



# ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan at the Erie County Technical School

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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 Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Erie County Technical School**

Initial Effective Date: **August 25, 2023**

Date of Last Review: **August 18, 2023**

Date of Last Revision: **August 18, 2023**

Matt LaVerde	Director – Pandemic Coordinator	ECTS
Julie Aiken	Principal	ECTS
Rick Emerick	Superintendent of Record	Fort LeBoeuf SD
Belinda Dentler	School Nurse – Assistant Pandemic Coordinator	ECTS
Mary Foulkrod	Career Planning Coordinator – Guidance Counselor	ECTS
Del VonVolkenburg	Building and Facility Coordinator	ECTS
Deputy Christina Yeane	School Resource Officer	Erie County Sheriff Department

- 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 Erie County Technical School (ECTS) has continually utilized the most recent guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and PDE to inform our decisions for health and safety planning. We will continue to use state and/or local guidance to implement appropriate prevention and mitigation protocols in response to the level of community spread in our school community and Erie County. Our goal has been and continues to be to maximize the amount of in-person learning for our students in the safest manner possible. Strategies such as “staggered” student entrance and exits, elimination of large group gatherings (school break sessions), limited hallway activity, and required strict program/lab engagement.

- 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?**

If required to modify the instructional setting due to a COVID-19 concern, ECTS would adopt a “hybrid A-B Day” schedule. The adoption of the “hybrid A-B Day” schedule would provide students with in-person instruction and virtual instruction. The virtual instruction would be delivered with both synchronous and asynchronous instructional

activities. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and supported with the collaboration of the consortium schools' health providers, social workers and other mental behavior specialists as needed. Food service needs will be provided by the consortium schools.

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 <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<p>Masks are no longer mandated by CDC or the Department of Health.</p> <p>ECTS will strongly support masking in school, currently it is optional for students and staff.</p> <p>If a <i>return to total community masking</i> would be required, Mask exemptions for students with disabilities will be made in partnership with the healthcare provider, the school nurse, and the IEP/504 team. In the event of increased spread and/or case clustering, the ECTS may need to move to masking at the discretion of the pandemic coordinator and the director.</p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Program operations will be returning to normalcy as much as possible.</p> <p>Students and employees will be encouraged to maintain physical distance to the maximum extent feasible and appropriate.</p> <p>ECTS program majors will function as pods to provide the least amount of student interaction within the building.</p> <p>When possible, program instructors will create and support practices that will provide socially acceptable distances in the labs; especially with group/team activities.</p> <p>It is encouraged that all other individuals respect the 3 feet social distancing protocol.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<p><b><u>Guidelines for hand-washing and other best practices.</u></b></p> <p>Posting of signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday proactive practices.</p> <p>Ongoing communication and collaboration with families regarding elements of the local health and safety plan including ways families can practice safe hygiene at home.</p> <p>Frequent hand washing with students and employees will be encouraged throughout all schools.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer readily available and/or students may bring individual bottles of hand sanitizer to keep in locker or in a backpack.</p>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<p><b><u>Sanitization Requirements</u></b> Clean and sanitize each theory room and lab, restroom, hallway and frequent touch points per CDC recommendations.</p> <p><b><u>Lab and Theory Rooms</u></b> Nightly cleaning including sanitizing and disinfecting with COVID approved solutions.</p> <p><b><u>Ventilation</u></b> ECTS installed ceiling ventilation units into the program theory rooms to increase ventilation through extending occupancy times and exhaust ventilation. Program majors' areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible; opening of overhead accesses.</p>
<p>e. <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;</p>	<p>Recognizing that the ECTS consortium has varying processes to address isolation and quarantine cases, ECTS will follow the student's district's protocols.</p> <p>Each case (or possible case) will be handled on an individual basis as each case may have different factors that impact the decision-making process.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>All stakeholders (employees, students, cooperating partners) should not come to school and should notify school pandemic coordinator if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are diagnosed with COVID-19 symptoms, are waiting test results, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or a confirmed case.</p> <p>In general, if a student or staff member is identified with COVID symptoms while in school or prior to attending school, ECTS will follow the prescribed DOH “Self-Reporting” and “Line-List” protocols. We will immediately separate individuals with symptoms and contact family members immediately for patient transport.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians are responsible for the transporting of their child if identified as a possible COVID-19 infected candidate. No student identified as a possible COVID-19 infected candidate will be permitted to ride the bus.</p> <p>Areas used by the sick will be closed off and areas will not be used until after a thorough cleaning/disinfection.</p> <p>Advise sick individuals and family that they should not return to school until they have a physician’s excuse and have followed all CDC/DOH guidelines.</p> <p>The health department will also take the lead on guidance and contact tracing, isolation/quarantine of ill students and staff, and any further actions needed to contain the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>When necessary and appropriate, ECTS administration will notify staff, families, and the community of cases of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>All new procedures will be evaluated regularly and may be adjusted as needed.</p>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>All individuals should still closely monitor their own symptoms and should stay home if symptomatic.</p> <p>It is critically important for employees and students to stay home regardless of whether their symptoms are indicative of COVID, influenza, or other infections that are more commonly transmitted through close personal contact.</p> <p>ECTS will provide COVID-19 screeners to families and employees to utilize as a reference guide.</p> <p>Employees are required to report positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to the school assistant pandemic coordinator and human resource coordinator.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians of students are required to report positive diagnosis of COVID-19 to their school nurse (school pandemic coordinator).</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<p>ECTS will collaborate and support any efforts of a consortium school to provide vaccination opportunities to their school community.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations detailed within their IEP, or 504 plans based on their individual needs.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>ECTS will collaborate with parents and the sending schools to support positive communication for the welfare of the ECTS community.</p> <p>ECTS will collaborate with state and local health officials by directly contacting them as needed through the provide ECHD known contacts.</p>



ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	ECTS will continue to participate in the regular scheduled meetings with the ECHD and PDE that are coordinated with the Tri-County Intermediate Unit 5.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Erie County Technical School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 24, 2023**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

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

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

Affirmed on: **August 24, 2023**

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.