



# 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: Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) and Delaware County Technical Schools (DCTS)

**Initial Effective Date: June 2, 2022**

**Date of Last Board Review: March 2, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: March 2, 2022**

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?

DCIU and DCTS implemented a health and safety plan throughout the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year using mitigation strategies supported by the CDC, PA Department of Health, CHOP Policy Lab, and during the 2020-2021 year, the Chester County Health Department. These strategies were successful in supporting the larger public health initiative to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our intermediate unit community, especially those at increased risk for severe illness. Further, DCIU and DCTS supported vaccination clinics for our teachers and staff and led vaccine clinics for students, and implemented COVID-19 testing programs to support identifying potential exposures and to keep students and staffs in school. Lastly, DCIU Board of Directors approved Board Policy 314.2, Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccines requiring all staff and contractors to be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccination or be approved for a medical or religious exemption.

DCIU and DCTS will continue to review the latest guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, Delaware County Department of Health, and CHOP Policy Lab in case new information is provided that the organization should consider. **Of important note**, for the 2022-2023 year, DCIU and DCTS will only implement mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PA Department of Health, CDC, or the Delaware County Department of Health. DCIU and DCTS will rely on our board policy for communicable disease to guide responses to COVID-19. The chart below provides strategies, policies, and procedures to be used within DCIU and DCTS.

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?

DCIU and DCTS will operate all programs in an in-person format. DCIU and DCTS will approve an *Emergency Instructional Time [Section 520.1 - 2022-23 School Year]*. This can be viewed on our website once approved by the DCIU Board of Directors. This plan will guide any other strategies to be used to the educational programs offered.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>DCIU and DCTS will not require masking for students, staff, volunteers, or visitors in <b>low or medium levels of transmission</b> unless there is a mandate from the PA Department of Health, CDC, or the Delaware County Department of Health. When in <b>high level of transmission</b>, DCIU and DCTS will strongly encourage masking. However, DCIU and DCTS reserve the right to require masking at the high level of transmission if rates of COVID.</p> <p>For individuals with an approved medical or religious exemption, one shall follow the accommodations outlined by the Human Resources Department.</p> <p>DCIU and DCTS will support all individuals who prefer to continue to wear a mask. It is highly encouraged for nonvaccinated individuals that masks are worn in medium levels of COVID-19.</p> <p>Staff and contractors who travel to other locations to provide services must adhere to the Health and Safety Plan of the location of the service.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</li> </ul>	<p>DCIU and DCTS will continue to provide routine maintenance and repairs of our facilities. DCIU and DCTS will operate in-person for all educational programs. There will be no requirements for physical distancing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>Best practice encourages hand washing prior to meals and snacks, after meals and snack, transition back to class from being outside, after using the bathroom, and after blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing. DCIU and DCTS will encourage our students, staff, and contractors to implement these best practices.</p> <p>DCIU and DCTS will have available hand sanitizer in strategic locations of high traffic areas through June 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</li> </ul>	<p>DCIU and DCTS utilizes EPA Approved Disinfectants for use against COVID-19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces.</p> <p>If there is a case of COVID-19, a cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place. DCIU and DCTS will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors when possible. DCIU and DCTS will change filters regularly for these systems.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Contact tracing</a> in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCIU and DCTS has discontinued contract tracing efforts in most programs. For our early childhood programs and center based special education programs, contract tracing will continue until June 30, 2022. The reason for the differentiation is our children in our early childhood programs are not eligible for vaccines as March 2, 2022, and our center-based programs work with the most vulnerable students in the county.</li> <li>• As of July 1, 2022, DCIU and DCTS will not be performing contact tracing activities as these are the requirements of the health departments.</li> <li>• DCIU and DCTS may implement the Mask-to-Stay (MTS) strategy. MTS allows staff and students who are exposed to COVID-19 in school or in the community, and who are asymptomatic, to continue to attend school and work with required mask-wearing at all times when around other people for ten days after the date of exposure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>OPTIONAL:</b> If an individual cannot wear a well-fitted mask at all times during that 10-day time period, the exposed individual cannot participate in MTS and will still be eligible to participate in the Test-to-Stay program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Student, staff, or contractor, who has tested positive for COVID-19 shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. COVID-19 is a communicable disease and reporting is required. DCIU and DCTS will implement the board policy for communicable diseases in such a situation.</li> <li>• Student, staff, or contractor, who has tested positive for COVID-19 shall notify their direct supervisor or principal immediately. Staff and contractors shall also fill out the <u><i>DCIU Employee Health Self-Reporting Form</i></u>. Guidance on isolation will be provided to the individual.</li> <li>• Student, staff, or contractor, who was in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case, must notify the program administrator/principal immediately. Staff and contractors shall also fill out the <u><i>DCIU</i></u></li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures							
	<p><u>Employee Health Self-Reporting Form</u>. These individuals will be provided guidance whether to isolate or quarantine, enter into the Mask-to-Stay or the Test-to-Stay Program or another type of disposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of July 1, 2022, DCIU and DCTS will not provide a dashboard for COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 is a communicable disease, and our board policy will govern how to respond.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DCIU and DCTS will follow its <i>Immunization and Communicable Diseases</i> Policy for guidance on communicable diseases as COVID-19 is classified as such.</li> <li>DCIU and DCTS will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use when individuals become ill: gowns, face covering, eye protection, gloves.</li> <li>DCIU and DCTS recommends staff and contractors to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools and stay at home if experiencing any symptoms as outlined in the chart below.</li> <li>Parents and guardians are recommended to self-screen their child prior to reporting to school or programs and keep their child home if experiencing any symptoms outlined in the chart below.</li> <li>Staff, children, students, and clients who are ill <u>must stay home</u> from work, programs, and schools.</li> <li>Staff, children, students, and clients <u>shall be sent home</u> if they become ill at work, school, program or service.</li> <li>Students, staff, and contractors shall report immediately to their immediate supervisor/principal if they are COVID-19 positive or were in close contact with a person who has COVID-19. [See bullet Contract Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine Strategies above].</li> <li>DCIU will continue to implement Rapid Antigen Testing for all staff, contractors, and students who become symptomatic while at work during the 2022-2023 year provided DCIU and DCTS are able to get the supplies from the Project ACE-IT Program. If supplies are not available through Project ACE-IT, DCIU and DCTS will not implement this strategy.</li> <li>All unvaccinated staff and contractors, who have an approved medical or religious exemption, shall test one time per week . If DCIU and DCTS have supplies of testing, this requirement can be done at work. If DCIU and DCTS does not have testing supplies, the individual will be required to supply the test on his/her own. The individual shall schedule a weekly time to test with program administration or designee.</li> <li>People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. These symptoms may include: <table border="1" data-bbox="632 1369 1778 1399"> <tr> <td data-bbox="632 1369 953 1399">Fever</td> <td data-bbox="959 1369 1247 1399">Diarrhea</td> <td data-bbox="1253 1369 1520 1399">Muscle pain</td> <td data-bbox="1526 1369 1778 1399">Sore throat</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul>				Fever	Diarrhea	Muscle pain	Sore throat
Fever	Diarrhea	Muscle pain	Sore throat					

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

Cough	Chills	Headache	
Repeated shaking with chills	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	New loss of taste or smell	

- DCIU and DCTS will implement a Test-to-Stay Program. The framework for the Test-to-Stay Program is:

**Test-to-Stay** A COVID-19 Strategy to Help Maintain In-Person Learning

TEST-TO-STAY PROGRAM allows students and staff who are identified as **close contacts** during COVID-19 contact tracing and are **asymptomatic** to continue to remain in school for work or learning. Staff or students will not be required to quarantine from school by taking routine COVID-19 rapid antigen tests [BinaxNow] over the course of ten (10) days. Students and staff will test.

Days 1 or 2 of Close Contact— Administrator BinaxNow

Days 3 to 4 of Close Contact— Administrator BinaxNow

Days 5 to 7 of Close Contact— Administrator BinaxNow

Days 8 to 10 of Close Contact— Administrator BinaxNow for Individuals who have difficulty properly wearing face masks.

**Test-to-Stay Program Highlights ...**

- Students & staff remain at school as long as each test returns a negative result.
- Testing shall occur at anytime if COVID-19 symptoms arise in an individual during the first 10 days of close contact.
- If a positive test occurs, student or staff need to leave school and isolate for 10 days.
- Student and staff shall wear a mask indoors when at school for the entirety of the program, even if all test results are negative.
- If feasible, schools should assess the possibility of an alternate location for meals or increased social distancing in the cafeteria for participants in the Test-to-Stay Program.
- Test-to-Stay program is **OPTIONAL** for students, and parent/guardian written permission is required. Parent/guardian may opt to have their child quarantine instead of participating in the Test-to-Stay Program.
- BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Test is administered by a trained proctor.

DCIU

- Individuals eligible for Test-to-Stay are:
  - Individuals who are unvaccinated
  - Students with complex needs that have difficulty wearing a mask.
  - Children age 5 and younger.

This will be in place through June 30, 2023 or until testing supplies last.

- Efforts to provide [vaccinations to school communities](#);

- COVID-19 Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of severe infection. DCIU strongly encourages all students to be vaccinated.
- As COVID-19 Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic, DCIU approved Policy 314.2, Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination. Policy 314.2 requires all staff and contractors to be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine unless one is approved for a medical or religious exemption. DCIU and DCTS will provide information to families on vaccine clinics and/or how to get a COVID-19 vaccine for their child or family member.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For students with disabilities with medical diagnosis that required a prescribed health and safety plan, the IEP may reconvene to develop a specially designed instruction or strategies meet the needs of the student.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with state and local health officials.</li> </ul>	<p>DCIU and DCTS will coordinate with the Delaware County Health Department for all communicable disease based on their processes communicated.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other mitigation strategies at DCIU and DCTS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCIU will open the Morton Facility for outside groups beginning the 2022 – 2023 (defined as August 30, 2022) program year.</li> <li>• DCIU will require all visitors, volunteers, parents, and guardians to be masked at all times while at a DCIU or DCTS program in accordance to our masking guidance outlined above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>• NOTE: The Office of Head Start has required specific requirements for programs around COVID-19. If any strategy is more restrictive than the DCIU and DCTS Health and Safety Plan, the Head Start/Early Head Start Program will implement such strategies. These will be implemented by the program administration.</li> </ul>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Delaware County Intermediate Unit and the Delaware County Technical Schools** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 1, 2022**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**

Affirmed on **June 1, 2022**

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

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*(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.