Uniontown Area 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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support
- PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Uniontown Area School District

Initial Effective Date: August 9, 2021

Date of Last Review: Preliminary plan reviewed by the board on July 12, 2021; Final plan reviewed on August 9, 2021; Revisions reviewed on October 4, 2021. Revisions will be reviewed on February 7, 2022

Date of Last Revision: February 1, 2022
- 8-9-21: revised language to align to CDC's updated recommendation for face coverings. (pg. 5)
- 9-27-21: updated language to reflect Mask Mandate Order (pg.5); added resources for contact tracing (pg.8); implementation of thermographic cameras as a screening-tool (pg. 8)
- 12-13-21: updated language to reflect the change in requirements for face coverings; removed Mask Mandate Order from plan. (pg.5)
- 1-6-22: Revised to reflect CDC changes for isolation/quarantine periods for positive cases and close contacts; including household close contacts. CDC changes went into effect on 12/30/21. (pgs7-8)
- 1-10-22: Revised attachments to include most recent guidelines updated on 1/7/22.
- **2-1-22: Revised recommendations to quarantine guidance following close contact to a positive case. (pgs. 7-9)**

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 Uniontown Area School District will monitor the latest recommendations from CDC, PA-DOH, and PDE and will update the district's Health and Safety plans on an as needed basis. When changes are necessary, the plan will be presented to the governing Board for approval. Board policies will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to assure compliance with the health and safety plan. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. Staff and students will receive reminders on self-preventative measures such as, handwashing, good hygiene, and social distancing. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures and standard mitigation efforts, the Uniontown Area School District will continue to encourage the vaccination of students and staff.

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 the needs of the students as appropriate including remote instruction when required. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers,

social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals if needed for students 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 CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

• Universal and correct wearing of masks;	• The Uniontown Area School District will develop mitigation plans in line with most recent CDC, PA-DOH, and PDE guidance with plans being updated as needed.
	
	• Face coverings are optional for all students and staff while on UASD property regardless of one's vaccination status; excluding transportation.
	
	• The district will comply with local, state, and/or federal mandates/orders for face coverings, as applicable.
	
	• Staff and students will be trained on and reminded of proper mask use:
	    o Information on how to properly wear a face covering will be posted throughout the district buildings.
	    o School nurses will provide education on the correct and consistent use of face coverings for individuals, as needed.

• Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	• Master schedules will be designed to maximize space and capacity to the extent feasible. • Classrooms and other learning spaces will be designed and arranged to support social distancing between students/staff to the maximum extent practicable.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	• Remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize social distancing (to the extent feasible).
	
	• Staff will maximize social distancing (to the greatest extent practicable), whenever possible and when not disruptive to the educational process.
	
	• Utilize physical distancing measures whenever feasible to limit exposure between individuals:
	  a. Use of outdoors/large spaces
	  b. Eliminate unnecessary congregations
	
	• In all schools for all classes and times of the day including district transportation, teachers, staff and bus/van drivers must keep accurate seating charts with attendance notes required for possible contact tracing purposes.

• Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;	• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, proper hygiene, and other preventative measures as needed. • Encourage handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer multiple times a day through staff and daily reminders. • Provide hand soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, as feasible. • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, proper respiratory etiquette and school/district specific protocols. • Perform hand hygiene after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects or materials.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
• [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);	• Daily cleaning of schools with soap and water to decrease how much of the virus is on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure. • Apply to frequently touched surfaces and objects including door handles, sink handles and drinking fountains. • At least daily and throughout the day disinfecting schools and transportation vehicles using EPA- approved disinfectants against COVID-19 to reduce the risk. • Use of routine cleaning practices for indoor areas that have not been used for 7 or more days or outdoor equipment. • Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch. • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. a. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.
• [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	• In all schools for all classes and times of the day including district transportation, teachers, staff and bus/van drivers will keep accurate seating charts with attendance notes required for possible contact tracing purposes. • The district will report all confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the number of close contacts identified for each district building to the PA-DOH, on a weekly basis. • ==The district will follow appropriate CDC and PA-DOH isolation guidance for confirmed cases of COVID-19, including when students and staff are==

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	able to return to school following a positive test result.
	
	• When a report is made that an individual has tested positive for Covid-19, the pandemic coordinator in collaboration with building administrators will ensure that a self-report form is completed and submitted to be used for contact tracing purposes.
	
	• Following a report of a positive case, contact tracing will be conducted to identify close contacts. Parents/Guardians of identified close contacts will be notified and provided an option for their child to quarantine (excused absences) for a period of 5 days after the last day of exposure or continue **to attend school provided the student remains asymptomatic**.
	
	    a. Parents are asked to monitor their child daily for a period of 1-10 days following an exposure. If the child develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they are to keep their child home and notify the school nurse immediately.
	
	• The district will follow the attached guidance for when isolated/quarantined students and staff are able to return to school. This is further coordinated through school nurses for students and pandemic coordinator for staff in consultation with applicable health departments and/or medical providers.
	    a. [2-7-2022 UASD Quarantine and Isolation Guidance.pdf](#)
	
	• Students and staff who are symptomatic, but have not tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school with one of the following:
	    a. Improving symptoms and fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

	b. <mark>A note from the student/staff physician releasing them back to school/work.</mark>
	
	• District procedures will be in accordance, to the maximum extent feasible, with the CDC and the PA DOH's guidelines:
	
	   a. [Overview of COVID-19 Quarantine for K-12 Schools | CDC](#)
	   b. [PAHAN 619 Isolation and Quarantine 1-7-22.pdf](#)

• [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;	• Using the UASD home-screening tool, parents/guardians are to complete a daily health check on their child(ren) prior to leaving the house for school, daily. • Staff members, including contacted services and substitutes are to complete a daily health check using the home-screening tool prior to coming to work. • Any student or staff who meets the criteria listed on the home-screening tool should stay home and not report to school/work. • Use of Thermographic cameras to screen individuals upon arrival and throughout the day; any individual with an elevated temperature will be sent to the nurse for further screening. • Individuals who are symptomatic will receive health checks/screenings (e.g., temperature and symptom screening) which include checks for history of exposure. • Students/staff not attending school/work due to home-screening results/exhibiting symptoms, must stay home until asymptomatic and/or

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	cleared by a physician to return to school per the CDC, PA-DOH, and PDE guidelines and verified by the school nurse for students and the pandemic coordinator for teachers/staff. • All monitoring practices will be addressed in regards to FERPA, HIPPA, and Confidentiality for all individuals.
• Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;	• The Uniontown Area School District has hosted vaccination clinics for students, staff, and community members. • The district will continue to work with community health centers and hospitals to either provide on-site vaccinations or provide brochures and other information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at their sites.
• Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	• Ensure that any policy regarding face coverings or any other parts of the health and safety plans should be sensitive to the needs of students with medical issues- a. All implementation strategies will adhere to a student's IEP or 504 plan. • The Special Education Director will work with students who require special accommodations or support. • Unique safety protocols for students with complex needs or other vulnerable populations will be addressed on a case by case basis while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), HIPPA, and other applicable federal and state privacy laws. • All IEP and 504 meetings will continue to take place as scheduled; meetings will be conducted in-person unless otherwise requested by the parent/guardian. Upon request, arrangements can be made for meetings to be conducted virtually while maintaining HIPPA/FERPA compliance.

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• Coordination with state and local health officials.	The district's pandemic coordinator will communicate with the PA Department of Health (DOH), community health agencies, medical experts/physicians, and Emergency Management agencies to actively monitor all information that is relevant to the health and safety of students and staff and to coordinate resources in accordance to the district's Health & Safety plan.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Uniontown Area School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ Yes

_____ No

Affirmed on: **(INSERT DATE: MONTH, DAY, YEAR)**

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.