

# Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 2022-2023

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 (Feb. 15 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: Union County School system

Date: 9/8/2022

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

Union County School District sent a survey using our student information system. Each student and guardian received an email with a Google survey link. The survey included questions on how they thought how the money should be spent or what would be beneficial to the Union County school system. Each fund that is spent is brought forth to the Local School Board to discuss the reasoning behind spending and benefits for each purchase, which is held in an open form.

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

Union County School system works with the local health department in detail. For the past year and moving forward, once a change is made in policy by either schools or state, all parties meet to discuss next steps and responsibilities. For example, 2021-2022 school year saw a change in whom does contact tracing and notifications. UCPS worked with local health department to set these changes in place to make certain that all were following these responsibilities and guidelines.

For this year, 2022-2023, Union County will be following recommendations from the health department according to contact tracing and notifications of families. The decision was there will be no contact tracing and schools will be notified when the student has tested positive by the doctor with their recommended quarantine and isolation times.

**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>For every child with a disability, they have the same opportunity to health and safety plans as regular education students.</p> <p>Teachers are required to live stream classes for students that will be quarantined or isolated at home. Schools will make certain that the student has a working computer, camera, and internet service to be able to do this.</p> <p>In certain circumstances, home bound can be provided by either an in person teacher at their home or coming to school at non-school hours.</p> <p>Students needs will be considered on an individual basis following their IEP or 504 plan.</p> <p>3-6ft rule when applicable</p> <p>Additional teachers are being used to reduce classroom size.</p> <p>One to one computers are being utilized to eliminate hands on materials in the classroom.</p>
<p><i>Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)</i></p> <p>3-6ft rule when applicable</p> <p>Additional teachers are being used to reduce classroom size.</p> <p>One to one computers are being utilized to eliminate hands on materials in the classroom</p>
<p><i>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</i></p> <p>Signs in hallways, bathrooms, and classrooms representing proper hand washing practice.</p>
<p><i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i></p> <p>With newer strains of viruses becoming more numerous, different cleaning solutions are being used to combat the ever changing strains.</p> <p>Additional custodial staff are utilized pulling from different schools to deep clean when "outbreaks" occur in individual schools.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i></p> <p>Contact tracing will not be done this school year. If a student is showing symptoms of COVID, they are to remain at home under guidance of their primary care physician. Students while at home, under primary care physician orders, will need to complete all assignments by either utilizing Google classroom or Canvas. The district will provide a person to initially communicate all of these needs when the student is at home for an extended stay.</p>
<p><i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i></p> <p>COVID testing will still be available at each school. The same protocol will be used in relation to testing as it was set forth from SY 21-22. Tests will be available to staff and students that believe they have been exposed or needing to test.</p>



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

Both 1st and 2nd booster shots were available to all school employees during the year if wanted. A local pharmacy teamed up to distribute the 2nd booster as soon as it was available.

*Universal and correct wearing of masks*

UCPS is following the governor's law signed effective November 12, 2021.  
Code Annotated § 58-2-107, do hereby order that a student's parent or guardian shall have the right to opt out of any order or requirement for a student in kindergarten through twelfth-grade to wear a face covering at school, on a school bus, or at school functions, by affirmatively notifying in writing the local education agency or personnel at the student's school.

**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.**

UC students will continue to have access to high-quality instructional and learning materials while remaining engaged with classroom activities. Classroom content will be provided by the assigned teacher 48 hours after the student enters quarantine to keep on pace with in-person instruction.

**Before a student leaves for home, schools make sure the student has internet access. If not, they can check out one of the provided hot spots available.**

Possible assignments could vary due to grade level, school, and teachers but could include any of the following:

- Face-to-face instruction/communication through Zoom or Google Meet
- Group activities assigned through Google Classroom or Canvas
- Lessons using videos or screencasts
- Hands-on activities to be completed at home
- Virtual Labs
- Independent reading, writing, research, exercises, or projects
- Using digital resources
- Hard copies of assignments

To be a successful student at home, communication is the key factor.

A UCPS employee will reach out to the students when they are placed in quarantine.

- Also, a guidance counselor will be staffed full time at all schools during the year. These counselors will be used to council students but also provide classroom activities dealing with emotional and social needs.
- A full time social worker was stationed at the middle school to help with needs for students

and parents.

- Homeroom times are being utilized in schools to develop relationships with students.
- All schools have access to an outside counselor to work with every student. This is provided free at cost by recommendation from school staff.
- Additional curriculum materials are being bought for at home and school use to help with additional interventions and academic needs.
- Intervention teachers are being used to monitor and work with students at every school that might need additional academic help.
- Tutoring is being provided before and after school by teachers using TNAll Corps.
- Union County Schools is purchasing a SEL computer concept so that students will have added capability of emotional help.