



# Otto-Eldred School District ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Version 3.0 (March 2022)

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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*.

## **Health and Safety Plan Summary: OTTO-ELDRED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

**Date of Last Review: March 15, 2022**

**Date of Last Revision: March 15, 2022**

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 <a href="#">masks</a>, (defined as a material covering the nose and mouth of the wearer, excluding face shields):</p>	<p><b>In School:</b>            OESD will implement a mask-optional policy for students and staff. District administration may implement a local mask requirement if local transmission levels/student or staff absences dictate a need. Any local mask requirement would be reviewed at the next scheduled school board meeting.</p> <p>The mandatory use of face coverings will only be implemented if legally mandated by the PA Department of Health, or otherwise.</p> <p>OESD will monitor local incidence rate and positivity rate to determine if any change is necessary to this policy.</p> <p>Otto-Eldred will support all students and staff that voluntarily wear facemasks.</p> <p>Appropriate facemasks will be provided to all as needed.</p> <p><b>On School Transportation:</b>  <b>OESD will operate a mask-optional policy for students and staff.</b></p>
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for <a href="#">physical distancing</a> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>-Elementary (K-6) self-contained classrooms will continue through 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>-The HS block schedule will continue through the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>-Social Distancing (3ft or more) will be in place to greatest extent feasible, in line with goals of our educational program.</p> <p>-Outdoor space will be utilized for lunch, classroom use, as appropriate.</p> <p>-Seating charts established for busses, cafeteria and classrooms.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</u>;</p>	<p>-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.</p> <p>-Hygiene practices, especially in primary levels, will be specifically taught and reinforced.</p> <p>-Updated signage will be placed around the school supporting proper hygiene practices.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>;</p>	<p>-Custodial staff will continue to sanitize common touch areas 2x day.</p> <p>-Common touch areas will be reduced as appropriate (door handles, etc).</p> <p>-Classrooms will be provided appropriate cleaning supplies and soap/sanitizer.</p> <p>-Ventilation filtration completed in nurse's offices and high school auditorium.</p> <p>-Internal doors/windows will be opened to the extent not to jeopardize safety of students/ building.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>-Isolation areas will be utilized when necessary.</p> <p><i>Consistent with Title 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27, the OESD will exclude from school any student or staff who are showing symptoms of COVID19 or who have tested positive. In addition, the district will complete contact tracing, notification of close contacts, and provide this information to the PA-DOH.</i></p> <p><i>Effective January 1, 2022, asymptomatic students who were determined to be a close contact will not be excluded from school. If parents / guardians, upon notice of exposure, decide to exclude their student, absences for the dates of quarantine will be legal / excused.</i></p> <p><i>Symptomatic students / staff and those who test positive regardless of symptoms, will be excluded from school.</i></p> <p><i>Those exposed at home/community to a positive case will be excluded from school if determined necessary by school administration or school nurse.</i></p> <p><i>Updated guidelines are included in the Appendix.</i></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>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>f. <a href="#">Diagnostic</a> and screening testing;</p>	<p>OESD will offer a “Test to Stay” program to staff and students. Program will be voluntary and will offer a series of rapid antigen tests over the first week post-exposure. Negative test results will allow students to stay in school. Specifics included in Appendix. This will be provided as an option to parents, not as a requirement to stay in school as an asymptomatic school close-contact.</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 <a href="#">vaccinations to school communities</a>;</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 hosted a clinic for 5-11 year old population in Nov/Dec 2021.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>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.</p>

## 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 **MARCH 15, 2022**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **MARCH 15, 2022**

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.