

Lamar County School District

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

2021-2022



This document is subject to updates and changes as guidance from the Governor's Office, MSDH and MDE is released.

UPDATED 8/18/2021

Return to School Plan

MSDH Guidance Released July 31, 2021

Mississippi is experiencing substantial and high levels of transmission of COVID-19, with increased cases, hospitalizations, and numerous outbreaks in multiple settings, including among students engaged in school sponsored activities and in school settings. The proportion of cases and hospitalizations among children <18 years of age is rapidly increasing, while the rate of COVID-19 vaccinations remain low in these same age groups. Additionally, 5 deaths among children <18 years of age have been reported in Mississippi.



Return to School Plan

The Lamar County School District intends to begin the 2021-2022 school year with the traditional school model for all students. Schools will begin with in-person instruction on all campuses as scheduled on Thursday, July 22 for students with last names A - K and Friday, July 23 for students with last names L - Z. All students will attend beginning Monday, July 26.

Each school campus will offer in-person instruction in a manner in which adheres, to the maximum extent practicable, any current applicable mitigation strategies to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 that have been provided by the Governor's Executive Order, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mississippi Department of Health, the Mississippi Department of Education, and local health officials to determine the safest protocols for students and staff.

In the event of unplanned/unforeseen circumstances, LCSD may opt to utilize designated school-wide or district-wide virtual learning days throughout the school year.

Virtual learning days will include a combination of instructional time and classwork for a minimum of 330 minutes via Google Meet, Google Classroom, and student assignments. Assignments will be submitted in Google classroom. Students, parents, and staff will be notified in advance of any virtual learning days. Chromebooks will be made available at the home school. Students without reliable Internet access will call the school to get permission so that the student's graded assignments can be completed upon the student's return to campus.



Face Coverings

For the safety of our students and staff, starting Monday, August 2, the Lamar County School District will require face coverings to be worn by all staff and students. This requirement will cover all indoor areas including buses and outdoor areas when social distancing is not possible. The decision to continue wearing face coverings will be based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools.

Thank you for helping us to continue providing face to face instruction as long as we possibly can while we navigate through this pandemic. This guidance is subject to change based on MSDH/CDC guidance, and the Governor's Executive orders.

Academic Programming

The goal of this plan is to build on the successes of the 2020-2021 school year reopening plan. Lamar County School District will follow its previously approved school calendar.

LCSD will no longer have early release on Wednesdays beginning in July 2021.



Academic Intercessions

Intercession learning opportunities will be offered during Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. Intercessions are optional days of extended learning offered during the fall and spring break of the new flexible calendar, designed for remediation and enrichment. Intercessions are staffed by teachers, support staff, and administrators in the Lamar County Schools. Students in need of remedial support are highly encouraged to attend intercession sessions to catch up on coursework if they are behind.

Intercession curriculum offerings will be determined by staff and the number of students who enroll for the intercessions. A draft of our class offerings will be made available to families in early September 2021 in order to give parents and students time to make decisions about participation in intercession.

Intercession Weeks: September 27-October 1, 2021, 8:00am - 12:00pm and March 14-18, 2022, 8:00am - 12:00pm.

- Breakfast and Lunch will be served
- The district will provide transportation from home and back each day.



Operations

Social distancing will be implemented where it is possible. Additionally, assigned seating will be utilized in every classroom, cafeteria, and bus throughout the district. Classrooms will be arranged to achieve the greatest level of distancing.

Each school will set up a procedure for student check in and student check out.

In order to promote the healthiest environment possible, there will be restrictions for visitors throughout the school day.

When possible, windows will be open on school buses to aid in ventilation. Students will be separated on the bus where feasible. Siblings or children living in the same household will be seated together when possible. Buses will be sanitized at the conclusion of each route.

Field trips will be allowed during the 2021-2022 school year, pending State guidance. All District policies and procedures will apply to field trips.



Operations, continued

All programs that fall under the guidance of MHSAA will follow their policies and procedures.

The LCSD dress code for the 2021-2022 school year has been updated.

Federal guidelines will be followed during breakfast and lunch. Dining room protocols may vary from school to school based on school population and the size of the cafeteria.

Family and Community Support

Family-teacher conferences will be conducted through an online platform to minimize in-person contact.

Teachers will continue to utilize Google Classroom for instructional purposes.

Communications

The Lamar County School District will continue to use various methods for family and community communication (School Status, District website, social media). Active Parent will be used for student registration and checking student academic performance. Class schedules for the 2021-2022 school year will be posted in the Active Parent/Student accounts.



Health and Safety

All classrooms and schools will be cleaned and sanitized at the end of each day, including common touch points such as desks and door handles.

Those areas that have different groups of students throughout the day will be cleaned throughout the day between the different groups of students utilizing them.

Other common touch points will be sanitized frequently throughout the day. Hand washing and hand sanitizing will be highly promoted throughout each day.

No one should be attending school if they are experiencing symptoms of illness. Employees or students who have a temperature of 100°F or higher will be sent home. Parents are expected to send students to school symptom-free, including being fever free for 24 hours without medication and following any return-to-school guidelines if they were previously ill.

Temperature checks will no longer be required. Employees or students who are not feeling well should contact their administrator or teacher immediately.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we will seek guidance from the Governor's Office, Mississippi Department of Health, the CDC and local health officials to determine if a mask or face covering will be required for schools.



Health and Safety, continued

When students or staff display COVID-19 Symptoms:

- The school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine when and if a student should be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contacted the student's parent/guardian.
- Students will not be allowed to use school/daycare transportation if they are symptomatic or listed as a close contact.
- Other students in the classroom will be taken to an alternate location on campus so that the classroom can be disinfected.
- School administrators will send notifications via School Status for positive cases, close contact notifications, and group exposure. It is extremely important that parents have their correct contact information on file with the school in order to receive these notifications immediately. If you receive a notification, detailed information is outlined in the following links:
 - [GROUP CONTACT](#)
 - [CLOSE CONTACT](#)
 - [POSITIVE TEST](#)



Health and Safety, continued

- Staff members and students who are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine for close contact unless symptomatic.
- Staff members will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Any staff member who tests for COVID-19 or is symptomatic should not report to a school campus and should notify their supervisor immediately.
- Unvaccinated staff and students who reside in the same home with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self quarantine for 10 days and may not return to campus during that time, nor be allowed to participate in school activities. They may return after 10 days if symptom free.
- All unvaccinated staff and students who are identified as being in close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative 15 minutes during 24 hours) will be sent home for 10 days. If the positive case is NOT in their household, they can get a COVID-19 test on day 5, 6, or 7, and if negative, can return to the school setting on day 8.
- If we are notified that someone is awaiting testing, they will be quarantined. Notifications will only be made when and if that person receives a POSITIVE test result.
- A negative test result for a staff member or student is NOT REQUIRED for return to school after quarantine.



Health and Safety, continued

Employees and students are expected to wash/sanitize their hands multiple times per day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout school facilities.

Employees will help sanitize high touch surfaces throughout the school day.

Windows and doors will be opened slightly when possible to create optimum ventilation.

School site counselors will have individual counseling based upon social/emotional needs. Counselors will maintain current information to support students and families regarding mental health and community services and facilitate classroom meetings to allow students to process their experience.



Voluntary School Based COVID-19 Testing

With funding from the CDC and MSDH, LCSD is implementing voluntary, asymptomatic screening testing for COVID-19 in Pre-K through grade 12, beginning June 1, 2021. Individuals who wish to have a weekly, routine COVID-19 test with the school nurse can do so within the school setting. **School Based Testing will NOT be used for exposed close contacts, who will need to follow the quarantine procedures.**

Weekly School based COVID-19 testing is offered to all unvaccinated staff and students, but is not a Lamar County School District requirement.

Vaccinated individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms are not eligible for School Based COVID-19 Testing and should receive a molecular PCR test if COVID-19 symptoms are present.

Any asymptomatic individual in LCSD is eligible for routine, weekly School Based COVID-19 testing. If an individual **who has not been exposed** to COVID-19 tests positive on a School Based COVID-19 test, a clinical PCR negative result within 48 hours allows them to return to the school setting.



Voluntary School Based COVID-19 Testing

Vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine due to exposure unless symptomatic, even if the positive case is a household member.

Unvaccinated individuals who have a positive household member are required to quarantine.

Unvaccinated individuals have 2 options if they are a close contact to a positive case **who does not reside within their household.**

- Quarantine for 10 days
- Quarantine and receive a COVID-19 test on day 5, 6, or 7 from exposure. If negative, individual can return on Day 8 to the school setting. If positive, must quarantine for the remainder of the 10 days. Quarantine time may be extended based on symptoms.



Vaccination Guidelines

Employees are encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as part of the CDC and MSDH recommendations. Employees will be given opportunities to receive the vaccination at designated sites within our school district and the community. Vaccinations are not mandatory, but compensation may be provided to fully vaccinated staff. Vaccinated staff members will not be required to quarantine for close contact unless they are symptomatic, but testing is recommended. Employees will provide their vaccination record to the COVID Response Officer.

Students who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine due to close contact unless symptomatic, but testing is recommended. Students and families can choose to provide their vaccination record to the district in the event they are listed as a close contact.

Technology

Each student will be assigned a LCSD device to use for daily instruction.

Using the Spring 2021 needs assessment data, the district will plan for professional development opportunities in utilizing technology for faculty and staff to enhance in-person learning. Teachers will continue to utilize Google Classroom.



Learning Options

The goal of the Lamar County School District is for all students to be in the traditional, in-person school setting. Families with special circumstances may be considered for virtual learning if students meet all of the criteria set by MDE. The application will be reviewed by the District's virtual learning committee for final approval. Virtual students will be expected to attend classes at the regularly scheduled time online. Virtual learning applications for the 1st 9 weeks will be accepted until Friday, August 20, 2021. Virtual learning applications for the 2nd 9 weeks must be submitted by Friday, September 24, 2021.

When considering the safety and well being of the students and employees of the LCSD during the COVID-19 pandemic, the superintendent, with approval of the school board COVID committee, can change the learning options of a grade level, school, attendance zone, and/or the entire district. Any change in operation will follow the MDE approved learning options for operating schools in 2021-2022. The current learning options in case of COVID problems and outbreaks are:

Traditional

Virtual (Online)-Students would receive synchronized instruction within Google Classroom and meet their regularly scheduled classes with teachers.

