



Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Millcreek Township School District**

Initial Effective Date: **July 1, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **June 28, 2021**

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

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?

With a robust health and safety plan, along with a layered mitigation strategy, and collaboration through administration, Pandemic Team, staff, students, and families. MTSD will continue to stay up-to-date with changing guidance in order to continuously and safely remain in-person for learning without spread of COVID-19. MTSD will actively educate and communicate what to expect if a COVID-19 case is identified among the school community. MTSD will proactively educate K-12 school staff, educators, students, and families about the steps they can take to protect themselves and others to prevent the spread of COVID-19. MTSD will communicate how case investigation and contact tracing is completed including parents' and guardians' role in helping students identify people, places, and activities where exposure might have occurred. Additionally, how staff, students, educators, and others in the school community can safely quarantine and/or isolate and monitor for symptoms.

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?

To address our student social and emotional learning needs upon return to school, k-8 students will be screened as part of their Second Step SEL instructional programming, while grades 9-12 students will be universally screened by the school psychologists and guidance counselors. Students with complex medical, social/emotional or academic needs will be addressed on an individual basis through the student support team, case managers and administrators to address their unique and individualized needs. Social stories will be developed for these students as appropriate. Visual schedules and reminders will be developed for students who benefit from visual cueing. Direct instruction during extended school year will be utilized to prepare students for expected hygiene protocols and social distancing. Students and teachers of medically fragile and high risk will be screened daily by nursing staff. Student and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs will be addressed using an increase in

mental health professionals, a social and emotional learning screening process and programming and referrals for continued support. Meal services will be available to all in-person students and resume pre-pandemic serving operations following guidelines and sanitization.

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 |
|---|--|
| <p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD, in determining the district's masking policy for grades K-12 the Board of School Directors will take into consideration local and county COVID-19 infection rates, community spread, and vaccination rates as well as consideration of guidance for K-12 guidance on mask wearing from the CDC, PDE, and PA DOH. • Maintaining mandatory consistent, correct use of masks by adults and children while on a school bus and at arrival/departure points (bus stops) following CDC and Department of Education guidance. Bus drivers will have extra masks available in case a student does not have one. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exception will be individuals who cannot safely wear a mask and have a mask exemption form through school student services. ○ The use of a face shield without the use of a mask is not recommended; face shields have not prevented respiratory droplet transmission and are not effective for preventing transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. <p>Tiered masking based on level of community spread in order to prevent intermittent building closure and loss of in-person learning.</p> <p>CDC Levels of Community Transmission- defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (Low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%.)</p> <p>Low- 0-9 new cases, <5% testing pcr. No masking requirement, parent choice. Quarantine will be required within 6ft for total of 15 consecutive minutes or more.</p> <p>Moderate- 10-49 new cases, 5-7.9% testing pcr. No masking requirement, parent choice. Quarantine will be required within 6ft for total of 15 consecutive minutes or more. MTSD will monitor community transmission as well as district and building transmission. Identification of any MTSD cluster will trigger</p> |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|-----------------------|--|
| | <p>review and consideration of a potential return to intermittent masking or the potential reinstatement of masking policy before reaching substantial community spread to prevent loss on in-person learning and additional spread of COVID-19 amongst MTSD community.</p> <p>Substantial and High - 50-99 new cases, 8-10%, high ≥ 100 cases and or $\geq 10\%$. testing pcr. Reinstitute masking policy regardless of vaccination status in order to protect in-person learning and prevent cluster of cases and or additional spread of COVID-19 amongst students/staff. IEP and mask exemption policies remain in place.</p> <p>**When in the K-12 setting where students are masked appropriately they are NOT REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE at \Rightarrow 3ft distancing**</p> <p>A school cluster by CDC definition is an index case and two or more cases epidemiologically linked to the index case who likely acquired SARS-CoV-2 infection in school (i.e., school-associated cases). When cases are introduced into the school environment, they can lead to clusters and potentially to rapid and uncontrolled spread. In addition to contact investigation, tracing, quarantine, and isolation the following should be used to control transmission in the event of a cluster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine whether inconsistent or incorrect use of masks contributed to the clusters and intervene to improve consistent and correct mask use. ○ Assess implementation of physical distancing and determine whether intervention is needed to address distancing. ○ Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, and other situations that may have led to adult-to-adult transmission. ○ Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools CDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Based on CDC Guidance, any individual ineligible or unvaccinated for COVID-19 is recommended to wear a mask. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exceptions include but are not limited to; under the age of 2, high intensity activities making breathing difficult (keeping 6ft distancing or max extent feasible), water activities where mask would be wet, extreme heat where heat-related illness is of concern, those with disability, medical condition, and or mask exemption from physician. ○ Accommodations students requiring a mask exemption will be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Section 504 team. |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|---|--|
| | |
| <p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the CDC/PDE K-12 Operational Strategy which recommends 3ft physical distancing in schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Additionally, physical barriers for the 2021-2022 school year are no longer recommended. • Ensure distancing of at least 3 feet apart between students with or without cohorting when feasible • 6 feet of distance or maximum extent feasible in the following settings; between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, when masks cannot be worn, such as when eating. During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible. • Providing physical guides, such as tape on floors and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 3-6 feet apart in lines and at other times in common areas. • Creating “one-way routes,” or designating areas of the hallway and stairways as flow paths to keep students separated and minimize foot traffic. • Mitigation strategies including room arrangements to maximize distance of 3 to 6 feet between students and 6 feet between students and adult employees; assigned seating for all areas, all day with seating charts for contact tracing • Busses will be boarded with students filling the back seats first to promote social distancing. Social distancing on the bus using staggered seating will be used to the max extend feasible, if possible. Parents will be encouraged to provide their own transportation. • Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools CDC |
| <p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools nursing will review proper handwashing using age appropriate K-12 lessons with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the beginning of the year and or sanitizing with at least 60% alcohol content when soap and water not available to promote hand hygiene. All MTSD staff will build time into the day for proper hand hygiene. • Signs displayed to remind staff and students about proper handwashing/hygiene throughout buildings |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional opportunities provided to students for hygiene/hand-washing (breaks for washing, hand sanitizer available) • Ongoing instruction throughout the year from school nurses regarding hygiene and proper hand-washing • Hand hygiene and signage will occur regardless of community transmission level • To avoid poison emergencies, hand sanitizers will be stored away, and out of sight of children under 6 years of age and used with adult supervision. • In addition, proper respiratory etiquette will be reviewed and reinforced by nursing and building staff during the 2021-2022 school year following the CDC/PDE guidance. Covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with proper handwashing. • When and How to Wash Your Hands Handwashing CDC |
| <p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p> | <p>In any community transmission, the students and staff in a building, please see below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All high touch surfaces, restrooms and community areas will be cleaned halfway through the school day or upon identification of a case. • Nightly, buildings will be disinfected using electric backpack sprayer and appropriate dwell time for disinfectant. • Backpack sprayer will be used additionally as needed for any identified areas from a positive case. • Disinfectant and hand sanitizer will be provided to each classroom for daily use. • Daily the Custodial Coordinator will review cleaning logs and inspect buildings. • UV equipment provided to IT staff to work on equipment. • Drinking fountains are available to fill water bottles or cups in all buildings. Signage will be posted at each drinking fountain to instruct proper use. All drinking fountains will be sanitized frequently throughout the day. • All buses will be sanitized twice a day. Once after the am route and again after the pm route. • Disinfectant wipes will be available for every classroom for those who voluntarily would like them. • Open windows to increase air circulation in the area when possible, including transportation vehicles. • All preventative maintenance has been conducted on all HVAC equipment to ensure proper airflow and filtering. All systems are code compliant with all PA Building Codes. • HVAC system to be set to bring in as much outdoor air as will safely allow. HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after the building is occupied to refresh air before arrival and remove remaining particles at the end of the day. • Ventilation will be monitored and adjusted as needed. • Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Programs (cdc.gov) |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|---|---|
| <p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 students/parents and staff will be asked to self-screen prior to coming to school using CDC's self-screen symptoms. Students/parents and staff are instructed to stay home if they are sick. All staff and students will be temperature checked via thermal scanner upon entering the building. Following MTSD policy anyone who screens 100 degrees or higher will be sent to the nurse's annex to be assessed for potential dismissal home. • Isolation/quarantine following local/state guidelines will occur if anyone is symptomatic until they complete necessary requirements by PA PDE/DOH to return to school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Erie County Department of Health has adopted CDC's testing out of quarantine with specimens collected on or after day 5 of quarantine, allowing for end of quarantine at day 8 if ECDH criteria is met. Science Brief: Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing CDC • Grades K-12: isolation areas are established (separate from the regular nursing office) for staff and students who are symptomatic. They will be sent home for isolation and or quarantine following local health department guidelines. Special disinfecting and designated bathroom areas will be identified. These areas will be stop-gap locations for anyone who reports to school in quarantine/isolation, until students are picked up by a parent/guardian. • Pandemic Coordinator in collaboration with school nursing, building administration, personnel, and attendance will track students and or staff in quarantine and or isolation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Separate tracking sheets are used for students and personnel in order to protect privacy • Parents will be communicated to update contact information and emergency contacts in IC at the start of the year. • Parents will be communicated about the requirement to pick up students if contacted who are exhibiting symptoms. • All local and state health department guidelines will continue to be updated and followed as changes occur. • Students and staff will be required to isolate and or quarantine per the DOH guidelines. Students and staff requiring isolation and or quarantined will be tracked through time of release. Contact investigation will be used to make determinations with regard to necessary close contact quarantines following local health department guidelines. • Based on Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, individuals do NOT need to quarantine after an exposure to another individual with COVID-19 if they are fully vaccinated (i.e. >2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose vaccine or >2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a 1-dose vaccine) AND they have remained asymptomatic since the exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19. Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People CDC |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the CDC update on use of SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing does not require quarantine if asymptomatic AND has a positive antibody test during the 3 months prior to the exposure; OR, the person receives a positive antibody test within 7 days following an exposure. Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing CDC • MTSD will notify the individuals who have been contact traced by sending a letter home and share 10-day quarantine expectation (from date of exposure). If student is not in building, a phone call will be made home to notify parents. Employees, parents, students, and community will be notified via letter as required. • MTSD will update active district case counts and quarantine via website dashboard. • MTSD will follow local, state, and CDC when considering an intermittent building closure for COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to; if any one building experiences rapid and or uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 related to a cluster transmission in collaboration with local DOH guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools CDC • MTSD website will be utilized to share any necessary information with parents, staff and community following PA PDE/DOH guidelines. |
| f. Diagnostic and screening testing; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD in following the CDC/PDE K-12 Operational Strategy will advise students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they are sick or if they have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. MTSD will refer symptomatic individuals to talk to their healthcare provider for clinical evaluation and diagnostic testing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools CDC • If a student, teacher, or staff member becomes sick at school, student will be isolated until departure to home, and referral letter for further evaluation will be sent home with student. This notifies parent or guardian on initiating diagnostic testing strategies, clinical evaluation, and return to school requirements. • If a student, teacher, or staff member reports a new COVID-19 diagnosis, isolation dates will be given in coordination with the Department of Health following guidelines. The individual will be required to complete the necessary isolation prior to return. Case investigation, contact tracing, and notification will be completed upon report. • Notifications will be sent via communications and accessible for all students, parents, and/or guardians. |
| g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD continues to promote COVID-19 vaccination through education to students, staff, and the community. MTSD is committed to the health and safety of students, staff, and their families by offering vaccination clinics through community partners. This aligns with PA PDE and DOH guidance in increasing vaccine access through PA's Vaccination Plan. • Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools CDC |

| ARP ESSER Requirement | Strategies, Policies, and Procedures |
|--|---|
| h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with complex medical, social/emotional or academic needs will be addressed on an individual basis through the student support team, case managers and administrators to address their unique and individualized needs. Social stories will be developed for these students as appropriate. Visual schedules and reminders will be developed for students who benefit from visual cueing. Direct instruction during extended school year to prepare students for expected hygiene protocols, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing. • Students and teachers of medically fragile and high risk will be screened daily by nursing staff. Communication will be sent to staff and families about the procedures for these students and devising of individual plans and extended school year expectations for teachers to utilize direct instruction to prepare students for hygiene protocols and social distancing. • Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools CDC |
| i. Coordination with state and local health officials. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD Pandemic Coordinator will collaborate with Erie County Department of Health when investigating cases and exposures of COVID-19. • MTSD will collaborate with local, state, and Center for Disease Control guidance to ensure compliance with applicable laws related to COVID-19 and related activities. • MTSD Pandemic Coordinator will collaborate with Erie County Department of Health report COVID-19 cases to the health department, in accordance with applicable privacy laws and the collection/sharing of information. • Students, staff, and educators diagnosed with COVID-19 will isolate and stay away from the school district premises until requirements for end of isolation are met. • MTSD will investigate and contact trace potential exposures and close contacts at K-12 school, facilities, or events and notify them of quarantine requirements following Erie County Department of Health guidelines. • All activities and information by MTSD to promote healthy behavior, maintain healthy environments, and prevent spread of COVID-19 will be consistent with applicable federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial privacy, public health, health/medical, and workplace laws and regulations. • Athletics will follow CDC guidance during the 2021-2022 school year. |

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for **Millcreek Township School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 28, 2021**. *(LS)*

July 26, 2021.

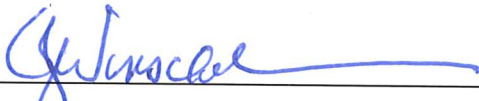
The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes 1 Absent

 No

July 26
Affirmed on: **June 28, 2021**

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

GARY J. WINSCHTEL

(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.

July 21,
2021