



# 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: Infinity Charter School

**Initial Effective Date: July 14, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: July 13, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: July 13, 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?

**Infinity Charter School returned to in-person learning in January, 2021, for those families who felt comfortable returning. We intent to open for 5 day/week in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year, utilizing reasonable prevention and mitigation strategies to support the academic achievement, social/emotional wellness, and the health and safety of our students and staff. Infinity Charter School will continue to review current CDC and DOH recommendations and apply revised guidance when applicable and feasible for the safe operation of the school.**

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?

**Infinity Charter School remains committed to providing a safe educational environment that meets the academic and social/emotional needs of our students and staff. Upcoming professional development strands for staff will include instructional strategies in the science of reading and writing, trauma-informed schools, social/emotional learning, first aid/CPR, and equity. Infinity will also continue to provide for social, emotional, mental health, and other student needs by increasing our school counselor's hours (from part-time to full-time). Our school nurses will continue to provide appropriate, school-based direct health services to our students and staff members and will continue to support families with health related needs. We do not have a cafeteria or offer food services.**

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u> ;	-ICS will comply with PA mandates regarding mask wearing. As of this writing, face coverings will be optional for students and staff.

**ARP ESSER Requirement****Strategies, Policies, and Procedures**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Students and staff may wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so.</li><li>-Masks are strongly recommended by unvaccinated persons.</li><li>-Masks are not required outside, on the playground, etc.</li><li>-Students will be required to wear masks on school buses if their transporting school district requires them.</li><li>-ICS will monitor CDC/PDE/DOH guidance and will comply with any lawfully issued directives requiring face coverings.</li></ul>
b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Students and staff members are encouraged to physically distance themselves as much as possible in large group spaces, hallways, and stairways.</li><li>-Instructional spaces will support physical distancing as practicable through seating assignments and classroom design.</li><li>-Cohorts will be utilized in settings where feasible (i.e. homerooms, teams, etc.).</li><li>-Appropriate signage and communication will be provided regarding physical distancing etiquette.</li><li>-Volunteers will comply with visitor screening and health and safety procedures.</li><li>-Field trips will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for health and safety related needs.</li></ul>
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Individuals will continue to be encouraged to practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing and/or hand sanitizing.</li><li>-Sanitizing supplies will be made accessible in the classrooms, in the building, and in high-traffic areas, as practicable.</li><li>-Efforts to reduce touchpoints, especially in high-traffic areas, will be made where applicable.</li><li>-Appropriate signage and communication will be provided regarding handwashing and respiratory etiquette.</li><li>--Discourage the use of water fountains and encourage the use of touchless water bottle filling stations.</li></ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Students will use hand sanitizer or wash hands upon arrival, prior to eating, and before and after recess.</li> </ul>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conduct deep cleaning of all rooms during the summer.</li> <li>-Disinfection of high touch surfaces and objects will occur to the maximum extent feasible.</li> <li>-Sanitize desks prior to eating.</li> <li>-Disinfect desks at the end of the school day.</li> <li>-Strongly discourage the use of water fountains and encourage the use of touchless water bottle filling stations.</li> </ul>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cooperate with the State and local health departments if contact tracing, isolation and/or quarantine are recommended.</li> <li>-A positive case of COVID-19 within a household will be assessed through the school nurse with consultation with the DOH as needed.</li> <li>-Prepare parents and families for remote learning if a class or school is temporarily dismissed.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Share signs/symptoms of COVID-19 with all students, families, and staff members for purposes of daily self-screenings. All related medical, nursing, and attendance protocols will be shared and available.</li> <li>-ICS will accept valid COVID-19 test results as outlined by the CDC.</li> <li>-Follow the recommendations of the State and local health departments with regard to encouraging and/or requiring COVID testing.</li> <li>-Maintain a list of local testing sites.</li> </ul>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maintain a list of local vaccination clinics. Share with school community as appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Accommodations for students and staff members demonstrating needs with respect to health and safety policies will be assessed by the appropriate school team. Appropriate and required accommodations will be provided as necessary. IEPs and Service Plans for eligible students will be revisited as needed to ensure appropriate levels of</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	services and accommodations to account for the full return to the school environment.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	-Infinity will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials as applicable regarding District health and safety measures.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for Infinity Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on

The plan was approved by a vote of:

4 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: *13 July 2021*

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

Michelle A. Coleman

(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.