



## 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*.

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 to 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 student's 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. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
  - c. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
  - d. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;
  - e. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations](#) to [school communities](#);
  - f. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and
  - g. 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 its updated Health and Safety Plan and webpage URL in the eGrants system, 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.

### **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](#)
- [Coronavirus in Pennsylvania](#)

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Vision Academy Charter School (VACS)**

**Initial Effective Date: August 1, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: January 10, 2024**

**Date of Last Revision: January 10th 2024**

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?
  - VACS will continue to monitor the most up-to-date CDC guidelines during the 23-24 school year. The guidelines provided by the CDC will be used to plan and execute the school's mitigation policies and protocols. VACS will continue to provide sanitizing stations in and around each of the classrooms in the school building. Proper handwashing practices will be taught to students at the start of the school year. Students will sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom. Before snacks and meals, students will properly wash or sanitize their hands. Students will repeat this process following all snacks and meals. Common surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, tables, etc., will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. The school building will also be cleaned each night prior to the start of the following school day. Vision Academy will also continue to maintain the air quality throughout the building by regularly replacing the air filters in the indoor air systems.
  - Masks and sanitizers will be provided *as needed* at all classrooms and building entrances. The entrances will have health and safety guideline posters.
  - Upon arrival at the building, students will be welcomed by staff members, who will complete a visual check of students. If a student appears to be experiencing COVID-19 or flu-related symptoms, they will be sent to the nurse to have their temperature taken with a touchless thermometer. If the student has a temperature elevated to 100.4 or above, the nurse will evaluate the student and be in touch with the family as necessary.
  - Signs will be posted around the building to provide a visual for hand-washing and how to stop the spread of germs.
  - Face coverings will be an option but not a requirement for students and staff when in school buildings.
2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the student's academic needs and students and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?
  - VACS will continue to address students' academic needs by maintaining services through a full in-person instructional model based on recommendations made at the state level. Curriculum maps and lesson plans are revisited and rewritten to consider learning loss and instructional gaps. Classroom schedules allow time for intervention teachers to support classroom teachers in addressing varying needs in the classroom, as well as provide additional support through the use of small group learning. The classroom schedule has also been constructed to include an additional period of intervention time

(WIN) for teachers to address individual student needs. Differentiated instructional practices will be utilized to ensure that students are receiving instruction at their instructional level and grade level.

- VACS will continue to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and staff through additional professional development and ongoing curricular experiences. Professional development for staff will focus on diversity training and trauma-informed practices that will be used in the classroom throughout the school year. The practices shared with staff during training will be revisited during the school year. Additional times will be built into the student's schedules to focus on community, culture, and social and emotional learning. Schedules will include times for community building and the development of a positive classroom learning environment. The curriculum will address diversity, identity, and community to promote a positive environment for students to learn and grow.
  - All scholars will have access to free breakfast and lunch during the school day. The food services team will continue to use proper safety equipment and practices to ensure the safety of our scholars and staff. Proper hand washing and handling of food will continue to be a top priority for food services. Posters will be available in the cafeteria and the kitchen to promote healthy standards.
3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, 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. <b>Universal and correct wearing of <a href="#">masks</a> and physical distancing.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VACS will continue to follow the mask-wearing guidelines from CDC and the state. The LEA will adopt the policies and procedures set by the state and update school policies as the school year continues.</li> <li>● Masks will be made available for any staff member or student who needs any PPE during the school day.</li> <li>● Face coverings will be an option but not a requirement for students and staff when in school buildings.</li> <li>● No physical distancing requirement</li> </ul>
<p>b. <b><a href="#">Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</a>;</b></p>	<p>Appropriate hand washing will be reviewed and modeled for students at the start of the school year. Hand-washing procedures will be reviewed throughout the school year.</p> <p><b>Hand Washing- 5 Steps</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Wet</b> your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.</li> <li>2. <b>Lather</b> your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.</li> <li>3. <b>Scrub</b> your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.</li> <li>4. <b>Rinse</b> your hands well under clean, running water.</li> </ol>

	<p>5. <b>Dry</b> your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.</p> <p><b>Hand Sanitizer-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).</li> <li>2. Rub your hands together.</li> <li>3. Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.</li> </ol> <p><b>Arriving at School-</b> Students will be provided masks and hand sanitizer as needed upon arrival at the school.</p> <p><b>Snacks/Meals-</b> A schedule will be created for students to sanitize prior to meals and after meals.</p> <p><b>Restrooms-</b> Students will wash their hands after using the restroom.</p>
<p>c. <b>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <a href="#">ventilation</a>;</b></p>	<p><b>Routine Cleaning</b></p> <p><b>-Common Surfaces-</b> Common surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, tables, etc., will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Teachers will have disinfectant wipes to clean commonly touched surfaces within the classroom. Custodians will be responsible for cleaning common surfaces outside of the classrooms.</p> <p><b>-Restrooms-</b> The restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. The schedule will include cleanings during the day and a nighttime cleaning. The custodial staff will be responsible for the daytime cleanings. Routine cleaning will be performed nightly.</p> <p><b>-Cafeteria-</b> The cafeteria will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use by students during breakfast and lunch. The cafeteria will also be cleaned and disinfected at night in preparation for the following day.</p> <p><b>Ventilation -</b> VACS will continue to maintain air quality throughout the building by regularly replacing the air filters in the indoor air systems.</p>
<p>d. <b>Contact tracing in combination with <a href="#">isolation</a> and <a href="#">quarantine</a>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Tracing:</b> The Vision Academy is no longer contact tracing</p> <p><b>Isolation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any student or staff member who has been exposed to COVID-19 will be isolated. Contact will be made with the family to have the student picked up from school as soon as possible. The student will remain isolated until a guardian is able to pick them up from the school.</li> <li>• VACS will continue to follow the CDC, state, and county health departments’ guidelines regarding <a href="#">isolation</a> and quarantine for those who test positive or who have been exposed.</li> <li>• Employees who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <a href="#">recommended guidance</a>.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Employees who test positive for COVID-19 can return to work/school when they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication), and their symptoms are improving. If they are severely ill with COVID-19, they should consult their doctor before ending isolation.</li> </ul>
<p>e. <b><u>Diagnostic and screening testing;</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students displaying symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to stay home.</li> <li>● Employees displaying symptoms of COVID-19 are recommended to stay home and follow the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <a href="#">recommended guidance</a>.</li> <li>● COVID-19 self-checkers will be encouraged for use by all students and staff before arrival to the building each day.</li> </ul> <p><b>Testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VACS will ensure the availability of test kits in the health office to facilitate the diagnosis of cases.</li> <li>● VACS will distribute complimentary test kits to all parents and employees.</li> </ul>
<p>f. <b><u>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</u></b></p>	<p><b>Communication with Staff and Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VACS will communicate with staff and the school community about vaccinations and their availability in the community.</li> <li>● The school will continue to share regular updates about the benefits, safety, and effectiveness of the vaccines available in the community, as well as general overviews.</li> <li>● Key messages and postings will be shared with the school community to inform them about the vaccine and key information about the vaccines available.</li> <li>● The information shared with the school community will align with resources provided by CDC, PDE, the PA Department of Health, and Delaware County Health Department.</li> </ul>
<p>g. <b>Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</b></p>	<p>Students with disabilities will receive educational services throughout the school year. Our students will receive in-person services during the school day with an assigned special education teacher.</p>
<p>h. <b>Coordination with state and local health officials.</b></p>	<p>VACS will continue to seek guidance from the CDC, PDE, the PA Department of Health, and Delaware County HD regarding protocols, potential cases, exposures, and contact tracing.</p>

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Vision Academy Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **(01/10/2024)**.

The plan was approved by a vote of

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

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

Affirmed on: **(01/10/2024)**

By:

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*(Signature\* of Board President)*

[Gokhan Sheker](#)

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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 is needed.