

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 2023

LEAs are required to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through **Sept. 30, 2023**. Each time, local education agencies (LEAs) must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. The purpose of the plan is to keep stakeholders informed.

Every LEA should complete the addendum and upload it to ePlan in the LEA document library and post it to the LEA's website (March 1 and Sept. 15). Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

Please consider the following when completing the addendum:

- Ensure the LEA used multiple models of engagement offered to stakeholders. Examples may include surveys, in-person or virtual committee meetings, town hall meetings, or other inclusive engagement opportunities.
- LEAs should engage all applicable groups noted in meaningful consultation during the crafting of the plan and when making any significant revisions or updates to the plan.
- The number of stakeholders engaged should represent the composition of students. For example, if students with disabilities make up 15 percent of students, then 10-20 percent of respondents should represent this subgroup.
- Ensure the stakeholder engagement happened prior to the development/revision of the plan.
- The LEA must engage the health department in the development and revision of the plan. This is different from providing the health department with COVID-19 numbers.
- Plans must explicitly address every bullet point in Question 3 regarding district policies and strategies.
- Plans require local board approval and public posting.
- LEAs must update the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.
- All revisions must include an explanation and rationale, with meaningful public consultation and in an understandable format. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) helps safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. LEAs are required to update the plan every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. LEAs also must review and update their plans and ensure they align with any significant changes to CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

LEA Name: Memphis-Shelby County Schools

Date: February 16, 2023

1. Describe how the LEA has continued to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.

Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) has an ongoing commitment to prioritizing stakeholder awareness and engagement. An ESSER webpage (www.scsk12.org/essser) was established to publicly inform, update, and engage stakeholders. The site has expanded steadily to include an ESSER in Action section which tracks the progress of MSCS projects and initiatives using ESSER funding.

In early August 2021, MSCS released a survey seeking feedback on District priorities for ESSER funds. Approximately 5,000 stakeholders responded. The full report of findings was published on the ESSER webpage and can also be found [here](#).

To date, the District has hosted a series of [Stock Take Meetings](#) to review ESSER spending and solicit additional feedback from stakeholders on future plans. Information about these meetings is included on the ESSER webpage.

ESSER updates are frequently discussed during public Board and committee meetings.

The Communications and Broadcast Services Department spreads ESSER awareness on the District's radio and Newsroom channels and regularly partners with local media to share ESSER related updates with viewers/stakeholders.

2. Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.

Memphis-Shelby County Schools continues to adhere to guidance from local, state, and national educational and health authorities such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Tennessee Department of Health, and the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department, as well as employs augmented strategies tailored to the needs of the Memphis-Shelby County Schools family of stakeholders.

From the onset and throughout the world-wide health situation, Memphis-Shelby County Schools has partnered with the local Health Department to ensure we have updated guidance and recommendations to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID 19 remaining mindful of the needs and concerns of our students, families, employees, and the larger community. The district has collaborated with the local Health Department to remain informed of health developments and has been proactive in addressing issues prevalent to our District's families and schools. This process includes meticulous planning to ensure operational efficiency and responsiveness as new challenges arise. Our communication provides information to guide school-based and central office staff. These processes are intended to help ease concerns and support a level of comfort for students and staff while offering best practices, and guidelines on how to maintain safe schools, classrooms, and smooth work operations. While we have not formally adopted a policy, below is our Health and Safety Plan that is enforced districtwide.

3. Provide the extent to which the LEA has updated adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.

<p><i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies</i></p>
<p>Developed the Protocol for Individuals Who Have Symptoms at School-Preparation and Guidelines for Creating a Saferoom in Schools Included Additional Recommendations and Considerations below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the additional recommendations and considerations below should take the place of calling for emergency services or otherwise providing CPR services for student/staff that is in respiratory distress or otherwise experiencing problems breathing. • Adhered to Federal and state disability laws that required an individualized approach for working with children and youth with disabilities that were consistent with the child's individual educational plan (IEP), Section 504 plan. • Incorporated reasonable modifications and accommodations, when necessary to ensure equal access to in-person learning for students with disabilities. <p>See Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-10-1304</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p>
<p>The Center for Disease Control no longer recommends physical distancing. Memphis-Shelby County Schools is asking students, staff, and visitors to be mindful of physical distancing but is no longer enforcing physical distancing in schools, or office buildings.</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p>
<p>Wash hands with soap and water (for 20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before eating food • Before touching your face • After handling your mask

- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After being in a public place
- Before and after using playground equipment.

Respiratory Etiquette:

- Cough or sneeze into your mask and put on a clean mask as soon as possible.
- Always cover your mouth with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze if not wearing a mask.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation

School environment:

- Discourage the sharing of school supplies and materials to the extent possible.
- Strongly encourage students to bring drinking water or a drinking water bottle from home.
- Supply all schools with PPE as needed.

Classroom and common areas:

- All classrooms will be provided with a supply of disposable gloves, disinfectant wipes, and hand sanitizer.
- All classrooms and buildings will undergo a systematic and thorough cleaning nightly.
- Common areas (Auditorium/Multi-purpose Room, Cafeteria, Classrooms, Hallways, Library, Office Areas, Stairwells and Teacher Work Areas) are to be cleaned and disinfected a minimum of 2x's a day (during lunch & the end of the day).
- Clean and sanitize counters, desktops, seats, tabletops, handrails, and doors (handles & windows)
- Sweep/vacuum/mop floors
- Clean water fountains
- Empty trash

Restroom areas:

- Check and restock all tissue, paper towel, hand soap and hand sanitizer dispensers
- Restrooms are to be cleaned and disinfected a minimum of 4x's a day (2x's during am hours, 1x during pm hours, & the end of shift).
- Clean and disinfect counter tops, sinks, toilets, urinals, and flush valves
- Sweep/mop floors
- Clean partitions, stalls, walls, and doors
- Empty trash
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Ventilation improvement:

- Indoor air quality tests are performed randomly to measure the level of airborne contaminants.
- Ionizers were installed throughout all HVAC systems in all schools and office buildings to combat Covid-19 and other airborne viruses

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

The Center for Disease Control no longer recommends contact tracing. Memphis-Shelby County School established a Tracking Team in collaboration with the Department of Exceptional Children and Health Services.

The district strongly encourages:

- All students and staff who are not feeling well to stay home.
- Use of COVID-19 Reporting Action Steps
- Use of the Student and Employee COVID-19 Flowcharts

Tracking Reporting Action Steps:

- Parents should immediately contact their child's school to report a case.
- Once a parent/guardian reports a positive case to the principal or designee, the principal or designee immediately notifies the District Tracking team via the online form.
- The District Tracking Team will work to implement mitigation strategies immediately.
- A student who **tests positive** for COVID-19, will not be permitted to return to the school building until the specific number of days required by the CDC/TN Department of Health has been met, even if they do not develop symptoms. Once the specified time period is over, these individuals may return to school.

The CDC's latest guidance, October 11, 2022, recommendations for quarantining following exposure to the Covid-19 virus and contact tracing have been dropped.

Asymptomatic staff or students self-identified as close contacts with a COVID-positive person are no longer required to quarantine.

- These individuals should self-monitor for signs and symptoms ten (10) days following exposure.
- If no symptoms develop, CDC recommends getting a COVID test on or after day five (5).
- In the event staff or students self-identified as a close contact with a COVID-positive person becomes **symptomatic**, it is recommended that the individual test immediately.
- Individuals who receive a positive test are to follow recommendations for positive cases.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Diagnostic and screening testing:

- Memphis-Shelby County Schools will not administer or require COVID-19 tests of employees or students.
- Memphis-Shelby County Schools has partnered with PathAI Diagnostics (formerly known as Poplar Healthcare) to allow for student testing through the Epidemiology Laboratory Compacity Grant that will support on-going, in-person learning.
- PathAI Diagnostics will open asymptomatic COVID testing sites.
- The following locations will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for testing.
 - BOE/ Barns Building 160 S. Hollywood, Memphis 38112.
 - Cordova Middle School 900 Sanga Rd. Memphis, TN 38018
 - Manassas High School 1111 Manassas St. Memphis, TN 38107

Testing will be available for all active MSCS employees and students.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The district is working collaboratively with the Shelby County Health Department and LeBonheur Community Outreach to provide vaccines and promote awareness regarding the Covid-19 virus to MSCS families and community partners.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

The Districts' Masking Recommendation for the 2022-23 School Year

- In accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), masking is optional for Memphis-Shelby County

Schools students, staff, and visitors (while in District schools and offices) for the 2022-23 school year.

- District families and staff are strongly encouraged to monitor COVID-19 trends in our community and mask, especially when case numbers are high.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 must continue to isolate for a **minimum of five (5) days after the onset of symptoms and may be released from isolation after they are without fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and show improvement in symptoms**. Regardless of symptoms, the CDC recommends wearing a well-fitting mask when around others for ten (10) days following the onset of symptoms or specimen collection.
- Any asymptomatic staff or students self-identified as close contacts with a COVID-positive person are strongly encouraged to mask consistently for ten (10) days.

4. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services that address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

MSCS's Social Emotional Learning initiatives address returning to in-class learning and preparing for the possibility of heightened behavior disruptions in teaching and learning environments. The Memphis-Shelby County Schools Office of Student Equity Enrollment and Discipline ensures that continuity of services for students is provided, and due process is given that addresses the academic needs of students. We work with Human Resources and other offices to ensure students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health, are met. Our office provides services through the following ways:

Student SEL

ReThink Social Emotional Learning, Daily Lessons,
Re-SET Rooms,
Restorative Programs-Early Return from Expulsion
Universal Screeners,
Family Wellness Centers,
Employee Health Centers
Student Health Clinics
Employee Assistance Programs (EAP),

Academic Options

ReThink Social Emotional Learning, Daily Lesson Facilitation (teachers)
Virtual Learning
Alternative School
Virtual Alternative School

Medical

GenED and SPED Homebound
Intermittent Homebound
Family Wellness Clinics (Mental Health)
Employee Assistance Programs, Total Rewards (Mental Health Counseling)

