



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

North East School District - 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan

Initial Effective Date: July 26, 2021

Date of Last Review: September 14, 2021

Date of Last Revision: September 14, 2021

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.

*Please note that we continue to receive updates from Intermediate Unit 5, the Erie County Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the CDC, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This is a fluid plan and will be updated as needed in order to comply with the most recent guidelines.



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- 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?**

North East School District will continue to work closely with the IU5 to ensure the safe reopening and operation of our district. We will also continue to make decisions based on guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH), the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Practices and procedures will align with these entities to the greatest extent practicable in order to support prevention and mitigations efforts in response to the fluid conditions that may arise as we start the next school year during a pandemic.

The CDC recommends the integration of various prevention and control components, which we will ensure is reflected in our mitigation efforts. Such components will include the consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies, consideration of indicators of community transmission, and phased prevention strategies based on levels of community transmission.

Prevention strategies will include the correct use of PPE as ordered or recommended by the PADOH and PDE, physical distancing when appropriate and possible, continued handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and contact tracing in conjunction with the ECDH.

- 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?**

North East School District will continue to follow the school or agency needs in regard to the continuity of services. When necessary, the district will transition between face-to-face instruction, blended, or livestreaming environments based on the student needs. Our administration, supervisors, and teachers will work together to ensure that not just academic needs of students are met, but all of the needs of our students are met. A variety of digital tools and resources will be implemented to ensure effective and meaningful supports are in place. Such digital tools may include Google Meets, livestreaming, Google Classroom as delivery methods as well as our Social-Emotional platform RethinkEd. Communication tools may include Sapphire Notification System, Google, Remind, or any of a variety of other methods of communication. We will continue to provide devices to every student in the district. Given the restricted access to high speed internet that some of our families face, printed materials and packets will be made available as necessary.

We will also continue to require an individualized approach for students with disabilities consistent with the student's IEP or 504 plan. We will consider adaptations and alternatives to COVID mitigation strategies while continuing all efforts to protect students, teachers, and staff to the greatest extent possible.

Breakfast and lunch is free to all students during the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions regarding meals, please contact Mrs. Robin Hedlund @ rhedlund@nesd1.org.



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The decision to close a school or all schools and move to livestream instruction will be made by the Superintendent in consultation with the Pandemic Coordinators and Board of Directors based on any one or combination of the following:

1. An inability to complete contact tracing in a timely manner.
2. An inability to adequately staff a building or buildings based on absenteeism among faculty and/or staff due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.
3. An inability to accurately track the source of infections.
4. An increase in the number of county and local community cases.

It is essential that ALL parents/guardians have a plan in place in the event there is a need to transition to livestream instruction. Students would then follow the district's livestream schedules which will be posted on the website.

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
a. <u>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While on the school bus, all students and staff, including bus drivers, will be required to wear facemasks in accordance with <u>Federal law</u>. Bus drivers are permitted to wear face shields when necessary for the safe operation of the bus (<i>To address the COVID-19 public health threat to transportation security, this Order shall be enforced by the Transportation Security Administration under appropriate statutory and regulatory authorities including the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 106, 114, 44902, 44903, and 46301; and 49 CFR part 1503, 1540.105, 1542.303, 1544.305 and 1546.105. This Order shall be further enforced by other federal authorities and may be enforced by cooperating state and local authorities through the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 3559, 3571; 42 U.S.C. 243, 268, 271; and 42 CFR 70.18 and 71.2.33).</i>• While in school facilities, *face coverings are highly recommended and encouraged for all students and staff but will be optional for all students and staff, unless otherwise *Ordered.• *Currently Erie County as well as the State of Pennsylvania Departments of Health have issued Face Covering Orders. The North East School District will comply with both. The most restrictive Order or section of Order(s) must be followed.• The pandemic leadership team will continue to monitor community and school transmission levels and make decisions on whether all individuals will need to mask. Universal masking will be required when the threshold for community transmission within the schools or community is substantial or high as defined in the chart below (Table 1) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This aligns with guidance provided by the PA Department of Health's <u>recommendations</u> dated July 30, 2021. These decisions will also be made in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health.



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- Erie County Department of Health Order of August 23, 2021, amended August 27, 2021.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Health Order September 7, 2021.
- Indoor athletics/extracurricular practices/events - when engaged in physical activity, students can lower their masks, when in huddles, sitting on the sidelines, they need to wear a face covering and social distance (same as last year).
- Spectators - indoors - must wear a face covering and social distance a minimum of three to six feet. Face covering waivers need to be verified and initialed by the district office.
- Outdoors - masks are not required; however, in large gatherings it is recommended that students/spectators wear a face covering and should still follow social distance protocols of six feet.
- P/E classes will go outside as much as possible; however, in P/E students still need to social distance in order remove their face covering. Exemption - "Participating in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, including during a physical education class in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet from all other individuals." If they cannot social distance, they need to wear a face covering.
- A face shield will count as being "not masked" for contact tracing by the Erie County Health Department.

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

¹If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be chosen. County-level data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the County View tab in [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#).

- Any changes to the guidance will be communicated to the parents, staff, and students.
- All mask requirements will comply with a student's IEP or 504 plan.
- *"This is a legal Order under the Disease Prevention and Control Law. School entities are expected to enforce the Order as they do."*



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	<p><i>other state laws. Failure to implement and follow the control measures under the Order also subjects a person to the penalty provisions of the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955.”</i></p>
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The North East School District will follow current CDC, PADOH, and PDE guidance in relation to physical distancing to the maximum extent practicable.Classrooms will follow the guidance established by agencies in order to ensure the greatest level of health and safety and protection against COVID-19.We encourage employees to refrain from physical contact with peers and attempt to maintain social distancing strategies whenever practicable.Any physical distancing modifications will comply with a student's IEP or 504 plan.Teachers must utilize and maintain seating charts. Those seating charts will be utilized when contact tracing is necessary. To the extent possible, teachers will be encouraged to use mirrored seating charts wherein students are seated next to as many of the same students as possible.Teachers are encouraged to take students outside to the extent feasible.Students may eat in the cafeteria, outdoor spaces, and classrooms. They will be given an assigned seat in order to assist with the process of contact tracing should a positive case occur in the district.For the safety of our students and staff, the district will continue to make efforts to minimize the number of visitors in the school buildings. To the extent practicable, visitors should be limited to people required to provide services for students.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will follow the current CDC, PADOH, or PDE guidelines for handwashing and respiratory etiquette to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and stations are available throughout each building.Avoidance of touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.The covering of coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into your elbow.Signage will continue to be posted to remind students and staff of proper handwashing techniques.
d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We will follow the current CDC, PADOH, or PDE guidelines for cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation to include:



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<u>improving ventilation;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Refrain from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect.○ Clean your telephone, computer keyboard, and other high-touch items at the end of each workday.○ Share in the cleaning and disinfecting of communal equipment such as printers throughout the building.● Classroom and site-based programs will follow the guidance established by those districts and sites or the NESD's, whichever ensures the greatest level of health and safety and protection against COVID-19.● When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, a SchoolDude will be placed to mist spaces in which that individual was present during his or her infectious period.
e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will follow the current ECDOH, PADOH, and CDC guidelines for contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine procedures.● Isolation and quarantine procedures will be done with support and guidance from the ECDOH.● Any unvaccinated student or staff member identified as a close contact of an individual who is probable or positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for ten days from the date of exposure.● Unvaccinated individuals will be permitted to return after ten days provided that they have not experienced any symptoms during that time. They must continue to monitor for symptoms until fourteen days from the date of exposure.● Students and staff will not be required to provide proof of vaccination; however, failure to do so will require the pandemic team to follow the protocols in place for unvaccinated individuals.● A fully vaccinated student or staff member (who is beyond 14-days from the final dose of the vaccination) who is identified as a close contact will be required to be tested 2-5 days after exposure and must wear a mask indoors for 14 days or until they receive the negative test. This will be required regardless of the threshold of community transmission at the time of exposure.● An individual who tests positive, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, will be required to quarantine for ten days from the onset of symptoms.● Students required to quarantine will be permitted to livestream instruction from home.
f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff will monitor their health prior to reporting to and while at the workplace / school.● Students in NESD classrooms will follow NESD guidance in relation to screening and testing.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● If any staff or NESD student does not feel well, exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, or are taking fever reducing medication, they are asked to stay home and / or seek medical guidance following the usual procedures for reporting off of work or school.● If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19 or has been exposed to individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, the employee is to notify the Co-Pandemic Coordinators immediately to discuss isolation or quarantine procedures.● Parents of students who test positive are to notify the Pandemic Coordinator or the Assistant Pandemic Coordinator of the positive case.● We will work closely with the ECDOH in regard to screening staff and students.● The district will continue to work with IU5 and local agencies to support and expedite COVID-19 testing for faculty and students on-site when it becomes available. A permission form will be required for all minor children for on-site testing.
g. <u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will continue to coordinate with the ECDH and local agencies to share and provide information regarding vaccination opportunities in the area.
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will follow all IEP and 504 accommodations with respect to health and safety policies as documented.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We will maintain existing partnerships with IU5, ECDOH, PADOH, and PDE through emails, phone calls, and meetings. More correspondence and coordination will occur as needed and situations arise throughout the year.

Expectations are based on mandates and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). All expectations are subject to change based on local and state trends as well as updated mandates and recommendations.

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



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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](#)



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Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for North East School District approved the revisions to the Health and Safety Plan on 9/17, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: 9/17, 2021

By:

(Signature* of Board President)

Mr. Nicholas Mobilia, Board President

(Signature* of Superintendent)

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent

*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.

NESD COVID-19 INFORMATION SHEET

KEY TERMS	
Confirmed Positive	When someone takes a test for COVID-19 and the results indicate that the individual is infected by the virus, he or she is included in the count of confirmed positive cases.
Exposure	When someone is within six feet for more than 15 minutes of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, he or she is considered to have been exposed and will be notified of the need to quarantine by the NE Pandemic Coordinators or the Erie County Health Department.
Quarantine	When someone is exposed to another individual who tested positive for COVID-19 he or she must remain separated from others in order to stop the spread of the virus. The NE Pandemic Coordinators or the Erie County Health Department will contact the individual who must then quarantine for 10 days from the *most recent exposure (wear mask at all times for 14 days). *Household quarantine could be up to 21 days or longer depending on the number of positive and the date of most recent exposure.
Isolate	When someone who is infected with COVID-19 is separated from other individuals to stop the spread of the virus, he or she is isolating. That isolation period must be at least 10 days from the initial onset of symptoms.
Self-monitoring	When someone has been in the vicinity of someone who tests positive for COVID-19, but not within six feet for more than 15 minutes, he or she is encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms. If that individual develops symptoms, he or she should quarantine and be tested.

What will happen if a North East student tests positive for COVID-19?

Either the family, NE Pandemic Coordinator, or the Erie County Health Department will identify the confirmed positive case. The North East Pandemic Coordinator(s) and nurses will work with Erie County contact tracers to identify anyone who was within six feet for more than 15 minutes of the infected individual. This process will be aided by the seating charts in each classroom and on the school busses. Those exposed individuals will be contacted by the Health Department and given instructions to quarantine. The student who tests positive must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms and be fever free for 24 hours without a fever suppressant in order to return to school.

Will the entire class be required to quarantine if a student tests positive for COVID-19?

No. In classrooms students and staff do not have to quarantine if they are three to six feet apart and are properly wearing face coverings or if they are fully vaccinated and have no symptoms. The district or ECDOH will contact families if an individual is identified as a close contact. If the district sends a student/staff member home, the space will be deep cleaned with a disinfectant mister that same day. Depending on guidance from the Erie County Department of Health, we may need to temporarily relocate students to a designated alternate space. Depending on guidance from the Erie County Department of Health, we may need to temporarily relocate classrooms to a designated alternate space. A substitute teacher will be brought in while the teacher is isolated.

Is there ever a point when the school may be required to close because of an outbreak?

It is possible; however, our hope is that it won't be necessary. The district will work closely with the Erie County Department of Health for guidance and recommendations on school closures depending on the community/school COVID-19 cases.

STUDENT & STAFF COVID-19 SCENARIOS

