



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WMCTC 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.

The WMCTC will continually review the most recent guidance and mandates from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH).

This plan will be reviewed as new guidance is released and requires a change in practice. Even when new guidance does not require a change in practice, it is mandated that the plan be reviewed at least every six months. The American Rescue Plan requires the development and maintenance of a Health and Safety Plan through September 30, 2024. Changes will be communicated to the WMCTC community through messenger and posting to our website, www.westerncenter.org.

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.

The District will provide in-person instruction five (5) days per week unless an emergency declaration prevents in-person learning. Student needs are routinely and universally screened to monitor and identify growth. In addition, student needs are evaluated and monitored at sending schools. Pupil services departments and food services at sending schools provide regular and sustained assistance for students and families. This occurs through guidance counselors, school psychologists, social workers and nurses all offering social, emotional and mental health for students and families. In addition, WMCTC provides a school nurse and two school counselors to its students while at the WMCTC.

In the past, the Employee Assistance Program has been available to our staff through sending school districts.

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.

In all instances within the table below, the district shall consider the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health for all decision-making. When guidance differs from one or more of the health advisories, the WMCTC Administration and Superintendents of the three sending schools will discuss and determine the best way to proceed with the information available.

- A. Universal and correct wearing of [masks](#);

Beginning March 7, 2022, and until further notice, face-covering guidelines and expectations will follow the current face-covering decisions that at least two (2) of the three (3) partner schools are following as per their board approved Health & Safety Plans.

Example 1:

- Pottsgrove - Required in High
- Spring-Ford - Mask Optional
- Upper Perkiomen - Required in High
- Western Center - Required in High

Example 2:

- Pottsgrove - Mask Optional
- Spring-Ford - Mask Optional
- Upper Perkiomen - Required in High
- Western Center - Mask Optional

The JOC also provides the authority to the Administrative Director in conjunction

with the Superintendent of Record to make decisions to enforce temporary masking requirements based upon increases in the local COVID-19 incident and positivity rates, if needed, to maintain in-person instruction and the continuity of education.

Any mask exemptions that will be honored at the WMCTC must first be approved by the partner school district. WMCTC will not individually grant mask exemptions that are only permitted at WMCTC and will defer back the decision to the partner district.

Masking on buses or vans is not required following the CDC guidelines from February 25, 2022.

“Effective February 25, 2022, CDC does not require wearing of masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs.”

- B. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);

No specific social distancing strategy is recommended by the CDC at this time. If CDC recommends distancing strategies, WMCTC will follow those guidelines.

- C. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);

The WMCTC will provide direct, explicit instruction on proper hygiene, including but not limited to: handwashing, coughing/sneezing, etc., for students and staff.

Students and staff will be provided opportunities for hand cleaning (handwashing/sanitation stations).

Staff and students will be reminded to stay home when sick. Signs will be displayed to reinforce proper hygiene.

Adequate supplies will be purchased and maintained in all facilities, including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues.

- D. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);

Per CDC guidelines schools will clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.

- E. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with state and local health departments;

Per MCOPH guidelines, quarantine and contact tracing will not be required.

WMCTC will encourage confirmed positive cases and close contacts to follow the CDC & MCOPH health code guidelines for people with COVID-19.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing;

Students, staff and parents will be given guidelines about signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and recommended not to report to a school / work if those symptoms exist.

School nurses will monitor staff and student health within the building. It is recommended that sick students/staff stay home until symptoms resolve.

G. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#);

WMCTC will provide information on vaccination sites and availability through multiple means of communication.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and regardless of instructional model or transmission rate, students with disabilities will be provided accommodations as needed to ensure access to a FAPE;

Students/families and staff who self-identify as high risk for illness will meet with the school-based team or the district Human Resources office to develop a plan to address requests for alternative arrangements and accommodations if there is a concern related to a communicable disease.

I. Coordination with state and local health officials;

The District will continue to work closely with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health on each case of COVID-19 and receive updates in conjunction with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Superintendent meetings.

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: Western Montgomery CTC

Initial Effective Date: January 3, 2022

Date of Last Review: September 12, 2022

Date of Last Revision: September 12, 2022

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?

WMCTC receives recommendations and regulations from the CDC, PDE, the PA Department of Health and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. WMCTC will follow the recommendations made by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health and CDC regarding masking, distancing and other preventive and mitigation policies and adhere to any mandates issued by the PA DOH or PDE.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement:

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Western Montgomery CTC** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ Yes

_____ No

Affirmed on: 9/12/2022

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 is needed.*