

# **American Rescue Plan Act/ESSER III Health and Safety Plan for 2021-2022**

**Effective Date: July 1, 2021**

**Date of Last Review: June 28, 2021**

**Date of Last Revision: June 28, 2021**

## **Introduction**

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of

schools and address the impacts of SARS-CoV-2 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

This plan describes how York Academy Regional Charter School (YARCS) will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school staff during the 2021-2022 school year. Questions about this plan should be directed to Michael Lowe, Acting Chief Executive Officer at [mlowe@yorkarcs.org](mailto:mlowe@yorkarcs.org).

York Academy has implemented, and will continue to implement, prevention and mitigation practices that are in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC in order to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school staff. We are committed to providing all students with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). This includes ensuring the appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to our health and safety policies.

In reflecting on the academic progress demonstrated by the majority of our students during the 2020-2021 school year, York Academy believes that distance learning is not the most effective learning model for the vast majority of our students. When our students participated in in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year, we had no documented transmission of SARS-CoV-2 within our buildings. These experiences, along with the expansion of vaccinations make it feasible for us to expand in-person learning for all YARCS students, effective August 2021. Understanding that some families may be reluctant to return to in-person learning, additional safety precautions have been included in this plan relevant to vaccine availability and the level of community transmission within York County. YARCS will continue to update our practices as new guidance is made available.

## **Safe and Healthy Facilities**

Custodians will continue to follow the checklist of items / areas to clean on a daily basis developed during the 2020-2021 school year. This includes maintaining a special focus on scheduled cleaning of high touch areas. Sanitizing sprayers and disposable paper towels will be available in all classrooms throughout the buildings. Students will be asked to disinfect their desk / area on a regular basis, as age appropriate. Should a staff member or student be identified as symptomatic or positive for SARS-CoV-2, the school nurse will notify the custodians so that the area(s) can be appropriately cleaned and disinfected. We will, to the maximum extent possible, follow the [ASHRAE core recommendations for reducing airborne infectious aerosol exposure](#). In addition, water fountains will continue to be disabled and touchless water bottle fillers will be made available throughout our buildings. Students who do not have personal water bottles will be provided with disposable cups.

## **Universal Precautions**

Our goal is to ensure the safe delivery of in-person instruction through consistent implementation of layered prevention strategies to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission. The

strategies listed below will remain the same regardless of the level of community transmission, unless otherwise stated.

### Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Per current CDC guidelines, masks are required for staff members and students at the Upper and Lower Schools, whether vaccinated or not, while inside the building, except when eating or drinking.

Students are asked to bring masks from home and should adhere to the [CDC published guidance on masks](#). Masks will be available for students who do not have one and students and staff will receive instruction on the correct wearing of masks, as necessary.

### Physical Distancing

Classroom furniture will be arranged to support social distance between students, to the maximum extent possible. We will continue to utilize plexiglass dividers when possible. Signage will be used to control traffic and to point out and encourage social distancing.

When the SARS-CoV-2 transmission level in York County is Low or Moderate, as measured by [PDE level of community transmissions tables](#), the cohorting of students will not be required, however, interactions that create close contacts will be documented to support contact tracing. In addition, both buildings will utilize the cafeterias for lunch services with seating areas set up to allow the maximum distance feasible between students.

Should the SARS-CoV-2 transmission level in York County reach Significant, cohorting of students will be required in both buildings and cafeteria usage will be restricted.

### Hand-washing and Respiratory Etiquette

All students will be provided with hand sanitizer upon entry to the buildings. Students will be reminded to wash their hands prior to/after snacks, lunch, recesses, and following a sneeze or cough. We will focus on proper technique and duration (20 seconds). When sinks are not available, students will be provided with hand sanitizer. In addition, students will wipe down their areas upon dismissal using disinfecting wipes. Educational signage will be posted throughout the buildings to remind students and staff of hygiene practices, including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices for sanitation.

## **Health Strategies & Practices**

Successful control of SARS-CoV-2 requires a multipronged application of evidence-based strategies. While our school nurses are central figures in the implementation of these strategies and practices, all stakeholders must support and assist in their enforcement in order to keep our community safe and healthy.

### Daily Health Screenings

Parents/guardians will be provided with [a screening tool](#) to assess their student's health each morning before sending them to school. Staff will also be expected to self-assess prior to entering the buildings. All members of the school community will be encouraged to report possible symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 to one of our school nurses who will provide specific information to the individual regarding next steps.

### Contact Tracing In Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

Should a student become ill while at school, our medical staff will monitor the student while keeping them isolated from others until the student is picked up by a parent/guardian. Our nurses actively collaborate with the York City and Pennsylvania Health Departments to identify and isolate or quarantine those students and staff who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 or were within close contact of a person with SARS-CoV-2. We will follow the PA Department of Health guidance for returning isolated or quarantined staff or students to the school.

### Diagnostic and Screening Testing

When available, staff members with possible symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 will be provided with a diagnostic test. YARCS will not participate in screening testing at this time.

### Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

York Academy will continue to publicize vaccination opportunities within the local community. When possible, we will work with local health organizations to offer opportunities for vaccinations.

## **Additional Resources**

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Thorough an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Trustees for York Academy Regional Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on Monday, July 12, 2021.

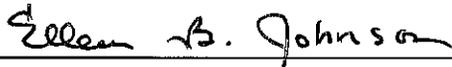
The plan was approved by a vote of:

8 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: **Monday, July 12, 2021**

By:



(Signature\* of Board President)

Ellen B. Johnson

(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.