Lake County Schools

Safety Protocols for Reopening Schools 21-22

It is the priority of Lake County Schools to implement health and safety protocols to maintain in-person learning for all students.

To protect the safety and health of all students and staff, school officials may send home or deny entry to any student, staff member, or visitor with any symptoms of illness.

Over the summer, all school AC systems, including those in portable classrooms, have been upgraded to include an air purification system.

Transportation:

· Bus drivers will be encouraged to wear a face covering or face shield.

· Students will be encouraged to wear a face covering on the bus.

· High touch areas will be cleaned between routes.

· Each bus will be thoroughly disinfected daily.

· Bus windows will be cracked to allow for greater ventilation.

Bus drivers will maintain a current seating chart for all routes to assist with contact tracing.

The district is actively recruiting more bus drivers to allow for additional bus routes thus reducing the number of students per route.

Arrival:

· Students who are sick are required to stay home.

· Temperature checks will be conducted on any student who exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms. Students exhibiting symptoms, unless determined by the school nurse to pose no threat to other students, will be isolated from other students until the parent arrives to remove the student from the school.

· Upon arrival, students will report to locations assigned by their individual school.

· Supervision will be increased to maintain directional flow, reduce mass gatherings, and support social distancing.

· Students not practicing or unable to practice safe social distancing will be encouraged to wear a face covering.

· Breakfast will be provided using social distancing protocols.

· Extended Day program will also follow the approved safety protocols.

Classroom

Elementary:

· Safe social distancing of three feet will be encouraged in classrooms when possible.

· When social distancing is not possible due to classroom space or by nature of the program/course and/or instructional setting, students will be encouraged to wear a face covering. Face shields are not recommended by the CDC due to limited data to show their effectiveness for source control.

· Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes (when available), soap and water will be readily available to employees, students and visitors.

· Cleaning protocols will be increased, including replacing air filters as required by the manufacturer unless circumstances dictate replacing them sooner. This also includes cleaning cooling coils (evaporator coils) with disinfectant as per manufacturer recommendations.

· Equipment and instruments will be washed or wiped down after each use.

· Disinfectant, antimicrobial, and germicidal fogging of all high touch surfaces will be conducted every 30 days in all schools. Custodians are provided individual bottles of disinfecting spray for the retreatment of surfaces as needed.

· Water fountains will be limited for the purposes of filling personal water bottles. Parents are encouraged to include a water bottle to their child's back-to-school list for daily use.

· Students will be reminded frequently by school personnel about the importance of good hygiene.

At the elementary school level, students will spend time on campus with the same group of students as much as possible, including in the classroom, the cafeteria, media center, and the playground. Interaction with students from other classes will be limited but necessary during intervention time.

Middle and High

· Safe social distancing of three feet will be expected in classrooms when possible.

· When social distancing is not possible due to classroom space or by nature of the program/course and or instructional setting, students will be encouraged to wear a face covering. Face shields are not recommended by the CDC due to limited data to show their effectiveness for source control.

· Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes (when available), soap and water will be readily available to employees, students and visitors.

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· Water fountains will be limited for the purposes of filling personal water bottles. Parents are encouraged to include a water bottle to their child's back to school list for daily use.

· Students will be reminded frequently by school personnel about the importance of good hygiene.

· Outdoor or larger than normal venues (auditoriums, gymnasiums, large meeting rooms, pavilions) will be utilized for activities when feasible to decrease the possibility of transfer of airborne particles (e.g. Lunch, Chorus, Band, Physical Ed, ROTC). The possibility of transfer has been minimized by the installation of the new air filtration systems.

Transitions:

· Group gatherings will be limited when possible. Supervision will be increased to maintain directional flow and social distancing in hallways and common areas.

· Face coverings will be encouraged during transitions if safe social distancing of three feet is not possible or if not being practiced by students.

· Frequent hygiene reminders will be on display in hallways.

Lunch

Elementary

· Students will sit with their classroom cohort to the greatest degree possible.
· Alternative seating areas including outside seating will be utilized when available.
· Hand sanitizer will be available.

Middle and High

· Alternative seating areas will be utilized to promote social distancing options.
· Hand sanitizer will be available.
· Increased point of sale locations will be available during lunch periods.

Dismissal:

· Dismissal will be staggered when possible to reduce mass gatherings.

· Students will be encouraged to wear a face covering when not practicing safe social distancing or if social distancing is not possible.

· Supervision will be increased to maintain directional flow and reduce mass gatherings.

· Extended Day program will follow current safety protocols.

Additional Safety Protocols:

· Parents and visitors will have limited access to the school campus including parents walking students to their child's classroom, having lunch with their child(ren), volunteering and mentoring.

· Volunteers on the school campus will be encouraged to wear a face covering.

· Temperature scanners have been installed in all front offices to temperature check all individuals visiting the school campus.

· Plexiglass shields have been installed in all front offices to separate office staff from guests.

· Schools will schedule meetings, clubs and parent events virtually when feasible.

· Parents of medically vulnerable students should consult with their healthcare provider before returning to school or work.

· Temporary employees providing substitute coverage will be trained on safety protocols before working in a school or on a bus.

· Substitutes will be screened for symptoms, including a temperature check, daily upon arrival to work.

Sanitation and Cleaning Protocols:

· Nurses will work with school administrators to ensure that there is an adequate amount of clinic supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings, gowns, gloves, eye protection, disinfectant cleaners, touchless thermometers, and hand sanitizer.

· Disinfectant and germicidal fogging of all high touch surfaces will be conducted every 30 days in all schools. Custodians are provided individual bottles of disinfectant spray for the retreatment of surfaces when needed.

· Prior to school occupancy, all spaces (including permanent and portable spaces) will be cleaned and sanitized. Frequently touched surfaces would include door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains, desktops, reception countertops and other surfaces as needed. Filters will be replaced in Mechanical HVAC systems with the most efficient that can be supported by its design.

· During School occupancy, cleaning and disinfection procedures will be conducted in accordance with CDC Guidelines. As an added precaution, frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned periodically throughout the day utilizing disinfectants listed for use on COVID-19. Mechanical systems should be operated in accordance with ASHRE recommendations for Relative Humidity air dilution.

· In the event of possible exposure, additional disinfection procedures will be applied as necessary.

· Face coverings will be provided as requested.

Student Becomes Sick on Campus:

· A student who becomes ill or has any COVID-19 symptoms will be removed from the classroom and placed in a supervised, isolated area. The school-based nurse will work with school administration to identify an appropriate isolation area on each campus.

· While waiting for the sick child to be picked up, the school nurse and/or staff should remain as far away as safely possible (preferably 3 feet) while maintaining visual supervision.

· A health evaluation will be conducted by the school nurse.

· Parents/guardians will be contacted for immediate pick-up if considered necessary by the school nurse, supervising RN, or District Health Educator.

· Parents/guardians will be provided information on COVID-19 testing and next steps.

· The school nurse or school administrator will report suspected or confirmed cases to the District COVID contact who will report the information to the Department of Health and assist the school with the required contact tracing.

Communication when Staff/Student Tests Positive for COVID-19:

- All FERPA and HIPAA privacy requirements will be followed. When a suspected or confirmed case is reported, the district COVID contact will be notified to assist each school with the required contact tracing. The school will notify those identified as having contact with an infected individual. For each confirmed case, the school principal or his/her designee, will notify all faculty and staff of a positive case on their school campus. The school and/or district nurse or other trained personnel will be available to share pertinent information with the families of students who are directly impacted in accordance with guidance from the local Department of Health. To ensure the highest level of communication and transparency, all parents will be informed via our phone messaging system of any positive case that is reported on their child's school campus.

· The District is in constant contact with the local Department of Health, and we follow their guidelines for notification and contact tracing.

· The COVID contact will assist the school administrators with contact tracing, communications and reporting of cases to the Lake DOH.

· CDC guidelines along with guidance from the DOH, will define when and how classrooms, a school or schools will be closed in the event of school or community spread.

· Lake County Schools will follow COVID-19 guidelines for quarantining students and staff as recommended by the Lake County Department of Health.

All teachers will maintain a current seating chart for all classes to assist with contact tracing.

Returning to School

Students and staff who are fully vaccinated and who are asymptomatic, do not have to quarantine. (Guidance on vaccination verification still to be provided.)

Positive cases of COVID-19 should be allowed to return to school after meeting the following criteria:

• At least **10 days** have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**

• At least **24 hours** have passed without fever and without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**

• Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

For cases of COVID-19 who were never symptomatic, individuals should be allowed to return after at least 10 days have passed since the specimen collection date of the first positive lab test. **(Subject to change based upon DOH guidance.)**

Please note that based on the recommendation from a healthcare professional, persons with severe illness or patients who are severely immunocompromised may need to be isolated for 20 days.

Ideally, close contacts to cases of COVID-19 may return after completing a 10-day quarantine from the date of last exposure to the case. **(Subject to change based upon DOH guidance.)** An alternative quarantine option that asymptomatic close contacts may follow includes being tested by PCR on Day 6 or later. If negative, they may leave quarantine after Day 7. Without testing, quarantine can end after Day 10, if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. In both of these scenarios, individuals should continue to monitor for symptoms and practice social distancing, good hand hygiene, correct and consistent mask use, etc… through Day 10. Close contacts who develop symptoms within the 10 days should seek medical care and testing. Once the contact's symptoms resolve, if they test PCR-negative for COVID-19 on Day 6 or later after exposure, the contact may return to school and activities after the 7-day quarantine period ends. If the contact tests positive or does not seek testing at all, then the individual is considered a case and should follow the release from isolation guidance for cases of COVID-19.

Exceptional Student Education:

Students in self-contained ESE programs are strongly encouraged to attend full-time instruction at their 2021-2022 enrolled school. Remote learning and other reasonable accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis according to students' individual needs.

Social Distancing, Barriers, and other Measures to prevent the Spread in Schools:

In addition to making every effort to make safe social distancing (3 feet) possible in classrooms, other important safety measures include frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing products in classrooms. Personal protective equipment will be provided to employees as requested to include gloves, face coverings and gowns.

Safety protocols are subject to change based on updated or new recommendations from the local Department of Health or Governor's Executive Orders.