






21-22 Learn Lafayette

#learnlafayette

 LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

2021-2022 REOPENING PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Letter from Superintendent..... 3
	Overview & Resources..... 4
	Health & Safety..... 5
	Teaching & Learning..... 11
	Transportation..... 13
	Extracurricular Activities..... 14
	Meals..... 15



LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dear LPSS School Community:

Once again we are heading into a new school year with many challenges ahead of us. While concerns about student, teacher, and staff safety remain a central focus, we have the availability of COVID-19 vaccinations and successful prior experience to draw upon. Thanks to the hard work of so many last year — parents, teachers, administrators, students, and support staff — we were able to keep our campuses safe and maintain in-person learning. Numerous studies indicate that there is no replacement for in-person instruction. Additionally, recently released [state-wide data](#) indicate that students who attended school in-person performed at higher levels on state assessments when compared to students who participated in virtual learning models in the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to work to provide high quality, in-person instruction for our students.

In order to meet this goal, LPSS has developed a plan that outlines mitigation measures and strategies that will be implemented to make sure our schools are safe again this year. The plan is based on the best available information today, but as we learn more — or as local conditions change — we will be reviewing and updating our protocols as needed. LPSS's Learn Lafayette plan will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus.

Please know that we will follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.

Irma D. Trosclair
Superintendent

Please note that this plan is subject to change based on COVID-19 context in our community and schools.



OVERVIEW & RESOURCES

- The 2021-2022 academic year will begin on August 12, 2021, as outlined [here](#).
- This reopening plan was developed based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE).
- Based on school and/or local community COVID-19 context and rates of transmission COVID-19, mitigation measures may be adjusted accordingly throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[LDOE Ready to Achieve 2021-2022 School Operational Guidelines](#)

[Louisiana Department of Health](#)

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Lafayette Parish School System is committed to maintaining the health and well-being of our students and staff. Providing our students and staff with safe environments in which to teach and learn is our top responsibility. In collaboration with medical experts, we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and take guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the Louisiana Department of Education. The 2021-2022 Learn Lafayette plan provides an overview of COVID-19 health and safety protocols in place. This guidance will be reviewed and adjusted as needed based on the context of COVID-19 in our community and schools, and as new guidance from health and government officials is received.

The State of Louisiana follows the guidelines of public health experts when making decisions regarding the resumption of instruction in public and nonpublic school facilities. Louisiana's plan for the statewide reopening of schools outlines phases that are initiated once certain public health criteria are met. Throughout these phases, restrictions will be gradually relaxed as the public health situation improves, allowing greater flexibility. Should the public health situation decline, restrictions may also be gradually tightened. Lafayette Parish School System is prepared for either situation to occur during the course of the year. We will continue to adhere to national, state, and local guidance for safety and operational protocols and practices.

Facial Coverings

- Face coverings are optional unless otherwise mandated by the Governor of the State of Louisiana or the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- ~~All LPSS employees are required to wear face coverings.~~
- ~~Students in grades PreK-12 are required to wear face coverings.~~
 - [Wearing a Face Mask Properly](#)
- When purchasing facial coverings, please be reminded of the following district policy:
 - No clothing should contain anything that would be offensive in nature to any population of students. Any combination of clothing and jewelry that law enforcement agencies currently consider gang-related are not permitted. Discriminatory, obscene, or drug/alcohol-related emblems, insignia, jewelry, signs, speech, or literature that is discriminatory, inflammatory or derogatory toward any sex, race, nationality, creed, political or philosophical group, is obscene or contains profanity, or makes reference to drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco are not permitted.
- With proper medical documentation, exceptions will be considered on an individual basis for individuals with health concerns.
- ~~All fully vaccinated and unvaccinated adults and students do not need to wear a face mask if they adhere to physical distancing requirements while outdoors.~~

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- In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, individuals should wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

Personal Hygiene

- Students and staff should wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at school, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, and before exiting the school facility.
- Students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after changing any classroom.
- Teachers in the classroom should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer every time a new group of students enters.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used in place of handwashing in some instances.

Environmental Cleaning

- High-touch surfaces should be cleaned with a commercially available cleaning solution, including EPA-approved disinfectants, at least twice per day, as needed.
- This includes:
- Light switches, doors, benches, banisters, desks, bathroom fixtures, etc.
 - Surfaces and objects in libraries, labs, and other settings where “hands-on” materials and equipment are used.
 - Sharing of materials between students should be minimized.
 - Playground equipment and athletic equipment should be cleaned as necessary, depending on the frequency of use.
 - School employees will be provided an adequate amount of hygienic supplies according to the role and the number and age of students or adults served by that employee.
 - Ventilation filters will be changed regularly throughout the school year.

Group Sizes

- The maximum group size that may convene indoors in a single room will be determined by physical distancing requirements to the greatest extent possible.
- To the greatest extent possible, limit crowding at entry and exit points and maintain maximum group sizes and physical distance recommendations.
- Limit the use of indoor shared spaces, such as cafeterias and gymnasiums, to maximize group sizes, ensure physical distance and face-covering use, and clean between each group’s use.

School Procedures

- Change student drop-off and pick-up processes to limit contact.
- Remove unused furniture in classrooms to maximize physical distance and minimize objects that must be cleaned.

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Visitors

- Identify and utilize large spaces (e.g. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces) to enable physical distancing.
- Designate areas of the hallway (i.e., lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated and to minimize the congregation of students.
- Have students enter and exit in single-file lines to enable physical distance.
- Establish one or two entry and exit points that enable the flow of students to move in a single direction.
- Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Nonessential visitors or non-district employees:
 - must wear face masks and maintain a physical distance of six feet from others.
 - will have their temperature taken and must sanitize their hands upon arrival.
 - are urged to make appointments in advance to limit crowding in office areas.
- Essential visitors are individuals who must enter schools in order to conduct visits in accordance with Louisiana law or policy. Essential visitors include, but are not limited to, individuals, who:
 - conduct CLASS observations.
 - observe teacher candidates as part of the teacher preparation quality rating system.
 - provide essential support and services including, but not limited to, early intervention services, special education services, and mental health consultation.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Students or employees exhibiting [COVID-19 symptoms](#) are not to report to work or school. Please help us keep our students and employees safe.
- Students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be moved to an isolated space and parents will be called to pick them up from school immediately.

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Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Schools should plan for and expect that some students/staff will contract COVID-19 during the school year, given the levels of COVID-19 in our communities.
- Students and staff who have COVID-19 must stay home and remain isolated until they have recovered and have been determined to no longer be infectious according to CDC's end of isolation criteria.
- Students will notify the school and employees will notify their immediate supervisor if they test positive for COVID-19. Students should also use this form to report cases [here](#) and staff should report cases [here](#) using this form.
- Schools will communicate with employees and parents of students who were in close contact with the affected COVID-19 individual.
- All COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Louisiana Department of Health in accordance with the School Reporting and Data-Sharing Order.
- Closures of individual classes and/or schools may be necessary. Factors considered will be the level of community transmission, number of students/faculty affected, and risk of spread at the school.

Contact Tracing

- Individuals who were in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case may be identified and contacted as part of the Louisiana Department of Health contact tracing process.
- Close contact is defined as being within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period OR having direct contact with an infected person, including touching, hugging, kissing, or sharing eating or drinking utensils; or if an infected person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on another person.
- Indoor Classroom Exception:
 - If BOTH the case and the contact were engaged in the consistent and correct use of a well-fitting face mask AND were within three to six feet of each other, then those close contacts do not need to quarantine.
 - [Wearing a Face Mask Properly](#)
 - This exception only applies to students and should not be used for teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Close contacts are encouraged to seek testing immediately, regardless of vaccination status. If negative, they should be tested again between 5-7 days post-exposure.
- Close contacts of a COVID-19 positive individual must stay home for 10-14 days following exposure. If no symptoms develop during quarantine and no testing is done, the individual may quarantine for 10-14 days from the last contact with a COVID-19 case. If quarantine is shortened, daily symptom monitoring and strict adherence to prevention measures including physical distancing, hand washing, and wearing face masks are to continue until 14 days from the last contact with a COVID-19 case.

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- If no symptoms develop during quarantine AND they have a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than day 5 after their last exposure: they may quarantine for 7 days from the last contact with a COVID-19 case.
- If no symptoms develop during quarantine and no testing is done, they may quarantine for 10 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case.
- Because there is an increased risk of post-quarantine transmission associated with options to shorten quarantine, it is recommended the use of the 14-day quarantine period in daycare and other school settings where physical distancing among children is not maintained. In addition, due to the high rates of transmission that have been observed among K-12 sports teams, exposed individuals will not participate in athletic events where distancing is not maintained until the full 14-day quarantine has been completed.
- Close contacts who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.
- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single-dose vaccine) at the time of exposure and remain asymptomatic do not need to be quarantined.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Eligible students and staff have opportunities throughout the school year to receive the COVID-19 vaccination at various health care facilities. To find a vaccination site near you, click [here](#).
- Vaccination sites may be available at various LPSS facilities throughout the school year.
- Vaccinations will be administered to consented individuals and provided by local health care partners.
- Prevention strategies to protect people who are not fully vaccinated in schools with young children who are not eligible for vaccination should be layered.
- No student shall be vaccinated at an LPSS facility without a parent or legal guardian present and consenting.
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#)

Social-Emotional Support

- Schools will provide support to students identified as needing social and emotional support.
- Counselors and/or social workers will connect students and their families to outside mental health professionals as needed.
- Staff will continue to receive training on identifying and supporting students who have experienced trauma and who are in need of social and emotional support.
- Lafayette Parish School System will continue to provide counseling services to staff as needed through our EAP services. Contact our Employee Services Department at 337.521.7050 for more information.

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Other Safety Measures

- Limit the use of indoor shared spaces, such as cafeterias and gymnasiums, to maximum group sizes. Ensure physical distancing and proper use of face masks. The maximum group size that may convene indoors in a single room will be determined by physical distancing requirements to the greatest extent possible.
- ~~Clean between each group's use.~~
- Clean water fountains frequently throughout the day. Students and staff are encouraged to bring bottled water from home.
- COVID-19 informational signs will be displayed in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms, etc.) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a face mask).
- All employees will participate in health and safety training throughout the school year.

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TEACHING & LEARNING

The Lafayette Parish School System's top priority is student learning. Although our virtual and hybrid learning platforms were necessary for the 2020-21 school year, our goal this year is that students in grades PK-12 attend school in-person to receive important face-to-face instruction. As numerous research studies have indicated, there is no replacement for the classroom teacher and in-person instruction.

Based on COVID-19 transmission rates, schools may shift to a hybrid or 100% virtual learning platform, either on a school-by-school or a district-wide basis. Parents and guardians are reminded to have contingency plans in place for childcare in the event that a class or school moves to a hybrid or virtual learning model.

School or Class Closures

- All decisions about implementing school-based strategies (e.g., dismissals, event cancellations, other social distancing measures) will be made locally, in collaboration with the superintendent/principal and medical authorities.
- Factors that will be considered in closing a school or classroom will be the level of transmission, number of students/faculty affected, and risk of spread at the school.
- In the event of an increase in COVID transmission on a school campus, mitigation measures may be strengthened, which may include face coverings.
- Should a class or school need to be closed temporarily due to transmission rates or quarantines, students will be provided devices to complete assignments. In the event of a school or class closure, students will receive instructions from their base school on assignments, work, and return to school dates.
- The Lafayette Parish School System may revert to hybrid or virtual learning platforms as needed. Families are reminded to have contingency plans in place for childcare in the event that a class or school moves to a hybrid or virtual learning model.
- LPSS is a 1:1 district. This means that LPSS has a device for every student in the district, grades PreK-12.

Continuity of Services

In the event of a class or school closure:

- Students will be issued a device to complete assignments.
- School leaders and classroom teachers will communicate with families and students regarding teaching and learning.
- Teachers will facilitate learning, and offer support and guidance.
- Grades are assigned.

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- Attendance is recorded daily.
- Students identified as needing home internet access will be issued a mobile hotspot.
- Students with disabilities will continue to receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment.
- Students unable to connect to digital learning will be provided paper assignments.
- Grab and go meals pick-up services will be provided.
- Smart Buses with Wi-Fi connectivity are available at all school sites.

Physical Education

Locker Rooms

- Locker rooms are not to be used for changing which prevents students from dressing out for P.E. We will continue to evaluate and adjust as needed.
- Students are encouraged to attend physical education classes dressed in clothing and shoes that are suitable for physical activity.

Physical Education Uniforms

- P.E. uniforms will NOT be required for middle and high school students for the 2021-2022 school year.
- In the event that guidelines change as we move forward and students have access to locker rooms, students will be allowed to bring school appropriate shorts, shoes, and t-shirts to change into.

Physical Environment

- When possible, outdoor spaces for physical education instruction will be utilized.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to stay hydrated properly.
- Current guidance discourages the use of shared equipment; any equipment for individual use will be sanitized ~~at least twice daily.~~ **as needed.**

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TRANSPORTATION

Transportation

- According to the Presidential Executive Order No. 13998 on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel and CDC order, all drivers and passengers on the school bus must wear a face mask at all times, regardless of capacity.
- Families are encouraged to drive their children to school if possible. This will reduce the number of students on buses.
- Parents and students are encouraged to maintain physical distance at bus stops and to avoid congregating in groups while waiting for the bus.
- All passengers should engage in hand hygiene upon entering the bus. Hand sanitizer should not exceed 80% alcohol concentration and containers are to be securely closed, secured against shifting, and protected from damage.
- Operational Standards
 - Seating charts will be created and consistently enforced.
 - Open windows at all times to facilitate airflow as weather conditions permit.
 - Stagger unloading of buses at school to minimize student group size as they enter school and to allow six feet of distance while entering.
 - ~~Clean high touch surfaces, including seats and handrails twice a day.~~
 - Buses will be cleaned and disinfected **as needed, including high-touch surfaces, including seats and handrails.**

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Assemblies & Field Trips

- Avoid activities that require the congregation of students or staff.
- Assemblies are limited to maximum group sizes with appropriate physical distancing in place. For younger students unable to maintain physical distance, maintain static groups. The maximum group size that may convene indoors in a single room will be determined by physical distancing requirements.
- Attendees must wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status for indoor events.
- Students and staff should wash their hands before and after events.
- Field trips may occur on a prioritized and limited basis if strictly following masking, cohorting, and transportation requirements, only after prior approval from both the site-based administrator and district staff.
- Field trips will not be approved during periods of high transmission rates in the community or school. Factors that will be considered in approving or denying a particular school-sponsored event will be the level of community transmission, level of transmission at host-site, number of students/faculty affected, and risk of spread at the school which may result in an interruption of teaching and learning.
- Outdoor field trip opportunities should be prioritized.

Athletics

- Athletic activities are allowed to resume with the recommendations put forth in the [Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities](#).
- Outdoor and indoor spectator capacity for LHSAA-sanctioned athletics shall be set in accordance with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's guidelines that were developed in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health at opensafely.la.gov.

Band, Vocal, & Music

- Band or vocal activities may occur indoors or outdoors. When the band and vocal music classes are unable to practice outdoors, the class can be held indoors in accordance with [National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music and Education Guidance](#)

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MEALS

Food Preparation and Meal Service

- Wash hands before and after every meal.
- Ensure six feet of distance between students while eating to the maximum extent possible.
- Utilize classrooms for eating in place if possible.
- Allow students to bring food from home.
- Stagger meal times for each group and adhere to maximum group size based on physical distancing requirements in the cafeteria.
- Use disposable utensils.
- Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines; designate entrances and exit flow paths; ensure single-file lines for food lines and disposal.
- Utilize outdoor seating as practical and appropriate.
- Food and nutrition staff will:
 - Clean frequently touched surfaces such as kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, door handles, carts and trays ~~at least twice a day.~~ **as needed.**
 - Follow the directions on the cleaning product's label and clean your hands afterward.
 - Practice proper hand hygiene. This is an important infection control measure. Gloves must be worn throughout the preparation and service of food.
 - Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used, but not as a substitute for cleaning hands with soap and water.

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