



DePaul School for Hearing and Speech Health and Safety Plan

per ARP/ ESSER Guidance

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: DePaul School for Hearing and Speech

Initial Effective Date: July 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 3, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 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?

DePaul School completed a full year of in-person instruction for our students on June 5, 2021. The Health and Safety Plan under which we successfully completed the year is being revised to meet current best practices as suggested by both the Center for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, in cooperation with the Allegheny County Department of Health.

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?

DePaul School integrates social and emotional wellness for all of our students into their academic programming. School Psychologist is available to meet with individual students as needed. We have enrolled all of our staff into an Employee Assistance Program as an additional measure of providing supports for all employees health and well being.

We do not provide hot meals; our students carry their lunches. Breakfast is provided as an option for students, all items are individually wrapped.

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 masks;</p>	<p>At DePaul School, we educate children who are deaf, hard of hearing or are acquiring spoken language. As such, it is essential for students and staff to wear masks that are clear, allowing the students to clearly see the mouths of everyone they encounter throughout the school day. Specific guidance will include:</p> <p>Universal masks, covering nose and mouth per CDC guidelines</p> <p>Additionally, students will have sneeze-guards</p>

	<p>at their work-stations, allowing them to remove masks and wear a student-sized shield to cover their faces when stationary within the classroom</p> <p>Staff are required to wear clear face masks (provided) in all public spaces in the classrooms, teachers may chose to wear shields, when stationary within the classroom, abiding by the 6 ft distancing guidelines</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Throughout the 2021-22 school year, we will continue to use the same procedures that were successful in the previous year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will use tables, rather than desks, to ensure 6ft distance between classmates 2. DePaul School has a low student/teacher ratio, so the need to reduce cohort sizes is not applicable, except for lunch periods, which have been adjusted to accommodate smaller lunch groups. 3. Hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations on each floor of the building 4. Throughout the building, 8” spacing dots have served as visible reminders for students to stay 6ft apart when in public areas of the school
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Signage is in place throughout the building, including in every restroom as a reminder for students and for staff to properly wash hands frequently 2. Boxes of tissues are available throughout the building and students are prompted to use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, followed by immediate handwashing to minimize the spread of germs within the building

	<p>3. Signage and frequent prompts help students to exercise proper respiratory etiquette including</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>HVAC air filters are utilized throughout the building to maximize the collection of germs</p> <p>Filters are changed 3 times per year to provide high-quality cleansing of the air in the building</p> <p>Air purifiers are used in high occupancy areas of the school</p> <p>The entire building is cleaned and sanitized daily to eliminate the spread of germs on surfaces throughout the building</p> <p>The building allows for window-ventilation throughout the school year</p>
<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>	<p>DePaul School follows the guidance of the PA Department of Health and Department of Education guidelines as well as Allegheny County Health Department regarding contact tracing. On the rare occasion when a child has been exposed to someone who has tested positive, the educational administrators meet with the school nurse to discuss the next steps, in accordance with our written policy on quarantining, isolation and testing. An overview of this plan includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify every individual who may have been in contact (within less than 6 ft, for more than 15 minutes). School nurse makes phone calls to report this. 2. Confidentiality is observed. 3. If a student has been exposed, a Covid-19 PCR test is required before the child can return to school 4. All staff and students are required to provide a negative test to reenter the school after a positive test result.
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing;</p>	<p>When a student or staff member is not feeling well, they are instructed to stay home. PCR</p>

	<p>testing is readily available in both drug stores and doctor's offices.</p> <p>If an individual becomes ill during the school day, they are to report to the nurse's office, where there are 2 isolation areas ready to address the issue. Calls are made to begin the process of contact tracing, in the event of a possible exposure.</p> <p>Protocols remain the same as last year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A positive Covid test requires 5 days without symptoms or fever and/or a negative Covid PCR test to return to school 2. Negative Covid PCR test is required for all persons who were potentially exposed.
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>Not applicable. 94% of our staff are vaccinated. Most of our students are under the age of 12, most students who are 12+ are vaccinated.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>All of our students have disabilities, clear masks and PPE shields are very effectively accommodating our students.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>DePaul School follows the guidance provided by PDE and PA Department of Health, as well as the local guidance provided by Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). We are in communication with ACHD regarding many Covid-related issues.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **DePaul School for Hearing and Speech** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 13, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Affirmed on: **August 13, 2021**

By:



(Signature of Board President)*

William Robert Phillips

(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.