



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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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: Blacklick Valley School District

**Initial Effective Date: August 19, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: February 21, 2024**

**Date of Last Revision: February 21, 2024**

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 health and safety of the students and staff of Blacklick Valley School District remains, as always, the top priority for the organization. The BVSD Leadership Team, and Pandemic Team, will continue to take critical steps to protect the health and safety of our organization in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.***

***In response to the expiration of statewide mitigation orders, BVSD has identified organizational standards and expectations which outline the protocols expected of all staff members as the organization transitions forward. Protocols include the following:***

- *Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms*
- *Following communicable disease reporting procedures*
- *Practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette*
- *Optional use of face coverings / adherence to health and safety plans of locations served*
- *Cleaning and disinfecting one's workspace*
- *Monitoring communication and confidentiality*
- *Participating in required training (current employees as well as new hires as part of their onboarding process)*
- *Staying informed and maintaining best practices*

***Expectations are based on the latest mandates issued by the Governor's Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Leadership Team and Pandemic Team will continue to monitor communications. As conditions change, related to COVID-19, protocols are subject to change.***

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?

***Educational models will be adapted to the needs of the students as appropriate.***

- ***For any student under quarantine due to COVID exposure, we will offer the following:***
  - ***Continuation of Blacklick Valley School District courses during the time on quarantine.***
  - ***Learning opportunities will be provided via Google Classroom and/or other similar platforms.***
  - ***Paper packets will be utilized as needed.***
- ***The quarantine order should be supported with the appropriate medical documentation, and approved by the school nurse.***

***Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provided by school health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists when needed. Food service will be provided using various models as appropriate to the situation, including the availability of free meals through the CEP program.***

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face coverings are optional for all individuals (staff, students, parents, and visitors), regardless of vaccination status, in BVSD offices, classrooms and sponsored events. Individuals should consider recommendations from the CDC regarding use of face masks in Pre-K to 12 schools when deciding whether or not to wear a mask.</li> <li>• Staff are expected to stay informed of the latest information and resources available and visit the CDC's website which include, but are not limited to, universal and correct wearing of masks.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BVSD will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH and CDC relative to physical distancing.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handwashing and respiratory protocols will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washing one's hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.</li> <li>• If soap and water are not available, using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer)</li> <li>• Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth.</li> <li>• Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BVSD will adhere to the latest mandates provided by PDE, DOH, and CDC related to cleaning and ventilation.</li> <li>• BVSD is committed to continuing the best practices developed in response to COVID-19 for keeping the workplace clean, disinfected, and safe for staff, students, and visitors.</li> <li>• The use of universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases will continue to be implemented. Hand sanitizer and cleaning materials will remain available.</li> <li>• Limiting shared materials and use of toys that cannot be easily cleaned will continue.</li> <li>• Staff will continue to be expected to share in the cleaning and disinfecting of shared equipment and/or furniture/items within one's office/classroom.</li> <li>• Additional cleaning and disinfecting measure/protocols may be required as deemed appropriate or directed by DOH depending on circumstances.</li> </ul>
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOH considers COVID-19 a communicable disease. As such, it is among DOH's listing of reportable diseases.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
departments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff are required to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 to their supervisor within 24 hours.</li> <li>• Staff must follow the recommendation of their attending physician.</li> <li>• BVSD will contact DOH and follow guidance. Guidance may include the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease information;</li> <li>• The distribution of appropriate letters and communications;</li> <li>• Identification of high risk individuals;</li> <li>• Appropriate action and treatment;</li> <li>• Ongoing support and assistance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff are required to follow the recommendation of their attending physician and/or DOH directive(s) as it relates to diagnostic and screening testing.</li> </ul>
g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u> ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BVSD will communicate local vaccine opportunities available to staff and the community at large.</li> <li>• BVSD will serve as a vaccination site if called upon.</li> </ul>
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special accommodations or health care needs of students with disabilities will be addressed through the IEP process</li> <li>• Accommodation may include but are not limited to adapted service delivery models (i.e. teleintervention, individualized services, when appropriate) and/or other health and safety precautions as outlined in an individualized health plan.</li> </ul>
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BVSD will continue to maintain existing partnerships with local and state agencies.</li> <li>• As with any communicable disease, BVSD will contact the DOH to report a suspected or known case of COVID-19 and follow its guidance.</li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Blacklick Valley School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **February 21, 2024**


The plan was approved by a vote of:


  9   Yes

  0   No

Affirmed on: **February 21, 2024**

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.