



# Smethport Area School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Version 3.0

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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:

## Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Smethport Area School District**

Initial Effective Date: **July 27, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **September 13, 2021**

Date of Last Revision: **September 13, 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?

***Smethport Area School District (SASD) used CDC, PA Department of Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Education recommendations to successfully operate an in-person model of instruction for students for 97% of possible instructional days in the 2020-21 school year. By continuing to closely monitor guidance and recommendation from federal, state, and county agencies in regards to COVID-19, Smethport Area School District anticipates continued success in safely operating in-person learning in 2021-22.***

***Smethport Area School District (SASD) will continue monitoring and implementing, to the greatest extent feasible, mitigation and prevention strategies. These mitigation and prevention strategies will be substantially aligned, the greatest extent practical, with guidance from CDC, PA Department of Health, and PA Department of Education. This Health and Safety Plan shall be automatically amended or superseded by any applicable statute or order of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania affecting its requirements.***

***\*Per CDC guidelines, additional mitigation may be instituted based on levels of substantial/high community spread of COVID-19 in McKean County, or established school-based spread of COVID-19. Additional mitigation may include:***

- ***masking/facial coverings***
- ***at-school symptom checks of students and staff***
- ***establishing social distancing of 6 ft.***
- ***cancellation/postponement of extra-curricular activities***
- ***eliminating/limiting visitors and outside group use of school facilities, etc.***

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?

***SASD will survey stakeholders in July of 2021 to gather input from parents, caregivers, students, faculty, and staff as we plan additional educational***

**opportunities. The District will offer both the in-person model of learning in addition to online program options through our third-party providers.**

**SASD will offer after-school tutoring through the Campus Center program and elementary tutoring, as well as additional intervention supports for English Language Arts at the elementary school and high school. SASD will continue to offer summer school and credit-recovery programs.**

**SASD will support the emotional and mental health needs of our students through the continuation of supports such as a school-based social worker, guidance counselors, and outside agencies supported in conjunction with our Student Assistance Program.**

**All students attending SASD will be eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch again this school year (2021-22).**

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. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u> ;	<p>The PA Department of Health universal masking order was lifted on June 28, 2021. As a result, Smethport Area School District (SASD) will not require masks/facial coverings by either students or staff while in school buildings.</p> <p><b><i>Per federal mandates regarding public transportation, all staff and students riding on SASD transportation will be required to wear masks/facial coverings while riding on SASD transportation until the federal mandate is lifted.</i></b></p> <p>SASD will provide masks/facial coverings upon request to students and staff and support any student or staff member who wears a mask/facial covering.</p> <p>Mandatory use of masks/facial coverings in school will only be instituted by order of government entity. Effective September 7, 2021, PA Department of Health mandated facial coverings while inside school facilities per Order. SASD will comply with the requirements of the Order in a manner consistent with its obligations</p>

## ARP ESSER Requirement

## Strategies, Policies, and Procedures

under applicable state and federal law while such Order is in effect.

- b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);

Staggered transition times for groups by grade level will continue in order to limit hallway traffic. To the greatest extent feasible in a manner not to the detriment of best instruction, at least 3' of social distancing will be maintained in classrooms while in the school setting. When feasible, instruction may take place in large spaces such as gyms, auditorium, outdoors, or other large spaces within the buildings

- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

All students will be provided with education on proper hygiene practices including proper hand washing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60%+) will be provided in addition to soap and water. Students and staff will be instructed to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day. Students will be instructed to practice the most appropriate methods to cover coughs and sneezes. Signage will be placed throughout the buildings to promote handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Adequate supplies will be available for everyday protective measures for hand sanitation, tissues, and paper towels.

- d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;

Bi-Polar ionization filtering of air in each classroom which houses a UniVent. Student desks, office counters, cafeteria tables, interior handrails, sink handles, door handles and other high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Shared equipment such as keyboards, computers, art supplies, playground equipment, and gym equipment shall be disinfected regularly. Shared equipment will be limited to the extent feasible.

All SASD students and staff will be instructed to wash and/or sanitize hands after use of shared equipment. Water fountains have been converted to water bottle filling stations.

Cleaning and custodial staff will follow CDC cleaning and disinfecting guidelines,

- e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;

including the use of electrostatic sprayers. Bi-weekly inventory checks of necessary classroom and building cleaning materials will be conducted.

Additional ventilation with outside air will be maximized through the HVAC systems to increase fresh air flow to the greatest extent feasible.

SASD will follow PA Department of Health guidelines for contact tracing and assist with contacts in need of quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested. Proof of vaccination should be submitted to the building nurse.

Unvaccinated students or unvaccinated staff identified as a close contact of a person positive for COVID-19 will be directed to quarantine per PA DOH guidelines.

***Quarantine length for unvaccinated students/staff of 10 days is required when identified as a close contact, unless a student or staff member secures a negative COVID-19 test after day 5 of exposure.*** In this case, a negative result after day 5 of exposure would permit a person to lessen quarantine to 7 days. Negative test result must be submitted to the building nurse.

Note: If a household member is positive for COVID-19 and a person is unable to isolate from the household member, quarantine begins 10 days after the household member tested positive.

Attending classes at school buildings or participating in school activities will not be permitted during quarantine. Students and staff must report to the school nurse, principal, or superintendent if they know they have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

SASD will follow exceptions to DOH quarantine rules in cases of close contacts of a positive case and mask wearing/facial coverings. If both a positive

- f. Diagnostic and screening testing;

case and close contact wore facial coverings properly, close contacts of 3 ft or more would not need to follow DOH quarantine rules.

Parents and caregivers are expected to screen their children for symptoms of illness prior to sending their children to school each day. SASD will publish symptom screening guidance to parents and caregivers on the District website at smethportschools.com. Children who feel ill while at school will be evaluated for symptoms by the school nurse.

All SASD staff will perform a symptom screen on themselves prior to leaving for work and will stay home if ill.

Students and staff will be monitored via general observations for signs and symptoms of illness. Any student or staff member should not return to school when ill until individual is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

- g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;

In June and July 2021, SASD hosted a vaccine clinic at the elementary school. The vaccine clinic was a partnership between Bradford Regional Medical Center, McKean County, and SASD. SASD is willing to offer additional clinics upon request.

- h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and

All reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be implemented based on the recommendations of the student's physician/medical provider for students at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Parents or caregivers are expected to inform the building principal and school nurse if their child is at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Parents may elect a cyber option through a third-party partner of SASD.

- i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

SASD will reference and update Health and Safety Plan to reflect newest guidance from CDC and PA DOH in December 2021. SASD will communicate and assist PA DOH with providing updated guidance and information regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **SMETHPORT AREA SD** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **September 13, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: August 17, 2021

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature\* of Board President)

Mr. Daniel Wertz, Board President, Smethport Area School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
(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.