

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



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# Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Union Grove Elementary District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a daily face-to-face instruction and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- *Masks will be optional this year. Please respect the choices that individuals make on wearing them or not wearing them. We will continue to enforce board policies relative to bullying. Please report any bullying to a staff member or administrator as soon as possible.*
- *All positive cases will need to quarantine and will need to contact the health office at 262-878-2015 x 2021 and she will confirm your return date.*
- *We will notify the homeroom or grade level of any positive cases. Quarantines will not be mandatory, but families will be asked to monitor their child for symptoms and contact the school and keep the child home if he/she becomes symptomatic.*
- *Encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,*
- *Limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,*
- *Provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.*

### Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Union Grove Elementary District will offer in-person learning five days a week for the 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks and iPad for all students to continue virtual learning. Two platforms have been identified, Google Classroom and Seesaw, as the primary source for academics and communication.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Union Grove Elementary School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

At Union Grove Elementary School masks will be optional this year. Please respect the choices that individuals make on wearing them or not wearing them. We will continue to enforce board policies relative to bullying. Please report any bullying to a staff member or administrator as soon as possible.

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Mitigation measures such as water bottle filling stations and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Additionally, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms and offices throughout the building.

### Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Union Grove Elementary School has installed an ionization system in its HVAC to clean the air circulating throughout the building. The system kills pathogens, neutralizes odors, reduces particles and saves energy. Enhanced sanitation procedures have been implemented and continue throughout the school focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District uses a Clorox 360 system that disinfects and sanitizes. Cleaning solutions that are rated to kill the SARS virus are available in every room. Each bathroom is equipped with a "no touch" feature on toilets, urinals, and hand washing stations.

## **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Due to COVID-19 we are still having to change our approach when treating students with symptoms of illness as you are already aware. It will be important for you to monitor your child for signs of illness and consult with your medical provider.

#### **PLEASE CHECK IN WITH HOW YOUR CHILD IS FEELING DAILY BEFORE SENDING THEM TO SCHOOL.**

Please keep your child home if your child has 1 or more of the following symptoms.

- Fever 100.0 or higher
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss or distorted sense of taste or smell

Also keep your child at home if they have 2 or more of these symptoms.

- Muscle pain/Body aches/chills
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion/Runny nose
- Unusual level of fatigue/tiredness

If your child presents with any of these symptoms above during school hours, or requests to go to the health office and states they have these symptoms with or without a fever your child will be sent home.

Please update your Emergency Contact Information in skyward. Have a plan or trusted individual to pick up your child in the event your child is sent home from school. Your child may return after they have been symptom free for 48 hours, a letter from your child's physician stating they may return to school or a negative COVID-19 test.

## **Diagnostic and screening testing**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

If you choose to have your child tested for COVID-19 please keep them home and contact us as soon as possible. (Health Office, 262-878-2015 ext. 2021)

If your child tested positive please let us know as soon as possible. (Health Office, 262-878-2015 ext. 2021)

UGES will continue to notify any contacts of positive cases. Quarantines will not be mandatory, but families will be asked to monitor their child for symptoms and contact the school and keep the child home if he/she becomes symptomatic.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible***Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

All eligible staff employed in 2020-2021 were provided the opportunity to be vaccinated.

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices***Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues.

Within Section B “Specially-Designed Instruction” students IEP’s have the addition, “If the school closes for in-person instruction or the student enters a virtual model due to pandemic quarantine additional frequency and amount”.

**Coordination with state and local health officials***Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

### District response on continuity of services

**The District will provide for continuity of services as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

The district has purchased enough devices for a one-to-one program, including training staff, students, and parents on utilizing the primary programs for academics and communication (Seesaw in 4K - 2nd grades & Google Classroom in 3rd Grades - 8th grades).

The district has scheduled “virtual days” that allow for staff, students, and parents to practice and work out the “kinks” of a virtual program incase of a mandatory shut down and switch to virtual learning.

Additional staff have been hired to work as academic interventionists to support students affected by the shutdown from 2019-2020 and mitigating measures implemented in the 2020-2021 school year.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Union Grove Elementary School has purchased a character education program (Purposeful People in KG - 4th grades and Character Strong in 5th - 8th grades). The schedules have been manipulated to allow for daily activities that are based upon supporting students social, emotional, and mental health needs.

#### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for summer school attendees as well as all eligible youth during the school year. Summer meals will be provided for summer school and all children age 18 and under through July 2, 2021.

#### **Other Staff Needs**

The District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.



# Periodic Review

## Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

Union Grove Elementary School will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed biannually.

# Public Input

## Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

Union Grove Elementary School has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://www.uges.k12.wi.us/> under the ESSER FUNDS tab at the top.
- The notification of the plans posting on the website was sent to parents, students, and employees via a Skylert email update.
- The plan was shared at the school board meetings on 2/21/2022 and public comment was allowed.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.

[WI DPI ESSER III Stakeholder Engagement presentation](#)