



Lackawanna Trail School District Health and Safety Plan for the Opening of School

Adopted on August 8, 2022

(This Health and Safety Plan is a Revision of the 2021-2022 Document, which was last revised on 3/14/2022)

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](#)

2022-2023 Health and Safety Plan Summary: Lackawanna Trail School District

Initial Effective Date: August 8, 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?

The Lackawanna Trail School District will support prevention and mitigation policies, to the greatest extent possible, by regularly reviewing, interpreting, and implementing CDC and DOH guidelines with flexibility related to local conditions. It is possible that this guidance will change frequently depending on local conditions. In addition to carrying out this Health and Safety Plan, we will inform our students, parents, and community regularly through Focus SIS notifications, updates on our district webpage, district Facebook page, email, and via local media. At least one virtual town hall meeting will be scheduled prior to the first day of school for students.

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 Lackawanna Trail School District will ensure continuity of services to the greatest extent possible by offering instruction primarily in-person and virtually under specific limited circumstances. Social and Emotional Wellness will be addressed by offering additional counseling services throughout the summer as well as during the school year led by our guidance staff and outsourced social worker. Local food distributions will be carried out by organizations such as the Childrens Produce Market, which will be held regularly on campus.

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>The Lackawanna Trail School District will continue to implement a two-tiered universal mask strategy.</p> <p>When the number of positive cases in the district is low, a mask-optional strategy will be communicated and employed. <u>Students and staff will be encouraged.</u></p>

	<p><u>but not required</u>, to wear a properly fitting mask during instructional hours while inside the building.</p> <p>When the number of positive cases in the district is high, the Superintendent will make the determination to require masks for staff, students, and community members when inside school buildings during instructional hours. This decision will be based on a.) number of positive cases in quarantine in each building, b.) the rate of transmission within the district and surrounding counties, c.) the availability of faculty and staff.</p> <p>Masking will be optional during all extra and co-curricular activities regardless of universal masking status during instructional hours in school buildings. Spectators may need to be masked depending on the circumstances.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The elementary center, jr.-sr. high school, and central office will be further modified to allow for flexible social distancing and the use of additional physical spacing when necessary to the greatest extent possible. Maintaining physical/social distancing for students and employees when practical will be determined on a case by case basis. Three (3) feet of distance will be maintained between students when feasible.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be encouraged and modeled by the administration, faculty, and support staff. Our school nurses will communicate up to date and cutting edge protocol and etiquette through multiple venues. Students who are ill are encouraged not to return to school until symptoms have stopped. These students and their parents need to be in regular contact with the school nurse. Mobile hand sanitizer stations will be located in common areas in both buildings for easy access.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Cleaning, sanitizing, and maintaining adequate ventilation and air flow systems is critical to a healthy building. Our maintenance staff will continue to clean, disinfect, and sanitize the facilities, and our HVAC systems will be regularly monitored to ensure</p>

	<p>proper air circulation. These areas will receive additional attention in the winter (traditional cold and flu season), when more students and employees spend time indoors. If positive cases of COVID-19 are identified in specific rooms, offices, or common areas, deeper disinfecting will take place.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Lackawanna Trail School District will implement a “Five-and-Five” day (i.e. 5/5) quarantine cycle for individuals who test positive for COVID-19. Positive cases will quarantine at home for five days and return to in-person activities on day 6-10 with required wearing of a properly fitted mask, regardless of the current universal masking status. If a student/family chooses not to wear a properly fitted mask during days 6-10, they will be required to quarantine from in-person activities for the full 10 days beyond a positive test result, per CDC guidance.</p> <p>Contact tracing related to those who test positive for COVID-19 will only be done for students/employees/families who opt in, or when the administration deems it necessary because of a large-scale outbreak or other extenuating circumstances. Home testing kits will be distributed by the school nurses to those in need, if available.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>At-home tests will be accepted by the school district as proof of positive and/or negative results.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>The District will continually notify its students and staff of local vaccination opportunities as well as provide clinics on campus. Vaccinations are now available for students ages 5-11, and can be easily scheduled at a local pharmacy, community medical center, or pediatrician’s office. The more people vaccinated in our school and school community, the more likely we are to keep school open safely. Vaccinations against COVID-19 are voluntary, but recommended. In order to potentially avoid quarantine and isolation and keep others safe when positive cases are identified within our school population, students and employees may need to prove their vaccination status. This is one example of a situation where the district will inquire</p>

	about the immunization/vaccination status of a student(s) and employee(s).
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	IEP and 504 teams will meet to determine if individual accommodations are required for students with disabilities. Any accommodations related to COVID 19 mitigation efforts or unique student health needs will be included in the IEP or Section 504 Services Agreement.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Regular communication and coordination with the DOH, PDE, CDC, and EMA will continue.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Lackawanna Trail School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 8th, 2022.

The Health and Safety Plan was approved by a vote of:

 7 Yes

 2 No

Affirmed on: **August 8, 2022**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Kevin Mulhern

(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.