

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 2023

LEAs are required to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through **Sept. 30, 2023**. Each time, local education agencies (LEAs) must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. The purpose of the plan is to keep stakeholders informed.

Every LEA should complete the addendum and upload it to ePlan in the LEA document library and post it to the LEA's website (March 1 and Sept. 15). 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.

Please consider the following when completing the addendum:

- Ensure the LEA used multiple models of engagement offered to stakeholders. Examples may include surveys, in-person or virtual committee meetings, town hall meetings, or other inclusive engagement opportunities.
- LEAs should engage all applicable groups noted in meaningful consultation during the crafting of the plan and when making any significant revisions or updates to the plan.
- The number of stakeholders engaged should represent the composition of students. For example, if students with disabilities make up 15 percent of students, then 10-20 percent of respondents should represent this subgroup.
- Ensure the stakeholder engagement happened prior to the development/revision of the plan.
- The LEA must engage the health department in the development and revision of the plan. This is different from providing the health department with COVID-19 numbers.
- Plans must explicitly address every bullet point in Question 3 regarding district policies and strategies.
- Plans require local board approval and public posting.
- LEAs must update the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.
- All revisions must include an explanation and rationale, with meaningful public consultation and in an understandable format. The American Rescue Plan (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.

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) helps safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. LEAs are required to update the plan every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. LEAs also must review and update their plans and ensure they align with any significant changes to 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.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

LEA Name: Huntingdon Special School District

Date: January 6, 2023

### 1. Describe how the LEA has continued to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.

The Continuity of Services plan continues to be communicated with our school administration, staff, and board members in monthly meetings. Parents continue to have the opportunity to collaborate and provide input in the revised plan through public board meetings, and correspondence with the Director of Schools. The district and school websites continue to make readily available opportunities for public comment and updates to ESSER plans. We also are conducting monthly student leadership meetings that involve students, school administration, and community representatives to gather feedback.

### 2. Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.

The school district and the local health department have communicated about the district's approach in contact tracing and communicating with families. In addition, if any revisions to our safety plan, we do communicate with stakeholders including the local health department. At this time, each school is not conducting contact tracing and reporting to our local health department. The regional coordinator and school district administration communicate if any changes are made or need to be considered based on the current health environment of the community/school or if any recommendations are shared from the CDC.

**3. Provide the extent to which the LEA has updated adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.**

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i>
In the event students who are medically fragile and are at high risk from the virus, school administration is flexible and working with families on a case by case basis. Additional accommodations that are considered or are currently implemented include alternative schedules, alternate seating, frequent breaks for hand washing, outdoor activities, social distancing, and abbreviated schedules. The district carefully looks at each child's unique needs and responds with constant communication with parents and open thinking to ideas to assure student safety. Parents are encouraged to communicate any health and safety concerns and the school district will willing to work together to made the appropriate accommodations.
<i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i>
Classrooms and other areas of the schools are set up to support physical distancing if feasible. There are areas of the schools were 6 feet of physical distancing is not possible due to student enrollment.
<i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i>
Hand washing is encouraged in all our schools. Hand sanitizer is placed in the entrance of our schools, restrooms, and high traffic areas for staff and students to access. Additionally, stakeholders at any school event or who occupy school facilities during the school day, have access to facilities and supplies to assure hand washing. When feasible, outdoor activities are encouraged to assure respiratory etiquette. HVAC units have been cleaned prior to the start of school and proper maintenance is conducted to promote respiratory etiquette.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
All facilities are cleaned on a daily basis. Additionally, as school officials monitor the spread of the COVID-19 virus, additional deep cleaning is provided to help mitigate the spread of the virus in targeted areas of concern. When appropriate, improved ventilation is considered by the opening of windows, outdoor activities, and proper maintenance of HVAC units.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
At this time, the district is not contact tracing in the event of positive cases. In the event the decision is made to contact trace, school administration and school nurses are responsible for contact tracing in the event of positive cases. Contact tracing reviews seating charts of classrooms and conducts interviews if needed to determine who potentially is a close contact to a positive case. Teachers, support staff, bus drivers, etc. are responsible for maintaining seating charts. One contact tracing is complete, families are contacted by school administration and nurses to provide them specific information regarding isolation or quarantine. Each school will maintain an accurate documentation of current cases and quarantines that includes all staff and students.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Testing is encouraged by school officials in the event students are experiencing symptoms with the virus. Additionally, all school visitors are reminded of the essential screening questions prior to entering the school environment. When symptoms occur, the school communicates with families and is precautionary in mitigating the spread of the virus.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Vaccinations are readily available in our community. Free vaccinations have been offered to our educators, staff, and students who are eligible. Our school system has been in contact with local medical providers regarding vaccination opportunities and has communicated with all employees.
<i>Universal and correct wearing of masks</i>

*The decision to wear masks is left to each individual.*

**4. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services that address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.**

The ultimate goal is to assure continuity of services to all our students regardless of any potential disruptions to the school calendar or daily schedule. Our food service will be accommodating and has previously offered meals to all our students whether they are physically present or remotely learning off our schools' campuses due to return to school protocols. The social, emotional, and mental health is at the forefront of our focus as we continue to assess our students' well-being. We have prioritized as a district staff to have consistent checks on all our students that are intentional and foster appropriate relationships. For example, whether a student is on campus or having to learn remotely, we will continue to provide welfare checks on all our students on a daily basis to make sure their needs are met and their questions are answered. Counseling services are provided and utilized when it is determined as an needed intervention for our students. The district has partnered with a local counseling service to assist with incorporating trauma-informed best practices to assist with our students' mental health, staff training, and advocacy for promoting students' health. Academically, we want to assure students always have academic supports and continuity of learning. Our staff continues to be trained in specific technology to allow us to expand our reach and impact on students whether physically present or remote. We have pursued grant opportunities that provide additional staff development to staff to support mental health supports to students and additional social workers are being contracted with a local agency. A technology supervisor who is responsible for staff training, management of student platforms, and assessing technology effectiveness has been hired to assist with how technology is used a tool to support students and staff academically. Additionally, we are continuing to provide before and after-school tutoring to prevent learning loss and to assure student learning is being accelerated.