



Otto-Eldred School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Version 1.0 (August 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*.

Health and Safety Plan Summary: OTTO-ELDRED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Initial Effective Date: AUGUST 1, 2021

Date of Last Review: JULY 29, 2021

Date of Last Revision: JULY 29, 2021

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:

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.

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?**

Using guidance from the CDC and requirements from the state of Pennsylvania, Otto-Eldred operated "in-person" for the 2020-21 school year. A limited number of days were "virtual" for the entire high school population, while the elementary was "in-person" the entire school year.

As a small, rural district in McKean County, Otto-Eldred is well positioned to continue operating "in-person" for the 2021-22 school year. Many challenges faced by larger school districts are not seen in Otto-Eldred. Current transmission rates in McKean County are low and the vaccination rate is higher than most counties in the state.

Through the diligence of administration and staff, Otto-Eldred will continue to apply practices that make sense for our students and community and that demonstrated effectiveness during the 2020-21 school year. The Otto-Eldred School District will continue to implement, to the greatest extent feasible, guidelines in line with the CDC, PA Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

It is critical that students are “in-person” with the faculty and staff that know them best. Strategies that utilized building space, student groupings, student schedules and sanitization will continue to be the focus of our mitigation efforts. Through consistent out-reach to parents, efforts focusing on the safety of our community were supported throughout the year. Changes in guidance from the state or CDC will continue to be evaluated regularly and implemented as necessary within buildings and across practices.

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?

Because of our success operating “in-person”, Otto-Eldred has systems in place to support the academic, safety and mental health needs of our students. With additional staff and partner agencies within our buildings, access to mental health supports has never been greater. Since day one of the state-wide closure, our food service program has provided meals to students in various models. Academic supports are provided within the building, through technology and after hours with our dedicated staff supporting students regularly. Mental health supports in place through district staff and local partners for 2020-21 school year, will continue through the 2021-22 school year.

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>mask</u>s, (defined as a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields):</p>	<p>In School: Due to the low incidence rate and positivity rate as well as higher vaccination rate(McKean), masks will not be required. Otto-Eldred will support all students and staff that voluntarily wear facemasks. Appropriate facemasks will be provided to all as needed. The mandatory use of face coverings will only be implemented if legally mandated by the PA Department of Health, or otherwise. OESD will monitor local incidence rate and positivity rate to determine if any change is necessary to this policy.</p> <p>On School Transportation: OESD will require masks while riding school buses and vans as legally mandated by the CDC’s federal Order dated February 1, 2021, issued pursuant</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	to the Public Health Service Act, and requiring the wearing of masks on conveyances and at transportation hubs. This requirement shall cease at such time as said Order either is no longer in effect or is amended to remove the requirement.
b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elementary (K-6) self-contained classrooms will continue through 2021-22 school year. -The HS block schedule will continue through the 2021-22 school year. -Social Distancing (3ft or more) will be in place to greatest extent feasible, in line with goals of our educational program. -Outdoor space will be utilized for lunch, classroom use, as appropriate. -Seating charts established for busses, cafeteria and classrooms.
c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students will be provided a routine that includes sanitizing /washing of hands upon entry and exit to the building, before and after any group activities and before and after lunch. -Hygiene practices, especially in primary levels, will be specifically taught and reinforced. -Updated signage will be placed around the school supporting proper hygiene practices.
d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation;</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Custodial staff will continue to sanitize common touch areas 2x day. -Common touch areas will be reduced as appropriate (door handles, etc). -Classrooms will be provided appropriate cleaning supplies and soap/sanitizer. -Ventilation filtration completed in nurse's offices and high school auditorium. -Internal doors/windows will be opened to the extent not to jeopardize safety of students/ building.
e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u> , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolation areas will be utilized when necessary. -Tracing/quarantine will be consistent with PA DOH/ CDC processes. (use of 10-day and 7-day time period per CDC guidelines).

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>-Tracing (Close contacts within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes) performed by administration and health office staff, with support from PA DOH.</p> <p>-Close contacts will be defined using CDC guidance with notable exclusions.</p> <p>-Family and community notification of quarantine or positive cases will be completed, as necessary.</p> <p>-Vaccination status will be collected on a voluntary basis from staff and students when quarantine can be avoided.</p> <p>-Clearance to return to school will be provide by primary care physician or by school nurse/administration in alignment with updated published guidance.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>OESD will rely on local medical providers to test symptomatic individuals.</p> <p>Parents/students will be provided information on local testing opportunities.</p> <p>OESD nursing staff will continue to screen students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms per the updated published chart.</p> <p>OESD staff and community will be provided updated guidance on regarding identification of symptoms.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>OESD participated in a regional vaccination effort for district staff in March 2021.</p> <p>OESD organized a local, voluntary vaccination clinic through partnership with Rite Aid for all 12years old and up on June 17, 2021 and July 8, 2021.</p> <p>OESD publicized voluntary county-wide vaccination efforts for all community members eligible during the spring 2021.</p> <p>OESD will continue to promote and support local vaccination efforts.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and	Due to our small size, OESD is aware of the specific needs/disabilities of students. Regular contact with families of students with special needs is maintained. 504 or Safety plans will be tailored to student needs whether they are in a building or access tutoring services via technology or on site after hours.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials.	Due to our rural area, there is no local health official to coordinate. State contact information has been provided to districts through a Rapid Response system to support district inquiries.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **OTTO-ELDRED SD** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **JULY 28, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **JULY 28, 2021**

By:



 (Signature* of Board President)

MS. CINDY MURPHY

 (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.

OTTO-ELDRED SD – HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN ADDENDUM (07/28/21)

CLEANING/DISINFECTING:

- OESD staff will be provided sanitizer and disinfectant spray /wipes per classroom.
- OESD custodial staff will continue to clean/disinfect regularly, with many areas disinfected multiple times per day.
- OESD staff and students will be assigned a technology device, with no sharing of devices.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Email, social media, and the district web page will be utilized to share important updates/information.
- School Messenger will be used to notify families of more immediate changes.
- Messages/posters will be posted in numerous areas around school buildings, including entrances.

FACE COVERINGS /MASKS:

- Defined as a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields.
- Wearing of face coverings / masks will be optional to all (except on school transportation). Any legally mandated mask requirement will supersede local policy.
- Face coverings /masks will be provided to students or staff in need.
- Masks are required on school transportation per the CDC's federal Order dated February 1, 2021, issued pursuant to the Public Health Service Act.
- OESD will consider changes in transmission rates along with area vaccination rates before any changes are made to this policy.

HYGIENE:

- Refreshers on how to properly wash hands, cover coughs, etc., will be provided to students.
- Reminders will be posted throughout the building, especially in common areas.

MEALS/CAFETERIAS:

- Students will be expected to wash hands/sanitize before meals.
- Seating will be staggered, so that students are not seated directly across from one another.
- Disinfecting of common areas will take place between lunch periods.
- Free Breakfast and Lunch will be available to all students again this school year.

QUARANTINE / TRACING / CLOSE CONTACTS:

- District administration, health office staff will collect potential tracing information and collectively determine Close Contacts.

OTTO-ELDRED SD – HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN ADDENDUM (07/28/21)

- Close Contacts that are within 6 feet for 15 consecutive minutes will qualify as a close contact and be required to quarantine. Those individuals will be reported to PDE DOH as required.
- CDC guidance will be utilized to define Close Contacts, with notable exceptions:
 - Vaccinated individuals
 - Students engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks
 - Close contacts will exclude students engaged in other K-12 prevention strategies (such as social distancing, increased ventilation)
- COVID-19 testing will not be performed by school staff. Testing /reporting will be left to the medical professionals in the area.

REMOTE LEARNING:

- Consideration for Remote Learning (building wide, grade level, classroom, etc.) will be made upon the following criteria:
 - Updated PA DOH or CDC requirements / guidance
 - Local transmission rates
 - Attendance rates
- If a move to Remote Learning is necessary, OESD staff will be expected to work from respective buildings. A small sub-group of students will be expected to be in either building to offset internet connectivity concerns or to be sure educational plan is delivered effectively.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL FOLLOWING ILLNESS/ QUARRANTINE (STAFF / STUDENTS):

- Per the PA DOH Public Health Guidance for School Communities
- Upon positive test result or presumed positive case, staff/student may return after at least 10-days post initial date of symptom and 24-hour fever free with no medications.
- Upon quarantine due to exposure, staff/student may return after 10-days with no symptoms or after 7 days with a negative PCR test on day 5 or after.
- *IU14 Staying Safe: Protocols for Responding to COVID-19* will be referenced for guidance.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES:

- 3 feet of space between seats/desks, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Students will be expected to limit congregations and maintain 3 feet of space during all times during the day.
- Seating charts will be maintained in classrooms, on buses and in the cafeteria or other communal spaces.
- The focus will be to prevent students from being included in any “trace”.
- Students will remain in cohort groups for elementary. High school students will continue to follow block schedule.
- Students will report directly to homeroom (or cafeteria for breakfast) upon arrival to school.

OTTO-ELDRED SD – HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN ADDENDUM (07/28/21)

SYMPTOM SCREENING TOOL:

Stay home if, you or the student:

- Have one or more symptoms in Group A **OR**
- Have two or more symptoms in Group B **OR**
- Are taking fever reducing medication.

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
Cough Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing New olfactory disorder New taste disorder	Fever (measured or subjective) Chills Rigors Myalgia Headache Sore throat Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea Fatigue Congestion or runny nose

SYNCHRONOUS / ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING:

- OESD will operate “in person” to the maximum extent possible for 2021-22 and beyond.
- Asynchronous course options will be available by request of student/parent and approval of administration. Online course options will be provided through partnership with Waterfront Learning, Warren County SD and BYU.
- Approval of Asynchronous options will be based on factors including but not limited to:
 - Age/Grade of student
 - Previous experience / success accessing online courses.
 - Home Internet connection (off site requests)
 - Availability of support at home (off site requests)
 - Commitment to the full term of the course
- Livestream classroom instruction will not be made available per the current conditions/level of local transmission.
- MS Teams will be utilized by faculty to share/upload course materials and assignments.
- Tutoring sessions will be available 3-4 days per week at both buildings. Options will include in-person sessions as well as virtual sessions held via Zoom/Teams. Tutoring sessions may be established by students with individual teacher.

OTTO-ELDRED SD – HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN ADDENDUM (07/28/21)

TRANSPORTATION:

- As required by CDC's federal Order dated February 1, 2021, issued pursuant to the Public Health Service Act, masks/ face coverings will be required on school transportation.
- Buses will be disinfected after each morning and afternoon run.
- Windows will be lowered to increase air circulation.
- Family groups will be seated together.
- Seating charts must be maintained.
- Per CDC guidance, those riding school bus will not be considered a "close contact" as long as mask is worn appropriately.
- Buses will be expected to maintain time schedules for departures and drop offs so that student flow into the building is efficient and does not result in crowding.

VACCINATIONS:

- Vaccine clinic information will be shared with all qualifying populations.
- Immunization status will be collected voluntarily from parents.
- Proof of vaccination may be submitted to school nurse/administration to remove student or staff from a Close Contact list.
- Students and staff will not be required to share immunization status or be separated in groups by immunization status.

