

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: **ROANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

DATE: **9/13/23**

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

Roane County School stakeholders have been ask to complete an ESSER 3.0 survey through Google Forms to gain the most beneficial input for the best use of the allocated ESSER funds which includes students, families, administrators, teachers, community members, local agencies, local health department and our school leaders. The survey has been shared through all social media platforms to ensure we receive the valued opinions of our stakeholders regarding ESSER 3.0. Stakeholders also have the opportunity to have their voice heard during our monthly school board meetings along with special called meetings. Office of Coordinated School Health's SHAC (School Health Advisory Counsel) team meets four times a school year and reviews school health policies, procedures, and health concerns to identify the needs for the school and community along with the safety and health return to school since the arrival of Covid. SHAC team consist of local community members such as Roane County Health Department, UT extension, Roane County Anti-drug Coalition, RCS nutrition supervisor and local health officials which give great support and advice in a team approach for problem solving.

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

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year; the school district created a Covid Response Team which included the director of schools, elementary supervisor, middle school supervisor, high school supervisor, coordinated school health director, school nurse supervisor, and the Roane County Health Department Director director to develop of a safe return to school plan for our schools to follow. Our response team held a Contact Tracing "train the trainer" training for our team. The Covid team then trained our assistant principals at every school as our contact tracers. Roane Schools Covid team also developed a Covid Google Spreadsheet to be shared with each school contact tracer, director of schools, coordinated school health and our local health department for updated, live reported covid contact tracing data to be shared with the state department of health as well.

Contact Tracers (Assistant Principals) are assigned at every school and will use our Covid Google Spreadsheet to log our students affected by Covid and will notify the cases with a estimated return date and to be expecting a call from the State Health Department case investigator with the official RTS (Return to School) date. Our Covid Response Team, with the help of our health department, also reviewed procedures Covid protocol (covid symptoms, ppe, etc.) with our school nurses to follow and, in turn, would teach their staff. Our local health department continues to have ongoing communication routine with our CSH director all updated CDC guidelines, Covid information updates, vaccine updates, and is a valuable resource when questions/concerns arise within our school. Our local health department is an instrumental part of our Covid team and is always included in the decision making process based on possible covid outbreak in our schools occur.

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><i>Accommodations for Children with Disabilities:</i> <i>Roane County Schools and our special education department are working with the families for children with disabilities by providing the necessary steps to keep our students safe and healthy. One of our accommodations is to provide smaller class sizes to promote social distancing. Smaller class sizes and using student podding for seating charts will limit the contact between students. Roane Schools speech and occupational therapy give the option to perform in- person or virtually in respect to the student's disability. Now available in our school system is the option to enroll in the Roane County Virtual Academy (RCVA) for our students and families dealing with health issues. Currently, RCVA has a larger percentage of SPED population in comparison to the average in our other schools.</i></p> <p><i>RCS's Social Emotional Learning Interventionist (SEL) provides training opportunities for all teachers in Youth Mental Health First Aid. This training will provide better understanding of mental health to meet our students needs. RCS has formed "wrap around teams" to individualize intervention to help meet the needs of struggling students based on requests from the administrators.</i></p> <p><i>Roane Schools were recently awarded the ELC Grant which will provide funding to purchase mental health and SEL curriculum for educators to use in the classroom to teach and implement behavioral strategies to help our students become successful. The ELC Grant will also provide funding for our school counselors to purchase supplies to provide mult-sensory environments for our students as well as equipping our schools nursing clinics with rapid Covid testing.</i></p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p><i>Social Distancing:</i> <i>Our district encourages social distancing within schools by hanging social distancing signs/posters and placing social distancing floor decals throughout each facility. Three to six feet social distancing is also implemented for larger activities/events that take place in each school. Our district also encourages social distancing in our classrooms by placing students at least three to six feet apart. Our schools also place our students in consistent pods/cohorts to minimize contact with all the students in the classroom. Our district is also doing their best to use "podding" seating in the cafeteria so students are consistently in the same placement everyday. All classrooms, buses, and cafeteria developed a consistent pod/cohort seating charts to ensure that we are contact tracing, when needed, with accuracy. Our district wide leadership team monthly meetings are held virtually when space is not available to social distance. Classroom teachers are also using zoom/google meet with students when space is limited and unable to social distance. Virtual/Zoom Professional development and trainings are an option for our faculty and staff.</i></p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p><i>Hand Washing:</i> <i>Our schools communicate to our students, faculty and staff the importance of hand washing by providing frequent breaks throughout the day along with before and after lunch times. We partner with UT Extension to provide proper hygiene education classes, especially at the elementary and middle school level, to teach the proper way of hand washing. UT extension, along with our school nurses, also teach proper way to protect others when coughing and sneezing. We also provide hand sanitizer for all of our schools to be placed in the</i></p>

hallways, classrooms, cafeterias, office areas, and gymnasiums. Our school nurses are providing hand washing, proper sneezing/coughing, and virus prevention lessons at their respective schools.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation

Cleaning/Maintaining Facilities:

Our district provides and maintains a bottle of cleaning solution and all purpose dry wipes for every classroom including gymnasium/physical education teachers at every school so they may sanitize their desks and equipment as needed. Our schools are equipped with sanitizing cleaning wipes to help in efforts in cleaning their rooms as well. Our contracted janitorial services also provide extra cleaning during the pandemic. Our janitorial service are making sure well traveled areas such as door knobs, bathrooms, sinks, etc., are constantly being sanitized for added protection against the spread of the virus. The office of Coordinated School Health uses a monthly PPE/Supply Google order form that is sent to our school admin to complete in order to inform our office of current cleaning/ppe needs.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Contact Tracing:

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year; the school district's Covid Response Team which included the director of schools, elementary supervisor, middle school supervisor, high school supervisor, coordinated school health director, school nurse supervisor, and the Roane County Health Department Director to develop Covid Contact Tracing Plan for our schools to follow. The Roane County Health Department Director held a Contact Tracing "train the trainer" training for our team. The Covid team then trained our assistant principals at every school as our contact tracers. Roane Schools Covid team also developed a Covid Google Spreadsheet to be shared with each school contact tracer, director of schools, coordinated school health and our local health department for updated, live reported covid contact tracing data to be shared with the state department of health as well.

Contact Tracers (Assistant Principals) are assigned at every school and if necessary, will use our Covid Google Spreadsheet to log our students affected by Covid and will notify the cases with a estimated return date and to be expecting a call from the State Health Department case investigator with the official RTS (Return to School) date.

RCS Covid Response Team will ue the following Contact Tracing Phase approach that would provide a safe and healthy learning environment based on the current Covid data.

2023-2024 Contact Tracing Phases:

Phase One – Contact Trace Positive, Household, and Close Contacts Cases

Phase Two – Contact Trace Positive and Household Cases

Phase Three – Contact Trace Positive Cases

*Phase Four – No Contact Tracing (**Starting our the 23-24 sy in Phase Four**)*

**Phases are determined based on current Covid data and communication with our local health department*

Current CDC Contact Tracing Guidance:

Positive Cases - Isolate 5 days from onset of symptoms, return on day 6

RCS has developed a Covid Dashboard, if needed, which keeps live data that reflects student and staff positive cases and the percentage of positive strudents per school. The Director of schools, Coordinated School Health,

and local health department are consistently monitoring live data with number of positives, close contacts, and household cases which helps make decisions concerning the health and safety of our students. Our local health department uses our shared Covid Google Spreadsheet to send up the chain to the State Covid case investigators to make contact with the families to set the official RTS (Return to School) date.

Diagnostic and screening testing

Diagnostic and Screening Testing:

We are constantly communicating with our local health department in regards to the latest Covid testing procedures/guidelines in order to keep our school students and staff informed with accurate information. Our local health department has a continuous open referral to Covid testing for our employees and students. Our CSH director is consistently communicating and consulting with our local health department for the newest, quickest, and most accurate testing available. Our local health department is now handing out "Home Base" testing kits for parent/students/staff to take home as self test. The test consist of PCR and Rapid Testing that can provide results in around 15 minutes. Our school system is always consulting with our local health department to communicate questions regarding covid testing especially those that come from our school contact tracers. Our local health department is a great asset to lean on when we have Covid test verification issues that come up from time to time. We recently received a ELC Grant which will provide funding for Covid Testing in each of our 17 school nursing clinics. Covid testing clinics at each school will provide real time test results which can help keep our students in school. RCS recently partnered with East TN Children's Hospital to provide Virtual Health Care to our students which gives them access to a Dr. appointment on demand and when needed. Through ETCH we are able to provide our students not only covid testing but flu and strep test as well.

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

Vaccinations:

The Coordinated School Health coordinator is in constant contact with our local health department for the latest strategic guidance regarding vaccines. Roane Schools partners with our local pharmacies to schedule Staff Flu Shots in the month of September. We have scheduled our local health department to use our elementary schools in the evenings to hold Covid/Flu Vaccines for students, parent, staff, and community. One of our high schools, Midtown Educational Center, was approved last year as a Covid vaccination site. We provided 1st and 2nd dose of vaccines to an estimated 70% of our faculty and staff. The Office of Coordinated School Health periodically provides information regarding locations of Covid booster shots to our faculty, staff and students. OCSH also sends out reminders to school faculty, students and staff to be sure to make an appointment with our local health department to receive their Covid booster shots.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

Vaccinations:

The Coordinated School Health coordinator is in constant contact with our local health department for the latest strategic guidance regarding vaccines. Roane Schools partners with our local pharmacies to schedule Staff Flu Shots in the month of September. We have scheduled our local health department to use our elementary schools in the evenings to hold Covid/Flu Vaccines for students, parent, staff, and community. One of our high schools, Midtown Educational Center, was approved last year as a Covid vaccination site. We provided 1st and 2nd dose of vaccines to an estimated 70% of our faculty and staff. The Office of Coordinated School Health periodically provides information regarding locations of Covid booster shots to our faculty, staff and students. OCSH also sends out reminders to school faculty, students and staff to be sure to make an appointment with our local health department to receive their Covid booster shots.

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.

Roane County Schools are ensuring continuity of academic services by providing programs to help students regain learning loss that occurred due to Covid. RCS is providing a Summer School Program for grades K-8 per teachers recommendations of students based on test scores. The summer school consist of 4 weeks (month of June) of academic instruction to help students get back on grade level and recover skills. We offer afterschool program (LEAPS) for grades K-8 on certain days of the week to make up work, retake quizzes/tests, and enrichment programs to teach students skills in order to increase knowledge in subject areas. RCS offers afterschool tutoring/credit recovery classes for each of our high schools in order to help students recover credits and to stay on track to graduate. RCS aslo funded additional resources to address learning loss such as IXL program, IReady Instruction, USA test prep and hiring two learning loss inversionists (math and reading).

The RCS nutrition services can provide food services for students/families dealing with quarantines/isolations. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our school nutrition department has provided bag lunch pickup and delivery, summer meals, supper for elementary after school programs, snack meals for middle school afterschool programs.

RCS school Counselors , Student Support Team, Behavior Interventionist and Social Emotional Learning Interventionist are working to address the behavioral, mental health and social, emotional concerns we see in our students. Through the ELC grant, we have additional social workers to help alleviate the high number of students who are struggling. Through the ELC grant, we are purchasing curriculum and programs to help our teachers teach the students about their mental health. These programs will also give teachers the tools to teach social and emotional skills to our students.

The Social Emotional Learning Interventionist has presented an introduction to ACEs to the majority of staff to help them understand the needs our students have that cause them to struggle academically and behaviorally. It was also discussed in this presentation how staff can access mental health resources by using the Employee Assistance Program through their insurance.

Based on a "needs assessment" survey given to all staff from the Social Emotional Learning Interventionsit, it was determined that staff are interested in additional training in social, emotional skills and mental health needs of our students. Through the ELC grant, we are purchasing and making available professional development for all staff to help identify the mental health needs as well as social and emotional deficits of our students. This will be available through on-demand training as well as live in-person training.