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

UPDATED JANUARY 3, 2021
Return to School Plan

The Lamar County School District plans to continue the 2021-2022 school year with the traditional school model for all students.

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 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

The Lamar County School District no longer requires the use of cloth face coverings inside our school buildings. Face coverings are highly recommended for all staff and students to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In order to be in compliance with Federal Executive Order 13998, cloth face coverings will still be required on our buses.

Individuals who choose to wear cloth face coverings inside the classroom will be less likely to be quarantined due to being in close contact with COVID-19 positive individuals.

Asymptomatic individuals who are wearing cloth face coverings AND maintain 3 feet or more distance will not have to quarantine if both parties are wearing a cloth face covering. Unvaccinated individuals who choose not to wear cloth face coverings will be quarantined if they are within 6 feet of a positive individual for 15 cumulative minutes or more.

With the guidance from the Mississippi Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control, we still highly recommend and encourage our students and employees to properly use cloth face coverings. We will continue to monitor our student and employee COVID related data to do our best to ensure the safety of everyone in the Lamar County School District.
Academic Intersessions

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

Intersession curriculum offerings will be determined by staff and the number of students who enroll for the intersessions. A draft of our class offerings will be made available to families in early February 2022 in order to give parents and students time to make decisions about participation in intersession.

Intersession Weeks: 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.
Family-teacher conferences will be conducted virtually at this time to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within our school settings.

Teachers will continue to utilize Google Classroom for instructional purposes.

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 virtually at this time to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within our school settings.

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, including common touch points such as desks and door handles.

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

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 5 days and may not return to campus during that time, nor be allowed to participate in school activities. They may return after 5 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 5 days.
- Fully vaccinated means you have received your final dose of Pfizer/Moderna within the last 6 months and you are 14 days from the final dose, received the J&J vaccination within the last 2 months, OR you are 14 days from Booster dose.

- 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.

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. 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 testing with a medical professional 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.

Vaccinated staff members who are exposed to COVID-19 are required to receive testing on day 5 from exposure.

For vaccinated students, it is highly recommended they test for COVID-19 on day 5 following exposure.
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 for 5 days. Testing on Day 5 is required for staff and recommended for students.
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. Vaccinated staff members will not be required to quarantine for close contact unless they are symptomatic, but testing is required for staff on Day 5 following exposure. 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

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.

The virtual learning option for the second grading period ended on Friday, December 17, 2021. After this date, the Virtual Learning Option will no longer be available. All current virtual students are required to return to traditional, face-to-face instruction on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Community Feedback

Thank you for partnering with us in a successful first semester. As we plan for the remainder of the year, we value your input. Please review our Return to School Plan and provide any feedback you think would be beneficial.

https://forms.gle/jFytUzdB4jC75ceF7