



Geneva Area City Schools

ARP ESSER - American Recovery Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN 2021 – 2024

Please Note: This plan is subject to change based on Federal, State and local requirements along with community input.

As part of the ARP ESSER plan, each LEA needs to show continuity of services including but not limited to services to address academic needs for students; social, emotional and mental health needs for students and staff; and health and food service needs in the school community.

Geneva Area City School District is required to submit and publicly post a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan* to our school community and to the Ohio Department of Education for the 2021-2022 school year.

At this time, as has been the case since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, it is challenging for the district to know what the future holds in terms of guidelines and restrictions that will be in place as the school year begins. As with all of our plans, this plan could change based on recommendations and guidelines we receive and the impact the coronavirus or other variants are having on our district. As we have stated since the beginning, our concern is not only for the safety of our students and staff, but our Geneva community as well.

Return to In-Person Learning: Geneva Area City Schools will have our students return to our physical school buildings on a regular five-day a week schedule beginning August 30, 2021. We recognize that some families may still have a desire to have some students learn in a remote setting. We will do our best as a district to provide some options which would include in-person and remote opportunities.

Social-Emotional Learning/Mental Health Needs: Some of our students have not been in a school building since March 2020 when the initial closure began. The pandemic has created a new level of stress and anxiety for our students and our staff. Geneva Schools will continue to partner with local counseling agencies such as Community Counseling Center of Ashtabula County to help our students navigate the return to school. Also, we will continue to use Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) and help our students and staff reconnect with each other in a positive and beneficial way.

Face Masks/Coverings: Geneva Schools will start the year aligning their recommendations to those from the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education. Therefore, it is **strongly recommended** that students wear masks layered with other prevention strategies. We will fully support students and staff who wish to wear face masks or shields during the school day and we will be respectful of each individual's choice. Please know we will continue to monitor cases and consider new information. Should we see an increase in numbers and/or learn new information, we may need to move to mandating masks for all students.

School Transportation - The CDC continues to **require** that masks be worn on all public transportation, including school buses. This requirement is regardless of vaccination status. This will also include any of our activity vans that athletic or other groups take to events.

Physical Distancing: As with face masks, Geneva Schools will follow distancing guidelines for schools and other activities. It can be a challenging issue to keep students and staff apart, but we will do our best to keep social distancing in place while keeping students and staff in school.

Hand washing and sanitizing: Even before COVID, proper hand washing was vital to fight germs and stay healthy. Hand washing is encouraged for all staff and students throughout the school day. Geneva Schools will continue to provide hand sanitizer in the buildings and on school transportation.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities: Geneva Schools will continue to keep our buildings cleaned regularly. During the school year, classrooms, school vehicles and bathrooms will be sanitized and cleaned numerous times throughout the day. During the 2020-21 school year, upgraded filters and cleaning were conducted on all HVAC equipment in the district. In addition, UV light units were purchased and installed on all air handlers to clean the air that was circulated throughout the buildings. This year (2021-2022), we are adding additional HEPA filters with UV lamps.

Health Protocols: Geneva Schools will provide the most up to date criteria on health protocols that we receive in partnership with the Ashtabula County Health Department. Staff and students should continue to conduct health assessments at home prior to coming into the school buildings or boarding any school transportation. We encourage students and staff who have Coronavirus symptoms or do not feel well to stay home.

Contact tracing: Geneva Schools will continue to work with the Ashtabula County Health Department to investigate COVID cases to determine close contacts and determine if a

quarantine period is necessary. These decisions will align with the [Ohio Department of Health](#) and the [K-12 Classroom Exposure Quarantine Flowchart](#).

Vaccinations: Geneva staff were provided two vaccination clinics in 2021, as well as a vaccination clinic for our age appropriate students. Understanding vaccinations are not required, we highly encourage all eligible students and staff to receive a vaccination prior to returning to school. This should assist in containing the spread of the virus, and any new variants, while keeping our district and community safe.

While the decision to vaccinate is personal and voluntary, our goal is to provide opportunities to make the vaccine accessible to people ages 12 and up. As you know of course, children under 18 require parental or guardian consent to receive the vaccine. Geneva schools are providing 4 vaccination clinics prior to the start of school for students ages 12 and 18, staff, parents, and community members.

School Meals: As we were able to do last year, the USDA will continue to support free breakfast and lunch meals in the 2021-22 school year. We will encourage all students (K-12) to eat breakfast and lunch at school.

Accommodations: Geneva Schools will continue to provide accommodations for students with disabilities or those on documented health plans. Summer Recovery programs were held to provide support for all grade levels (K-12). In 2021-22, before and after school in-person tutoring will be offered to all students as a support service for our students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs.

Periodic Review: Geneva Schools will review and revise this plan on a regular basis (at minimum quarterly) as the district adapts to new guidelines and recommendations provided by community members, agencies, or other officials.

Public Input: School community stakeholders are welcome to call or email Dr. Terri Hrina-Treharn, Superintendent (terri.hrinatreharn@genevaschools.org / 440 466-4831). Feedback will be shared with the Geneva Board of Education as decisions are made regarding the health and safety of our students, staff and community. For specific building questions, families should contact the building administrators.

Resources:

[Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan](#) – located on the Geneva Schools' website at genevaschools.org.