



Health and Safety Plan Questions

Friday, May 21, 2021

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Agenda

- Overview of the Health and Safety Plan Submission and Review Process
- Health and Safety Plan Questions
- Question and Answers

DC Health and OSSE Guidance for Schools

- [DC Department of Health](#) and [OSSE](#) have issued health and safety guidance for all public, public charter, private, parochial and independent schools (schools) in the District of Columbia.
- All LEAs/schools must submit comprehensive health and safety plans in accordance with this guidance.
- An LEA's/school's health and safety plan will support the safe reopening and operation of school buildings.

Plan Submission, Deadlines and Public Posting

- LEAs and schools will submit their health and safety plan, via OSSE's Quickbase portal that will become operational today, **Friday, May 21, 2021.**
 - Additional information on how to log in to the portal and submit your applications will be shared in the email that announces that the portal is online.
 - **Deadlines for Submission of Health and Safety Plans**
 - *Private, Parochial and Independent Schools:* June 14
 - *LEAs:* June 30
- After review by OSSE, the health and safety plans will be publicly posted in their entirety on OSSE's web site.
- LEAs and schools must also post them publicly on their own web sites at least 10 days before the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Plan Review Process

- Responses that fail to meet one or all of these criteria will cause the plan to be returned to the LEA or school for revisions.
- Schools can expect to receive the results of their OSSE review in **early July**.
- LEAs can expect to receive the results of the OSSE review in **mid-July**.
- Schools and LEAs will be provided comments and asked to revise specific responses and resubmit to OSSE **within two weeks of receiving the comments**

OSSE Will Review Responses for Completion, Clarity and Compliance

Completion	Did the LEA/school response address all parts of the question?
Clarity	Did the LEA/school write the response in such a way that the median stakeholder could access the information?
Compliance	The LEA's/school's plan includes and is consistent with the requirement(s) of the DC Health and OSSE COVID-19 health and safety guidance for schools

Compliance

- All requirements are flagged as such in the questions for purposes of evaluating compliance and aligned to "musts" in the guidance.
- For example, you will see introductory instructions in the questions that say, "Provide the LEA's/school's plan to comply with the requirements that...:
- OSSE will review for compliance those questions that reference requirements.

Layering Five Key Mitigation Strategies

- Experience has shown that schools are able to re-open safely and remain open for in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic when layered mitigation strategies are in place and followed consistently.
 - Universal and correct use of masks
 - Physical distancing
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
 - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Health and Safety Plan Questions' Topical Areas

- Face Masks;
- Physical Distancing
- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Maintaining Clean and Healthy Facilities
- Responding to a COVID-19 Case
- COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines
- Students with Disabilities
- Training, Technical Assistance and Monitoring to Assist in the Implementation of the Guidelines
- Communicating Policies and Procedures to Students, Families, Staff and Visitors.

Health and Safety Plan Materials

**2021-2022 Guiding Principles
for Continuous Education**

**Health and Safety Plan
Questions**

CEP Technical Appendix

CEP Resource Guide

- FAQs including, but not limited to, information on the submission and review process
- Dedicated web site with links to resources to help you complete your applications

All materials can be found on OSSE's web site: <https://osse.dc.gov/page/guiding-principles-continuous-education-2021-2022>



Face Masks

1. Provide the LEA's/school's plan to comply with the requirements that:

- except for specific circumstances (e.g., while eating) articulated in OSSE's guidance, all students, staff and visitors, including those who are full vaccinated, must wear non-medical face coverings or face masks at all times while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and
- masks must be worn correctly.

2. Provide the LEA's /school's policies and procedures in the event that a student, staff member, or visitor is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times.

Physical Distancing

3. Provide the LEA's /school's policies and procedures to support physical distancing between individuals and within and across groups, including in classrooms, common spaces, during arrival and dismissal procedures, and during extracurricular activities.

4. Provide the LEA's /school's policies and procedures regarding the use of cohorts for students and/or staff, including steps to minimize interactions between cohorts, as applicable.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

5. Provide the LEA's/school's policies and procedures to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette including frequent, proper handwashing strategies and encouraging covering coughs and sneezes.

6. Provide the LEA's/school's plan to make available adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices including, as relevant, in classrooms, bathrooms, offices and common spaces.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

7. Provide the LEA's/school's policies and procedures to acquire, distribute and support the appropriate use of PPE including gowns/coveralls, gloves, surgical masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles) and N95 masks, as relevant and necessary.

Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities

8. Provide the LEA's/school's schedule for routine cleaning of rooms, surfaces and objects, including high touch objects and surfaces (e.g., pens, keyboards, elevator buttons, light switches, handles, stair rails, faucets, phones, doorknobs, grab bars on playgrounds).

9. Provide the LEA's/school's cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the event that

- (1) a student, staff member, or visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in the school; or
- (2) if the school is notified that a student, staff member or visitor who tested positive has been in the school.

Include the LEA's/school's plan to comply with specific required protocols for scenarios when it has been 24 hours or less since the sick person was in the school, as well as when it has been more than 24 hours but less than 3 days since the sick person was in the school.

Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities (cont'd)

10. Provide the LEA's/school's plan to make available sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies and to comply with the requirement that staff must wear gloves while cleaning and disinfecting spaces throughout the building.

11. Provide the LEA's/school's plan to perform necessary maintenance to ventilation and water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) so that they are ready for use and occupancy and are adequately maintained throughout the operating period.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case

12. Describe the LEA's/school's policies and procedures to:

- a. Comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE's guidance; and
- b. Dismiss any individual or cohort that is potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school setting.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case (cont'd)

13. Provide the LEA's/school's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- Identify a staff member as the COVID-19 point of contact (POC) to whom families, staff, contractors and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 and who is responsible for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health;
- Report any applicable positive COVID-19 case in a student, staff member or essential visitor to DC Health on the same day the school is notified;
- Not exclude students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case (cont'd)

14. Provide the LEA's/school's procedures to support DC Health with contract tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19.

15. Describe how the LEA/school will notify the school community, as appropriate, of the positive case and corresponding actions taken by the LEA/school.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

16. If applicable, describe the LEA's/school's current or planned COVID-19 testing protocol for symptomatic and/or asymptomatic students and/or staff, including steps the LEA/school will take to encourage participation in the testing program. Please include the LEA's/school's plan to ensure that results of such testing programs are reported to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements: dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements.

17. Provide the LEA's/school's plans to support COVID-19 vaccination of staff and students, as eligible, including efforts to encourage participation in public and community-based vaccination opportunities.

Students with Disabilities

18. Provide the LEA's/school's plans to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities with respect to its health and safety policies and procedures.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring

19. Please provide the LEA's/school's plan to provide training and technical assistance on its policies and procedures to safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools, including:

- who will receive training and technical assistance;
- the topics that the training and technical assistance will address; and
- how and by whom the training and technical assistance will be delivered.

20. Provide the LEA's/school's plan to monitor the implementation of the health and safety plans at each campus, including how, when and by whom the implementation will be monitored, and how the school will respond if a given campus is not adhering to the plan.

Communicating Policies and Procedures to Students, Families, Staff and Visitors

21. Describe the LEA's/school's plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff and visitors.

Regulations and Policies

- [COVID-19 Health Guidance](#): The most recent DC Health guidance and corresponding resources.
- [CDC: Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) K-12 operational strategy presents a pathway for schools to provide in-person instruction safely through consistent use of prevention strategies, including universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- [US Department of Education \(USED\): ED COVID-19 HANDBOOK Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools](#): First volume in the USED COVID-19 Handbook, a series intended to support the education community as schools reopen.

OSSE Guidance and Supports

- **OSSE Guidance**
- [Health and Safety Guidance for Schools: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Recovery Period](#): All of OSSE's COVID-19 guidance and resources for schools.
- **OSSE Supports**
- [Outdoor Learning Resources](#): Resources to support the establishment or enhancement of outdoor learning on school grounds for schools and for teaching outdoors. Consultative services to support outdoor learning will be coming soon.
- [School Health and Safety Resources](#): Links and a brief description of resources that may support the implementation of the Health and Safety Guidance for Schools.
- **Coming Soon**: Consultative services to support improved indoor air quality.

The ESSER III-ARP Grant

- One of the unique features of the ESSER III-ARP grant is that LEAs must make a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
- OSSE believes that the [Continuation Education Plans \(CEP\) for the 2020-2021 school year](#) and the health and safety plans already on file with OSSE alongside the CEP that you will submit for the 2021-2022 school year will cover this requirement.

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Questions and Answers