



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

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2021-2022



**Initial Effective Date:** August 10, 2021

**Date of Last Review:** September 1, 2021

**Date of Last Revision:** September 1, 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 District will continually review the most recent guidance and mandates from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH).

This plan will be reviewed as new guidance is released and requires a change in practice. Even when new guidance does not require a change in practice, it is mandated that the plan be reviewed at least every six months. The American Rescue Plan requires the development and maintenance of a Health and Safety Plan through September 30, 2024. Changes will be communicated to the PGSD community through messenger and posting to our website, pgsd.org.

- 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?**

The District will provide in-person instruction five (5) days per week unless an emergency declaration prevents in-person learning. In addition, Pottsgrove School District will offer a virtual option using third party providers (Brandywine Virtual Academy, Educere, etc.).

At the June 8, 2021, Pottsgrove Board of School Directors' meeting, the school board approved the 520.1 Emergency Instructional Time resolution and template. At the same meeting, the board approved an application for the Flexible Instruction Day program as offered through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These documents detail the District's plans to provide remote instruction should we be required to close while continuing to meet 180 day and 900/990 hour statutory requirements.

Student needs are routinely and universally screened to monitor and identify achievement and growth. The Pupil Services Department provides regular and sustained assistance for students and families. This occurs through guidance counselors, school psychologists, social workers, and school nurses all offering social, emotional, and mental health for students and families. Pottsgrove School District will implement Second Step, a research-based social/emotional learning program to

support our elementary students.

Our Employee Assistance Program will be available to staff in need of support.

**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.**

*In all instances within the table below, the District shall consider the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Montgomery County Office of Public Health for all decision making. When guidance differs from one or more of the health advisories, the district will discuss and determine the best way to proceed with the information available.*

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<b>a. Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a>;</b>	<p>Effective September 7, 2021, and consistent with Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary of Health's Order, each teacher, child/student, staff, or visitor working, attending, or visiting a school entity shall wear a face covering indoors, regardless of vaccination status except as set forth within exemptions.</p> <p>The District will monitor COVID-19 positivity and incidence rates weekly.</p> <p>The Federal Order issued in January 2021, requires that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face masks when on school buses.</p>
<b>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</b>	<p>The District will maintain three feet for students to the greatest extent possible in instructional settings. The District will continue to consider the use of large group spaces for additional physical distancing.</p> <p>The District will remove non-essential classroom furniture items to create as much space as possible in all instructional settings.</p> <p>The District will arrange student seating to facilitate an effective learning environment and to create as much space as possible for staff and students.</p> <p>Cafeterias will be arranged to provide the greatest space available to students. Cafeterias will follow CDC, PA Department of Health, and Montgomery County Office of Public Health guidance to the maximum extent feasible.</p>

	<p>The District will limit seating on district transportation to two (2) students per seat to the maximum extent feasible.</p> <p>Plexiglass shields will be available as needed in spaces that inherently create social distancing challenges.</p> <p>The District will limit non essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations during school hours. However, access will be granted for district contracted services and may be requested by external service providers.</p>
<p><b>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</b></p>	<p>The District will provide direct, explicit instruction on proper hygiene, including but not limited to: handwashing, coughing/sneezing, etc., for students and staff.</p> <p>Students and staff will be provided opportunities for hand cleaning (handwashing/sanitation stations).</p> <p>Staff and students will be reminded to stay home when sick.</p> <p>Signs will be displayed to reinforce proper hygiene.</p> <p>Adequate supplies will be purchased and maintained in all facilities, including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues.</p>
<p><b>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</b></p>	<p>All frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected as recommended by CDC guidance.</p> <p>Whenever possible, windows will be opened to increase air flow.</p> <p>HVAC operation will follow ASHRAE Reopening of Schools recommendations to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>Increase building air flow at full capacity one hour before and one hour after school hours.</p> <p>Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces on buses after each run; morning and afternoon.</p> <p>Vehicle windows will be opened to the greatest extent possible to improve ventilation (weather permitting).</p>

<p>e. <b><u>Contact tracing</u></b> in combination with <b><u>isolation</u></b> and <b><u>quarantine</u></b>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>The District will collaborate with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health to conduct contact tracing and determine periods of isolation and quarantine for infected and/or exposed individuals.</p> <p>Per guidance issued by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the District will adhere to quarantine and return to school guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic who are deemed close contacts to COVID positive individuals will NOT be required to quarantine, unless specifically advised by county, state, or federal health officials.</li> <li>• If BOTH a COVID-19 positive student and an unvaccinated student who is exposed were wearing masks and practicing social distancing of at least three feet, the exposed student will NOT be identified as a close contact and will NOT need to quarantine.</li> </ul> <p>Contact tracing will be initiated for any individuals who are within six (6) feet for more than 15 consecutive minutes of a person who tests positive for COVID-19</p> <p>The District will require an isolation period for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 for the period of time recommended and required by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the CDC.</p> <p>Maintain seating charts for all physical spaces for purposes of contact tracing.</p>
<p>f. <b><u>Diagnostic</u></b> and <b><u>screening testing</u></b>;</p>	<p>Staff should continue to self-monitor and remain home if not feeling well.</p> <p>Parents should continue to monitor children and keep students home if not feeling well.</p> <p>Rapid antigen testing may be used to identify students who are symptomatic while on school grounds.</p>
<p>g. <b><u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</u></b>;</p>	<p>The District will pursue partnerships with county and local health organizations to offer future vaccination clinics in school district facilities for students, staff, family members, and community members as needed.</p> <p>The District will provide information on vaccination sites and availability through multiple means of communication.</p>

<p><b>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</b></p>	<p>Regardless of instructional model or transmission rate, students with disabilities will be provided accommodations as needed to ensure access to a FAPE.</p> <p>Meetings for students with IEPs and 504s will be arranged as needed to discuss risks to students and applicable accommodations.</p>
<p><b>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>The District will continue to work closely with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health on each case of COVID-19 and receive updates in conjunction with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Superintendent meetings.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for Pottsgrove School District reviewed and approved the initial Health and Safety Plan on August 10, 2021. The plan was further revised on August 24, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

**6 Yes**

**1 No**

Affirmed on: August 24, 2021

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.