



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: **Renaissance Academy Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: June 28, 2021

Date of Last Review: June 17, 2021, August 9, 2021

Date of Last Revision: June 17, 2021, August 11, 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?

The LEA will comply with current mandates as prescribed by PA DOH / PDE.

Communication:

The LEA will regularly communicate and update the community on cases of COVID-19 which may occur at the school and ensure that close contacts are correctly identified, notified, and reported. <http://www.rak12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=932907&pageId=66740277>

The LEA will maintain a public dashboard of Renaissance-specific, confirmed COVID-19 cases. <http://www.rak12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=932907&pageId=66740277>

Sanitation:

The LEA will maintain current sanitation and HVAC filtration levels per COVID-19 Sanitation Policy, including but not limited to readily available hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, face coverings, and gloves made available to staff and students who require/request them.

The LEA will provide education and support for students regarding proper handwashing, sanitation, hygiene, etc.

The LEA will require training in proper COVID-19 Sanitation for facilities staff and appropriate training in mask hygiene & covid awareness for all staff. In addition, the LEA will exceed mandates when appropriate in the following ways:

Face coverings:

The LEA will require approved face coverings (masks) for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status in alignment with CDC Guidelines and current County recommendations.

The LEA will make approved face coverings available should a school community member need a face covering.

Exceptions to face-covering requirements will be for persons under the age of 2 years old or those for whom ADA / 504 Accommodations are required and documented.

The LEA will suggest face coverings indoors for any staff, students, or visitors once transmission levels are indicative of safe levels and in alignment with CDC Guidelines and current County recommendations. When one entity provides guidelines that may be more rigorous than another, the Pandemic Team will review all options and seek to implement that which is deemed most safe and appropriate for the population of Renaissance.

Other Mitigation:

The following is not an exhaustive list but provides examples of mitigation in place

- Volunteers not be permitted on campus until further notice
 - Contractors or outside vendors are required to wear masks while on campus
 - Late arrival or early departure of 1st-12th Grade Students occurs at the Upper School Main Office only
 - Adults picking up students will remain in the outer vestibule or their vehicle until the student arrives for pick-up
 - Kindergarten students may be picked up at the Kindergarten Entrance, and adults picking up will remain outdoors during any waiting period to the extent possible.
 - An already established isolation space will be used for any student who is ill at school.
 - Rapid Covid-19 Testing will be offered to any student or staff member who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 while at school.
 - Assigned seating will be documented and enforced in all environments to assist with contact tracing efforts
 - Use of Electronic Hall Pass to diminish student traffic and to monitor student movement.
 - Additional mitigation layering, such as distancing and physical barriers, will occur if data suggests it is warranted.
 - Planning for remote learning periods should community transmission become problematic; Based on levels of HIGH or SUBSTANTIAL or as directed by the County or State Health Departments. [See Appendix for examples]
 - Cooperation with District Transportation to support mask mandate on public bussing, provision of PPE, and review of seating charts
2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs and students and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, including student health and food services?

The LEA will invest in and plan for increased needs of staff and students, both academic, social, and otherwise. The LEA will provide support through additional staff, programs, and training around mental health education, social reacclimating to onsite learning and academic remediation as needed.

The LEA will plan and develop strategies for assessing the needs of students as well as how to address those needs logically and over the next several school years.

The LEA will use allocated funds to invest resources in creating and establishing programs and providing staff to provide emotional and academic support as determined necessary.

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 LEA will comply with face-covering mandates as stated by the PA DOH and recommendations of the CCHD.</p> <p>Current guidelines suggest mask-wearing at all times for all members of the school community. The LEA will enforce this expectation. In addition, mask breaks will be implemented. (See notes above regarding exceptions)</p> <p>Masks will become optional when the guidelines indicate that it is safe. However, It will be suggested for use by staff and students when indoors, in close areas, and to the extent that adds to their sense of safety. Proper mask hygiene training video remains required for staff onboarding.</p> <p>Mitigation layering will occur if data suggests it is warranted.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>The LEA will comply with distancing guidelines as stated by the PA DOH as stated by recommendations of the CCHD.</p> <p>Distancing will be implemented when reasonable and within the constraints of the physical classrooms and workspaces.</p> <p>Opportunities to meet virtually or use larger spaces made available when appropriate and possible.</p> <p>Physical screens will be provided for all adults in the school during the course of their workday.</p> <p>Physical screens will be made available to all students in areas where eating or close proximity may be necessary due to classroom arrangements.</p> <p>Cohort scheduling will be used to the extent possible in elementary school settings.</p> <p>Technical support for students and families through virtual ticketing systems: http://www.rak12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=932907&pageId=66261290</p> <p>Parent meetings held virtually when feasible.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Mitigation layering will occur if data suggests it is warranted.
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<p>Educational materials, PSAs, and in-context reviews will be made available to staff and students.</p> <p>Safe Schools Sanitation training will be repeated/provided for all those responsible for student wellness. Student hygiene breaks will be scheduled per the initial H&S Plan documents.</p> <p>Nursing staff will maintain gloves and masking when necessary or providing care to symptomatic students. Due to classroom arrangements, physical Use of nebulizer support will remain suspended per PADOH</p>
<p>d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</p>	<p>The previously approved sanitation policy will remain in effect. This includes the rotation of chemicals, upgraded HVAC filtration, and sanitation. The policy can be found here: COVID-19 Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Policy 2020 (PDF)</p>
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Current practice to continue: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nGGThD3wmvbR5YjqzihtSq7Z3C6-8wv/view</p> <p>Seating charts are maintained for learning spaces, eating spaces, and transportation.</p> <p>Students or staff falling within symptomatic ranges will be isolated, sent home, and required to follow current quarantine timelines per their vaccination status or known exposure.</p> <p>¹Current guidelines will be followed regarding periods of isolation / quarantine.</p> <p>The previously approved Telecommuting Policy remains in place for staff who are quarantined and able to perform duties from home or off-site locations.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>A School-approved testing plan will be implemented per the MOU and deemed necessary when staff or students are symptomatic or at increased risk of exposure while on campus. Student Testing Information</p>

¹ See CCHD Guideline Document [close contact definition](#)

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Surveillance testing will occur in collaboration with the CCHD and CHOP Policy Lab when deemed necessary and beneficial
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The Academy provided support and resources to ensure all staff opting to receive the Covid-19 vaccine were given that opportunity. Approximately 80% of staff report that they are fully vaccinated at this time.</p> <p>The Academy will continue to partner with local government and health officials to provide information, education, and on-site clinics as scheduled for the benefit of the community. ²Approximately 71% of eligible students who responded to a recent survey are partially or fully vaccinated. 34% of age-eligible students have affirmed their vaccination status.</p> <p>To date, clinics scheduled: May 28, 2021 June 1, 2021 June 22, 2021</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>ESY and Covid – Comp Ed programming delivered with virtual option as required.</p> <p>Onsite learning to benchmark student regression, learning needs, and remediation</p> <p>Needs such as reduced sensory load, face-covering accommodations per IDEA guidance.</p> <p>Individual learning plans created (IEP where applicable).</p> <p>PCA placement as needed to support hygiene needs of students with disabilities.</p> <p>Support for families provided through various partnerships and outreach & Access to meals through emergency programs</p> <p>http://www.rak12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=932907&pageId=66190690</p>

²Survey Data Breakdown

Participants: Families with students enrolled in 5th - 12th grade as of August 1, 2021; 685 students.

Responses: 311 Students

Not Eligible: 69

Eligible but NOT vaccinated: 17

Eligible and partially or fully vaccinated: 222

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	Mitigation layering will occur if data suggests it is warranted.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<p>Ongoing coordination with CCHD to continue through weekly updates, email referrals, and CCIU coordination. CCHD will move to 'as needed' updates and out of Public Health Crises</p> <p>Regularly scheduled meetings and updates to continue via a pandemic team in response to PDE guidelines or changes.</p> <p>POC appointment on behalf of the school to receive and disseminate information to school officials.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Renaissance Academy Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 19, 2021**

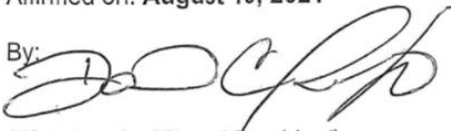
The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **August 19, 2021**

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

Daniel C Russo

(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.

Appendix I

The following table illustrates hypothetical scenarios which may be employed along with reporting and consultation with the Chester County Health Department

Grade Level	Level of Transmission/ Cases	Probable Outcome
K-2	1-10 Cases among students School-wide	Isolated student quarantine with access to Google classroom and supplemental work
K-2	1-5 Cases within one cohort or classroom which may include staff	Isolated students quarantine with access to Google Classroom and some instruction delivered online
K-2	5-10 Cases within one cohort which may include staff	Consider a period of remote learning for the affected cohort based on the timeline of exposure.
3-12	1-15 Cases among students	Review of contact probability due to mixed classes and spaces and consider a period of remote learning for affected grade levels based on timeline and exposure.
3-12	10+ Cases among staff and students	Review of contact probability due to mixed classes and spaces and consider a period of remote learning for all or some grade levels based on timeline and exposure
7-12	Cases Deemed isolated	Individual students quarantine guidelines while accessing remote learning or online tools per feasibility

Appendix II

Board Approved Changes per August 11, 2021 - Public Meeting

1. Required Mask wearing by all students, staff, vendors, or visitors while indoors at the Renaissance Academy, regardless of vaccination status (vote 8 Y/1N)
2. Optional Mask wearing by all students, staff, vendors, or visitors at recess or when transitioning in non-congregate settings. (DOES NOT apply to arrival, dismissal, fire drills or other outdoor gatherings) (vote 9 Y/0N)
3. Required Mask wearing by any persons on a school bus per Federal Mandate. (vote 9 Y/0N)
4. In case of known exposure (close contact only) a Negative Covid-19 Test is required, prior to returning to school regardless of vaccination status. (vote 9 Y/0N)
5. Allowance of alternative programs as deemed necessary for medically fragile, documented students, which may or may not include live instruction (vote 9 Y/0N)

Resources

- [CCHD. "COVID PREVENTION." *Coronavirus Prevention in Schools*](#), 30 July 2021
- [CDC. "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention."](#) 5 August 2021, Accessed 9 August 2021.
- [CDC. "Your Guide To Masks." *Your Guide to Masks*](#), 2021, Accessed 8 August 2021.
- [PADOH. *PA DOH Covid 19 Dashboard*](#), Accessed 10 August 2021.