

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 e grants 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: Gettysburg Montessori Charter School

Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: July 29, 2021

Date of Last Revision: July 22, 2021

Revised : February 7, 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?

GMCS will layer strategies to help prevent COVID-19 transmission. Masks will be optional unless mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. GMCS will continue to use clear desk shields for grades 1-6 and on cafeteria tables. GMCS will continue to have routines and opportunities for proper handwashing.

One week before students return, we will have a detailed cleaning of the school. Every single area will be covered from top to bottom. During the Winter break, the school had another detailed cleaning of the entire school prior to students returning on 1/03/2023.

We check weekly for updates on the CDC requirements for COVID-19. We will only use chemicals from CDC chemical lists and approved by EPA Virex Tb and Oxivir are chemicals to be used along with the Electrostatic Sprayer. In order to meet OSHA requirements, all our chemicals are properly labeled and SDS are available for everyone who needs them.

We have divided the school in multiple areas. Our disinfecting frequencies vary from one area to another. For example most common areas such as; door handles, restrooms are disinfected at least 3 times a day (or adapting to daily traffic) and playground equipment is disinfected as they are being used in the fall and spring months.

The classroom wings at Gettysburg Montessori School are ventilated by a new dedicated outdoor air rooftop HVAC system which provides outdoor air directly to each classroom, while exhausting all bathrooms and common spaces. The system operates anytime the building is occupied during the school year. The outdoor air is filtered and conditioned to maintain humidity levels throughout the building as well as improving indoor air quality. In addition all classrooms and most hallway windows are operable to provide fresh outdoor air as needed.

The school nurse will communicate with parents and guardians regarding any student Covid-19 related absence. Under the direction of the Department of Health, our school nurse will participate in contact tracing if needed and will communicate any need for isolation and quarantine.

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?

GMCS will be open for in-person learning; unless, limited closure is needed in response to local outbreak and current CDC & Department of Health recommendations.

Throughout the school year, We will provide additional academic support to students in need.

GMCS will contract with a local counseling agency to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students and staff.

GMCS will continue to assess student health as required by law, such as vision and hearing screenings. If families request more health services for their students, they may reach out to the school nurse for resources.

GMCS will offer food service to our students and will continue to follow the guidelines of the National School Nutrition Program. Meals will be provided for all students, at no cost to the families.

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

Universal and correct wearing of masks:

b. **Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing:**

c. **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:**

Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

Masks in school will be optional unless we are mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. If we are mandated, GMCS will provide information to all families and staff about the correct wearing of masks.

Masks may be required by the students' home districts while transporting students on buses or vans.

GMCS will continue to use desk shields in grades 1-6 and in the cafeteria.

Classroom teachers will teach students how to properly wash their hands as well as respiratory etiquette. They will also establish routines and times for hand washing.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;

How will you ensure the building is cleaned and ready to safely welcome staff and students

Response: One week before students return, we will have a detailed cleaning of the school. Every single area will be covered from top to bottom. During the Winter break, the school had another detailed cleaning of the entire school prior to students returning on 1/03/2023.

How will you procure adequate disinfection supplies meeting OSHA and CDC requirements for COVID-19?

Response: We check weekly for updates on the CDC requirements for COVID-19. We will only use chemicals from CDC chemical lists and approved by EPA. Virex Tb and Oxivir are chemicals to be used along with the Electrostatic Sprayer. In order to meet OSHA requirements, all our chemicals are properly labeled and SDS are available for everyone who needs them.

How often will you implement cleaning, sanitation, disinfecting, and ventilation protocols/procedures to maintain staff and student safety?

Response: We have divided the school in multiple areas. Our disinfecting frequencies vary from one area to another. For example, most common areas such as door handles, restrooms... are disinfected at least 3 times a day (or adapting to daily traffic) and playground equipment are disinfected as they are being used.

The classroom wings at Gettysburg Montessori School are ventilated by a new dedicated outdoor air rooftop HVAC system which provides outdoor air directly to each classroom, while exhausting all bathrooms and common spaces. The system operates anytime the building is occupied during the school year. The outdoor air is filtered and conditioned to maintain humidity levels throughout the building as well as improving indoor air quality. In addition, all classrooms and most hallway windows are operable to provide fresh outdoor air as needed.

e. **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;**

GMCS' school nurse will continue to work with the State and local health departments regarding contact tracing, and isolation and quarantine requirements.

f. **Diagnostic and screening testing;**

Diagnostic and screening testing are not appropriate for GMCS.

g. **Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;**

The school nurse screens any one presenting Covid-19 like symptoms. The nurse determines whether the individual may stay at school or be sent home with referral for further evaluation and/or diagnostic testing by PCP.

GMCS will not provide vaccinations to our school community. However, if a family requests information about the vaccines or where to get them, the school nurse will provide them with resources.

h. **Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and**

All appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities will be determined by the IEP/school team based on the individual needs of the student within the construct set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Gettysburg Montessori Charter School's approved Health and Safety Plan.

i. **Coordination with state and local health officials.**

GMCS' school nurse is available to coordinate with state and local health officials. She has had ongoing communication with them during the pandemic

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Gettysburg Montessori Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(July 29 2021)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of: ALL IN FAVOR

Yes

No

Affirmed on: **(July 29 2021)**

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Thomas Hockensmith

(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.