



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: Holy Trinity Catholic School

Initial Effective Date:

Date of Last Review: August 3, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 20, 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?

Holy Trinity Catholic School (HTCS) will monitor and consider the latest recommendations from the PDE, the PADOH, and CDC. The HTCS Health and Safety plan will be updated as needed based on recommendations from those entities. HTCS will monitor the COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard and level of community transmission table to make informed decisions on policy and practice within HTCS. As updates and changes are made to the HTCS Health and Safety plan, they will be presented to the HTCS Board for review and approval. Updates will be made public via the HTCS website.

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?

HTCS will return to traditional in person learning for all students. Social, emotional, mental health, and other needs will be monitored, and a continuum of services provided by instructional staff, school health providers, outside agencies, and other mental behavior specialists as needed. The virtual learning and synchronous instructional platform will be used only in a quarantine situation when it is feasible. Food service will continue to be provided at each location.

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>	<p>HTCS will consider CDC recommendations and guidance provided by PDE and PADOH regarding masking.</p> <p>Our plan is to not require masks for students physically attending our schools. Parents and students may choose to wear a mask while inside, but it is not a requirement at this time. Mask wearing for non-vaccinated students and adults will be encouraged. Reminders of proper masking protocols will be provided regularly.</p> <p>Recognizing that the situation with COVID-19 remains fluid, the Diocese may require students to wear masks if circumstances change or if state or federal mandates are issued. Factors that may influence changes to the mask policy would include an increase in the COVID-19 transmission levels in a geographic area, illness of a family member, or travel to a high positivity area.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Social distancing of our facilities will be altered and adjusted to keep 3 feet socially distant in accordance with the most current guidance for physical distancing as indicated by CDC and PADOH guidance.</p> <p>HTCS will identify and utilize large spaces such as gymnasiums, auditoriums, and outdoor spaces when possible.</p> <p>When working in close proximity, students and teachers will reduce the amount of time when possible.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained in classrooms, main entrances, and large group gathering areas and students and staff will be encouraged to use them throughout the school day.</p> <p>Best practice encourages hand washing prior to and after meals and snacks, after using the restroom and after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing. Our school will encourage students and staff to follow these best practices.</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>HTCS facilities will be cleaned daily utilizing recommended protocols for sanitizing and disinfecting all surfaces and areas that students and staff will come in contact with.</p> <p>Cleaning of all occupied spaces includes disinfectant misting in every area, every day.</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>HTCS will work with administrators, teachers, and school health personnel to identify and isolate anyone who is potentially positive for COVID-19.</p> <p>HTCS will continue to follow procedures for arranging for pick-up of ill or potentially infectious individuals.</p> <p>HTCS will communicate, collaborate, and comply with the Altoona Johnstown Diocese and DOH on all potential incidences of infection or potential spread of communicable disease.</p> <p>HTCS will contact the Altoona Johnstown Diocese and DOH for further guidance if notified of a potential exposure by a student, staff member or school visitor.</p> <p>HTCS will communicate with staff, students, and families regarding health and safety incidences and concerns.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<p>e. (continued) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>HTCS will complete all required contact tracing as recommended by PA DOH and ensure that staff and students meet all requirements prior to returning to school safely.</p> <p>Student or staff, who was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, must notify the administrator/principal immediately. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine from the Diocesan Education Office as per guidelines of the CDC or PADOH.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>HTCS will continue to encourage staff and students to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to consult with medical professionals regarding their child's symptoms.</p> <p>We will require staff to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19.</p> <p>Parents and guardians are required to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms outlined in the chart below.</p> <p>Staff and students, who are ill must stay home from work, programs, and schools. Staff and students shall be sent home if they become ill at work, school, program or service.</p> <p>HTCS will continue to educate families on home and self-screening practices and the need to report concerns to school, health providers and medical professionals.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	HTCS will continue to communicate the various opportunities and locations to obtain vaccination to COVID-19 in our community.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	HTCS will provide appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	HTCS will, when necessary, collaborate and consult with the PADOH, and PDE for ongoing COVID-19 guidance and support. The Diocesan Education Office will consult with the PADOH on specific cases or issues when needed.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Holy Trinity Catholic School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 17, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 9 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on:

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

SHANE HIMES

(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