022 COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Period recommendation released on January 7, 2022. COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine (pa.gov)</p> <p>In the event that new guidance for schools would be provided by any regulatory agencies, Sylvan Heights will review its current plans accordingly.</p> <p>Revised September 19, 2022:</p>

The Pennsylvania Department of Health released updated COVID-19 Guidance on August 18, 2022.

Sylvan Heights Science Charter School will follow the Department of Health guidance outlined in the following link:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2022-656-8-18-UPD-COVID%20update.pdf>

In Summary:

Individuals **exposed** to a positive or presumed positive case of COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine regardless of vaccination status. It is recommended for the exposed individual to wear a mask while indoors and around people for a period of 10 days.

If an individual is sick and suspected to have COVID-19, they should be tested and remain home until the test results are received.

If the test result is negative, the individual can end their isolation and return to the school.

If the test result is positive, the individual can return on DAY 6 or after. It is recommended the individual wears a mask through DAY 10.

- 1) Confirm symptom start date (date of testing, if asymptomatic). This is DAY 0.
- 2) Count 5 DAYS for isolation.
- 3) Can return to the school on DAY 6 (or after) wearing a mask for Days 6-10.
- 4) The Individual must be fever free for 24 hours and symptoms should be improving.
- 5) If the individual still has a fever or other symptoms have not improved, they should continue to isolate until they improve.

***It is noted that the above is guidance put forth by the Department of Health. It is the continued recommendation of the school for parents/guardians to contact their child's doctor directly should parents/guardians about their child's health.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Sylvan Heights Science Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **January 23, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **January 23, 2023**

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.

