

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Maine Connections Academy

Initial Effective Date: August 8, 2021

Date of Last Review: August 8, 2021

Date of Last Revision: August 8, 2021

Overview

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*.

- 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?**

Maine Connections Academy is a fulltime virtual charter school and therefore students are not attending in-person learning. For in-person events, parents and guardians will be required to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms prior to sending them to in-person events. If the student presents any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, they should not come to the event. Upon arrival at the event, personnel may take each student's temperature as well. Students with a temperature reading higher than 100.2 degrees will be required to put on a mask and will be immediately taken to a separate designated area. Parents or guardians will be required to promptly pick up any student with a temperature of 100.2 degrees or other COVID-19 symptoms.

All faculty and staff will complete self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms each day before entering the school facility. The school may require further screening of employees at any time based on current state and federal guidelines. Employees exhibiting symptoms will be separated from others and sent home.

- 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?**

Instruction/Academic Needs

The school will prioritize social emotional learning for all students in addition to academic

recovery and acceleration. Strategies include high quality professional development for staff, increased use of assessment data to guide instruction, research-based core instruction, and tiered systems of support for interventions.

School Meals

As a virtual charter school, the school does not serve meals.

Transportation

Since the school is a fulltime virtual charter school, students are not required to attend in-person and therefore transportation needs are limited. Should transportation be necessary (e.g., to required state testing, field trips, etc.) the school will work with the families and communities, following appropriate federal and state guidance to provide safe, economic, and efficient transportation.

Sanitation

The school will continue safety and sanitation protocols throughout the school office building(s) for 2021-2022 and will follow appropriate federal and state guidance regarding school sanitation.

Support Staff

The school will continue to work with appropriate community agencies and organizations to improve services and support for families and students. Counselors, social workers, mental health and other specialized staff will be available to support our students. Evidence-based interventions will be implemented to ensure equitable access to high quality instruction and social emotional services for all students to maximize recovery from COVID related isolation.

Technology

Families enrolled at the school are responsible for providing their own computer which should meet minimum system requirements. Laptops will be available for households upon request and are approved for a technology hardship exception. Any computer equipment supplied by the school is on loan during the enrollment and must be returned upon withdrawal, graduation, or at the request of the school. Please refer to your school handbook for details.

Households enrolled are also responsible for providing their own internet service. Internet service subsidies will be available for households that request and are approved for a technology hardship exception Please refer to your school handbook for details. The school offers comprehensive technical support and usage information for systems provided.

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
a. Universal and correct wearing of masks ;	The school will take into consideration the guidance provided by the county and state and will follow any executive orders

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	for use of masks at in-person events and/or the office building.
b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);	As a virtual school, students are not required to attend in-person classes. When there are events with students and families, the school will take into consideration social distancing guidelines provided by the county and state and will follow any executive orders, including spacing and/or attendance caps.
c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette ;	Employees should still practice proper hand hygiene and maintain and clean their workspace regularly. The school will ensure adequate supplies are available to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, a way to dry hands, tissues, hand sanitizer, face masks (as feasible), and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans.
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<p>The school will maintain a regular schedule for cleaning and sanitizing the school office building and will ensure proper ventilation per appropriate guidelines.</p> <p>The school will regularly clean high touch surfaces and objects (e.g., door handles, sink handles, toilets, drinking fountains) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible.</p> <p>The school will improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants, including ensuring HVAC settings are maximizing ventilation and improving the level of filtration in the office building.</p>

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>Since students enrolled at the school are not attending in a school building, students do NOT need to report that they are positive or have been exposed to COVID-19. In the case of Student/Family events:</p> <p>If a student or family member is sick and/or has COVID like symptoms, please stay home/do not attend events and contact the school for further guidance.</p> <p>Students participating in in-person events will report a positive COVID-19 case OR exposure to a positive person by contacting the school.</p> <p>Employees who work at the school building should report a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to your principal and/or your school's contact tracer.</p> <p>If someone in your household has COVID like symptoms and/or has received a positive COVID-19 test, please DO NOT report to work. Likewise, do not report to work if you or someone in your household is waiting for COVID test results.</p> <p>If an attendee at a school event or a staff person in the office tests positive for COVID-19, that person should alert the contract tracer who will obtain a list of close contacts and inform all staff, parents/guardians/caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure. The contract tracer will work with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with students, staff, parents and guardians of those who had contact. Those close contacts are advised to remain at home (quarantine for current CDC recommendation) and to consult</p>

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	<p>with a healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.</p> <p>Staff may return to the office building once the current CDC guidelines are met.</p>
<p>f. Diagnostic and screening testing;</p>	<p>The school will offer referrals to diagnostic testing to any student, teacher, or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee or student is sick or exhibiting COVID like symptom, they should stay home and talk to a healthcare provider about getting a COVID-19 test. If an attendee at a school event or a staff person in the office receives a positive test result, that person should alert the contract tracer who will obtain a list of close contacts and inform all staff, parents/guardians/caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure. The contract tracer will work with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with students, staff, parents and guardians of those who had contact.</p>
<p>g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities;</p>	<p>The school will work with local health departments to support messaging and outreach about vaccinations for members of the school community. Outreach will be made available in a language that all family members of students can understand and in alternate formats as needed to facilitate effective communication for individuals with disabilities.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>The school will work closely with related services providers to consider prioritizing in-person services for students with disabilities.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>When feasible, the school will coordinate with state and local health officials to ensure staff, student, and family access</p>

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	to testing, vaccines, and other resources to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

For Questions Please Contact:

Walter Wallace

School Leader

207-805-3254

wwallace@mca.connectionsacademy.org