



# 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: **Deep Roots Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: **August 12, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **August 11, 2021** January 11, 2022

Date of Last Revision: **August 11, 2021** January 11, 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?**

DRCS will continue to utilize guidance from the CDC, PA Department of Health, and Education Plus Health partner to inform decisions for all health and safety planning. We will continue to use State or Local guidance to implement appropriate prevention and mitigation protocols in response to the level of community spread in our county and local community.

The goal of this plan will be to maximize the amount of in person learning opportunities available to students in the safest manner possible. This plan was developed based on recent CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Education guidance, in consultation with staff, families and community stakeholders and will be monitored, revised, and updated as federal, state, and local orders evolve.

The DRCS Board of Governors recognizes that minor changes to this plan may need to be made in a more timely manner by School Leadership and/or designees.

- 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?**

DRCS will operate an extended learning program using ESSER funds during SY21-22 and SY22-23 in addition to offering targeted Literacy and Mathematics interventions and supports during academic blocks embedded within the instructional day and during afterschool/extended day programming. DRCS will also explore interest summer program offerings in advance of Summer 2022. DRCS will also offer Extended School Year and COVID Compensatory Services for students with Specialized Services.

Students and families will have access to behavioral health supports through school social work staff, Children's Crisis Treatment Center (CCTC), and NET Services.

Deep Roots will continue to offer school/classroom leveled tiered supports for students throughout School Year 2021- and beyond. DRCS culture and specialized services team will continue to provide school level behavioral interventions and supports in order to address classroom level behavioral needs and support instructional programs.

Deep Roots will continue partnership with Education Plus Health to provide COVID and general health related supports for DRCS students and families, and will continue to partnership with Nutritional Development Services (NDS) of the Archdiocese to provide access to food resources.

Employees will have access to Mental Health supports through employee benefits plans. Further, upon returning to school DRCS leadership plans to engage staff around additional measures that can be put in plan in order to support with staff sustainability and wellness. Initial ideas include offsetting gym memberships/health related services costs. School social workers will also be available to support with more preventative staff member mental health needs as needed/appropriate.

**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 <a href="#">masks</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRCS will require facemasks in accordance with minimum state requirements/CDC recommendations, and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations</li> <li>• To begin SY21-22, and in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for Elementary Schools AND Philadelphia Department of Health recommendations:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Masks and or face shields are required all students</li> <li>○ Masks and or face shields are required for staff/adults, regardless of vaccination status</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Changes in local, state, and federal guidance and/or changes in COVID-19 incidence rate within Philadelphia or within the DRCS community will result in changes to masking expectations, including tightening and loosening expectations specifically for fully vaccinated adults.</li> <li>• DRCS school leadership, in partnership with staff and parent stake holders, will determine how to safely and appropriately implement mask breaks within the academic day.</li> <li>• Masks will be available on campus for those that request/need a mask.</li> <li>• Staff will provide instruction around correct mask usage and staff will reinforce correct mask usage regularly.</li> <li>• DRCS will reinforce masking expectations while students ride school buses, in alignment with Local &amp; SDP transportation policies.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p><b>January 2022 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff and students will transition to surgical or KN95 masks. Cloth masks should not longer be worn as the only layer or protection.</li> </ul>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School facilities will return to pre-pandemic layouts to prioritize in person instructional experiences. Physical distancing will occur to the greatest extent practical while also prioritizing educational instruction.</li> <li>Nonessential furniture and materials will be removed from classroom spaces to maximize available space.</li> <li>Families uncomfortable with a return to in person learning will be able to opt into fully remote instruction on a quarter-by-quarter basis.</li> <li>Meetings with parents and outside partners, will be offered digitally whenever possible.</li> <li>School assemblies, events, and whole school routines will be stagger scheduled to the extent practical.</li> <li>Plastic barriers will be available for high traffic common areas (ie: Lunch point of sale machine, main desk, etc.) and close contact instructional blocks (ie: literacy rotations) to the extent practical while also prioritizing educational programming.</li> </ul>
<p>c. <a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional hand sanitizer will be available through out school building, including common areas and classroom spaces.</li> <li>Students/staff will have additional opportunities to wash and/or sanitize hands, especially prior to snack and meal times.</li> <li>Staff will provide instruction around healthy respiratory etiquette and staff will reinforce healthy respiratory etiquette regularly.</li> </ul>
<p>d. <a href="#">Cleaning</a> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequently touched common surfaces will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected daily. Staff and contracted partner Team Clean will be encouraged to support in these efforts.</li> <li>School staff will provide additional opportunities for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection as part of classroom procedures and routines.</li> <li>To the extent practical, materials sharing between students will be limited. Additional classroom supplies and materials will be made available to limit sharing, and classroom routines to sanitize between sharing will be implemented.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic barriers in high traffic areas will be regularly cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected.</li> <li>• HVAC systems will be upgraded using ESSER funds in order to provide increased air circulation and filtration.</li> <li>• Free standing air purifier devices will also be purchased using ESSER funding and will be available in instructional spaces as a back up to HVAC systems and can be used on an as needed basis.</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRCS leadership and Education Health Plus partner will utilize Local, State and Federal guidelines to determine when a staff member, student, or visitor should isolate, quarantine, and return to school</li> <li>• DRCS leadership and Education Health Plus partner will collaborate to notify families of COVID-19 exposure and any potential isolation, quarantine, or necessary school closures in accordance with Local, State and Federal guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will be trained to look for symptoms of COVID-19; families will be provided informational materials for how to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>• Parents will be asked to screen students for symptoms at home before reporting to school each school day.</li> <li>• Staff will be asked to perform a self screen, including a temperature check, prior to reporting to work each day.</li> <li>• Students and staff will be asked to stay home if they are ill.</li> <li>• All students will undergo a second health screen and temperature check upon arrival.</li> <li>• Visitors and volunteers will undergo a health screen and temperature check upon arrival.</li> <li>• Staff, parents/guardians, and volunteers will be encouraged to self report COVID-19 symptoms, exposure or positive test results to the school designee.</li> <li>• Any individual on school property who develops COVID-19 symptoms, tests positive for COVID-19, or may be probable for COVID-19 will be directed to an isolation area until dismissal is possible.</li> <li>• DRCS will maintain adequate protective equipment for use if/when individuals become ill.</li> </ul>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid COVID-19 testing will be available for staff, students, and adults that are showing active COVID-19 symptoms. Testing will be completed by an Education Plus Health Designee.</li> <li>• To begin SY21-22 unvaccinated staff members will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing weekly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Additional COVID-19 monitoring/testing may be implemented for vaccinated staff and a random sampling of students if/when community and or school level infection data reach more substantial levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>January 2022 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unvaccinated staff and staff with “out of date” COVID-19 vaccinations will be expected to COVID test two times per week.</li> </ul>
<p>g. Efforts to provide <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRCS will continue to promote local and regional opportunities for staff, families, community members, and students (once age appropriate vaccination is available).</li> <li>• DRCS staff will be provided additional paid time off in order to get vaccinations and vaccination boosters, once available</li> <li>• DRCS is willing to host on site vaccination clinics, as appropriate</li> </ul> <p><b>January 2022 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DRCS Board of Governors passed a vaccination mandate. All staff are expected to be vaccinated and boosted, unless a exemption has been requested and approved.</li> </ul>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students whose medical needs prevent them from learning safety in person will be able to apply for fully remote instruction on a quarter by quarter basis.</li> <li>• Students with disabilities will have access to the same programs and opportunities as non-disabled peers, as well as accommodations details within their IEP or 504 plan based on their individual needs.</li> <li>• Individualized health and safety plans will be developed in collaboration with families, as needed, for students requiring additional accommodations regarding health and safety measures.</li> </ul>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School leadership will convene regular COVID monitoring meetings with Education Health Plus partner in order to monitor community and school level incidence data and shifts in Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, School District of Philadelphia, American Academy of Pediatrics guidance.</li> </ul>



# Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Deep Roots Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **August 10, 2021**

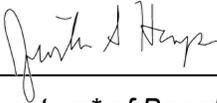
The plan was further reviewed and updated on **January 11, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

- **7 Yes**
- **0 No**

Affirmed on: **February 10, 2022**

By:



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(Signature\* of Board President)

Justin Harper

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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.