



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, 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);

The WMCTC will maintain three feet for students to the greatest extent possible in instructional settings. The WMCTC will continue to consider the use of large group spaces for additional physical distancing. All students are cohorted at WMCTC and only go to one class per school day. There is an AM and PM session.

The WMCTC will remove non-essential classroom furniture items to create as much space as possible in all instructional settings.

The WMCTC will arrange student seating to facilitate an effective learning environment and to create as much space as possible for staff and students.

Cafeterias will be arranged to provide the greatest space available to students. Cafeterias will follow CDC, PA Department of Health, and Montgomery County Office of Public Health guidance to the maximum extent feasible.

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;

All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected as recommended by CDC guidance.

Whenever possible, windows will be opened to increase airflow.

HVAC operation will follow ASHRAE Reopening of Schools recommendations to the maximum extent possible. MERV-13 Air filters were installed and purchased in 2020 and continue to be used.

HEPA Air purifiers are in every classroom and in every bathroom.

Increase building airflow at full capacity one hour before and one hour after school hours.

Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces on buses after each run; morning and afternoon.

Vehicle windows will be opened to the greatest extent possible to improve ventilation (weather permitting).

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with state and local health departments;

WMCTC will collaborate with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health to conduct contact tracing and determine periods of isolation and quarantine for infected and/or exposed individuals.

Per the Exclusion Criteria Recommendations document and guidance issued by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the District will adhere to quarantine and return to school guidance as follows:

- Fully vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic are not deemed close contacts to COVID positive individuals and will NOT be required to quarantine, unless specifically advised by county, state, or federal health officials or if they begin to be symptomatic.
- Reworded suggestion: If a student, regardless of vaccination status, is exposed, they are NOT considered a close contact if they practiced social distancing and/or were wearing a mask. The student will NOT need to quarantine.

Contact tracing will be initiated for any individuals who are deemed as Close Contacts - within six (6) feet for more than 15 consecutive minutes of a person who tests positive for COVID-19.

WMCTC will require an isolation period for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 for the period of time recommended and required by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the CDC.

WMCTC teachers and staff will maintain seating charts for all physical spaces for purposes of contact tracing.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing;

Staff should continue to self-monitor and remain home if not feeling well.

Parents should continue to monitor children and keep students home if not feeling well.

Voluntary rapid antigen testing, with prior parent permission, may be used to assist in identifying students who are symptomatic while on school grounds.

Test To Stay Program

Test to Stay is a voluntary COVID-19 prevention strategy that allows staff who are identified as close contact to a case of COVID-19 in their household and who received the primary vaccine series but have not received the booster to continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities in modified quarantine for five days after the last day of exposure. To participate in Test to Stay, staff will need to:

- *Be exposed to a positive household member*
- *Remain symptom-free*
- *Test negative daily, in the nurse's office, to be able to remain in school and participate in extracurricular activities over their 5-day quarantine period*
- *Wear a mask for the full 10 day quarantine period, even if the staff member tests negative each day.*

Mask to Stay Program

Mask to Stay is a voluntary COVID-19 prevention strategy that allows students or staff who are identified as close contact to a case of COVID-19 in school or the community, who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, to continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities in modified quarantine for five days after the last day of exposure.

To participate in Mask to Stay, individuals will need to:

- *School/ District Health and Safety Plan that recommends a Universal Masking Policy.*

- *Masks must be worn at all times during the school day. During the use of MTS, face shields are not acceptable. An individual who has a mask exemption will not qualify for MTS and will have to complete standard COVID-19 quarantine.*
- *Staff or Students identified as a close contact exposed in a school setting or the community. This does not include close contacts exposed at home.*
- *Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students or staff.*
- *Staff and Students must be asymptomatic (without any signs or symptoms of COVID-19) to participate in the program.*
- *Masks must be worn at all times during the school day for the 10 day quarantine period except for eating, drinking, or mask breaks.*
- *An individual who has a mask exception will not qualify for Mask to Stay and will have to complete standard COVID-19 quarantine.*
- *MCOPH recommends students plan for alternative transportation (NOT High School busing) when participating in the Mask to Stay program.*
- *Staff or students will be tested in the nurse's office (with parental consent for students) between days 4 and 6 of the quarantine period. If a negative test result is received, staff or students will have to continue to be masked but no further testing is required if the individual remains asymptomatic.*

If a parent does not want their child to participate in the voluntary Mask to Stay program, that child will be required to quarantine in accordance with the current recommendations outlined in the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

Symptomatic testing

Symptomatic testing is for WMCTC students and staff who develop symptoms while at school. If a student, with parental consent, or staff are tested at school and the test results are negative, the student or staff will return to the classroom and would have to wear a mask for the remainder of the day. If symptoms persist or get worse, the student or staff must stay home and get a PCR (send-out test) that day or the next day to confirm the negative rapid test. Upon receipt of a negative test, the student or staff may return to school. If the test is positive, the Department of Health guidelines will be followed.

G. Efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to school communities;

The District will pursue partnerships with county and local health organizations to offer future vaccination clinics in school district facilities for students, staff, family members, and community members as needed.

The District 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.

Meetings for students with IEPs and 504s will be arranged as needed to discuss risks to students and applicable accommodations.

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:

Date of Last Revision: 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:

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 needed.*