

West Chester Area School District 2021 – 22 Health and Safety Plan

This plan for COVID-19 mitigation goes into effect on August 24, 2021

Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

- Routine cleaning of any utilized spaces will be performed each afternoon. Additional cleaning will be implemented on an as needed basis.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained in each entrance area, and students and staff will be encouraged to use them before entering the buildings.
- Water drinking fountains will continue to be turned off. Water filling stations will be available. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Safety Protocols

- The District will apply masking requirements for all K-12 students, staff, and visitors according to current transmission levels in Chester County as described in the chart

County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status K-12
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Recommended
Moderate	10-49	OR	5% - 7.9%	Required
Substantial	50-99	OR	8% - 9.99%	Required
Very High	≥100	OR	≥10%	Required

below:

- Masks are optional for all outdoor West Chester Area School District activities.
- Mask exceptions may be granted for:
 - Medical and or disability condition with a doctor's note.
 - Religious reason with a letter from religious leader or clergy.
- 3 feet of social distancing will be maintained in classrooms and cafeterias to the extent possible.
- No sharing of snacks; pre-packaged snack bags preferred.
- Students will have assigned seats on the school bus, classrooms, and cafeterias.
- Visitors and volunteers will be allowed on-site by appointment only.

Contact Tracing

- Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.

- Per the Chester County Health Department (CCHD), contact tracing is still required in the event of a positive case, with the following exceptions if both the infected student and close contact(s) were properly wearing masks.
 - Proof of vaccination
 - OR**
 - If both the infected student and the close contact(s) were wearing masks and they were at least 3 feet apart.

Monitoring Student and Staff Health

- School nurses will follow CCHD guidance related to communicable diseases, including [COVID-19](#).
- Students and staff should report any exposures to COVID-19 or positive test results to the school nursing staff and/or to the coaching/athletic staff.
- The school district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment for use by school nurses when individuals become ill.
- On-site COVID testing will be available for symptomatic students and teachers. (Students will **not** be tested without parent permission.)

Educational Delivery Model

- Parents have the option for full time, in-person learning
- Parents have the option of participating in the West Chester Cyber Program
- When a student is absent due to illness, assignments will be delivered asynchronously or assignments will be provided by the teacher.
- If less than a whole class needs to quarantine the quarantined students will be provided with asynchronous lessons.
- If an entire class needs to quarantine the whole class will move to **remote** all-virtual instruction.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Plan

- Each building will develop an SEL goal based on a needs assessment conducted by the Chester County Intermediate Unit.
- Prevention Specialists will support the implementation of the SEL plan and adjust the plan based on progress monitoring of the goal.
- Mental health specialists are available in all buildings and can be accessed through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team process.

Other Considerations

- Parents will be encouraged to conduct daily health screenings.
- Mask breaks and outdoor activities are encouraged during the school day.
- The Administration and School Board will evaluate conditions weekly.
- The district will send weekly health screening reminder to parents.
- The West Chester Area School District will adhere to any changes in guidance as recommended by the Chester County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the CDC.
- The District will participate in any vaccination initiatives offered by the CCHD.



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

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: West Chester Area School District

Initial Effective Date: June 28, 2021

Date of Last Review: ~~June 28, 2021~~ August 16, 2021

Date of Last Revision: ~~June 28, 2021~~ August 16, 2021

Revisions to be Board Approved: August 23, 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?

To the maximum extent practical, the LEA will follow guidance from the CDC and Chester County Health Department to reopen and operate school facilities for in-person learning continuously and safely. In accordance with the governor's order, masks will be optional; however, unvaccinated visitors, staff members, and students are encouraged to wear a mask while indoors. Students and staff will maintain distancing requirements as much as possible.

The District will apply masking requirements for all K-12 students, staff, and visitors according to current transmission levels in Chester County as described in the chart below:

County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status K-12
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Recommended
Moderate	10-49	OR	5% - 7.9%	Required
Substantial	50-99	OR	8% - 9.99%	Required
Very High	≥100	OR	≥10%	Required

- **Masks are optional for all outdoor West Chester Area School District activities.**
- **Mask exceptions may be granted for:**
 - **Medical and or disability condition with a doctor's note.**
 - **Religious reason with a letter from religious leader or clergy.**
- **3 feet of social distancing will be maintained in classrooms and cafeterias to the extent possible.**

- **No sharing of snacks; pre-packaged snack bags preferred.**
- **Students will have assigned seats on the school bus, classrooms, and cafeterias.**
- **Visitors and volunteers will be allowed on-site by appointment only.**

Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained in each entrance area; students and staff will be encouraged to use them before entering the buildings. Routine cleaning of any utilized spaces will be performed each afternoon. Additional cleaning will be implemented on an as needed basis. Water drinking fountains will continue to be turned off. Water filling stations will be available. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

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?

Educational Delivery Model/Academics

- Parents have the option for full time, in-person learning
- Parents have the option of participating in the West Chester Cyber Program
- **When a student is absent due to illness, assignments will be delivered asynchronously or assignments will be provided by the teacher.**
- **If less than a whole class needs to quarantine, the quarantined students will be provided with asynchronous lessons.**
- **If an entire class needs to quarantine, the whole class will move to all virtual instruction.**

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Plan

- Each building will develop an SEL goal based on a needs assessment conducted by the Chester County Intermediate Unit.
- Prevention Specialists will support the implementation of the SEL plan and adjust the plan based on progress monitoring of the goal.
- Mental health specialists are available in all buildings and can be accessed through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team process.

Student Health and Food Services

- The District will participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pandemic flexible meal programs. These programs are available free of charge for each child in the household up to age 18. The Programs include:
 - Summer Feeding Program - weekly meals distributed at a meal pick up location through August 25th.
 - Return to School Program - Beginning August 30, 2021, **WCASD will no longer be a designated community meal pick up site. However,** daily

breakfast and lunch will be available at the school for students attending in-person instruction. ~~and the~~ **Weekly meal pick up** will continue for families ~~not attending~~ **other WCASD programs** in-person instruction (e.g. – **WCASD Cyber, Alternative Ed., etc.**)

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 <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>Effective June 28 masks are optional, in accordance with the governor’s order and Chester County Health Department recommendations. However, unvaccinated visitors, staff members, and students are encouraged to wear a mask while indoors. Masks are optional for all WCASD activities.</p> <p>The District will apply masking requirements for all K-12 students, staff, and visitors according to current transmission levels in Chester County as described in the chart below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">County Transmission Level</th> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000</th> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;"></th> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">7-Day Percent Positivity</th> <th style="background-color: #D9E1F2;">Masking Status K-12</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #AEC6E0;">Low</td> <td style="background-color: #AEC6E0;"><10</td> <td style="background-color: #AEC6E0;">AND</td> <td style="background-color: #AEC6E0;"><5%</td> <td style="background-color: #AEC6E0;">Recommended</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">Moderate</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">10-49</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">OR</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">5% - 7.9%</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">Substantial</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">50-99</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">OR</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">8% - 9.99%</td> <td style="background-color: #FEE090;">Required</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #E06666;">Very High</td> <td style="background-color: #E06666;">≥100</td> <td style="background-color: #E06666;">OR</td> <td style="background-color: #E06666;">≥10%</td> <td style="background-color: #E06666;">Required</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Masks are optional for all outdoor West Chester Area School District activities.</p> <p>Mask exceptions may be granted for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical and or disability condition with a doctor’s note. ○ Religious reason with a letter from religious leader or clergy. 	County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status K-12	Low	<10	AND	<5%	Recommended	Moderate	10-49	OR	5% - 7.9%	Required	Substantial	50-99	OR	8% - 9.99%	Required	Very High	≥100	OR	≥10%	Required
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<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <u>physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>WCASD will follow physical and social distancing guidance as established by the Chester County Health Department (CCHD), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the CDC.</p>																									

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>Three (3) feet of social distancing will be maintained in classrooms and cafeterias to the extent possible.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>Hand sanitizer stations will be maintained in each entrance area; students and staff will be encouraged to use them before entering the buildings.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>Routine cleaning of any utilized spaces will be performed each afternoon. Additional cleaning will be implemented on an as needed basis.</p> <p>Water drinking fountains will continue to be turned off. Water filling stations will be available. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>WCASD will follow contact tracing guidance as established by the Chester County Health Department.</p> <p>Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.</p> <p>Per the Chester County Health Department, Contact tracing is still required in the event of a positive case, with the following exceptions if both the infected student and close contact(s) were properly wearing masks:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proof of vaccination OR If both the infected student and the close contact(s) were wearing masks and they were at least 3 feet apart.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;</p>	<p>Parents will be encouraged to conduct daily health screenings.</p> <p>The district will send weekly health screening reminder to parents.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>School nurses will follow CCHD guidance related to communicable diseases including COVID-19.</p> <p>Students and staff will report any exposures to COVID-19 or positive test results to the school nursing staff and/or to the coaching/athletic staff.</p> <p>The school district will maintain adequate personal protective equipment, for use by school nurses, when individuals become ill.</p> <p>On-site COVID testing will be available for symptomatic students and teachers. (Students will not be tested without parent permission.)</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The District will participate in any vaccination initiatives offered by the Chester County Health Department.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>Individual accommodations related to health and safety will be included in documents as deemed necessary by the IEP and 504 teams.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The West Chester Area School District will adhere to any changes in guidance as recommended by the Chester County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the CDC.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on June 28, 2021, **reaffirmed and updated on August 23, 2021**

The plan was approved by a vote of:

_____ **Yes**

_____ **No**

Reaffirmed on: **August 23, 2021**

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

(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.