

Long Beach School District 2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

GOALS

Goals of the Long Beach School District during the Safe Return to In-school Learning

During the 2021-2022 school year, Long Beach Public School District will uphold the **System of Excellence** by...

- providing a sustained safe learning environment for all students and staff,
- maintaining high academic expectations and focus on student achievement,
- supporting learning environments to promote student achievement,
- addressing social, emotional needs resulting from the pandemic, and
- providing evidence-based intervention aimed at addressing learning loss for all student populations.

Safe Return to In-School Learning Overview

Vaccines: LBSD encourages all eligible students, faculty, and staff ages 5 years and older to receive the COVID-19 vaccination per CDC and MDH recommendations.

Masks: The Long Beach School District will use specified guidelines to aid in the determination of mandatory masking for the district. Please refer to the LBSD COVID-19 Transmission Plan for these guidelines.

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing: Faculty and staff will model and stress the importance of proper hand washing. Signage will be posted to remind students and staff about the importance of hand washing. Bathrooms will be supplied with soap. Cafeterias, eating areas, and classrooms will have hand sanitizer consistently available.

Cleaning: Classrooms, cafeterias, common areas, and buses will be thoroughly cleaned at numerous intervals during the day with deep cleaning occurring after school hours.

Arrival/Dismissal/Transitions: Each campus will implement mitigation strategies such as staggering arrival, dismissal, and class transitions to reduce crowding.

Breakfast and Lunch: Schools will maximize eating areas to reduce the number of students in one area with thorough cleaning in between uses.

Water Fountains: Students will be encouraged to bring their own plastic water bottle that may be refilled using water refilling stations in lieu of fountains throughout the course of the day.

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Learning Environments: Grades K-12 (Quarles, Reeves, Harper McCaughan, Long Beach Middle, and Long Beach High) will implement traditional, on-site, in-person learning.

Distancing: LBSD will adhere to the CDC recommendation of 3 feet of social distancing in its classroom environments at all times possible. In all other settings, LBSD will follow the CDC and MSDH recommendation of 6 feet of social distancing when feasible.

Professional Development: Staff will receive training on measures to reduce the spread of infectious disease in addition to providing social emotional learning to address Covid related trauma. Training will also be provided to staff in the use of instructional technology to support a transition to distance learning should it become necessary in the future.

Learning Loss: Additional time to access curriculum to close gaps in reading and math will be provided by way of tutoring, interventions, and instructional technologies.

Visitors on Campus: Visitors must comply with District policy and procedures. Visitors will be limited to check ins/outs and to attend scheduled meetings and/or conferences.

Extracurricular Activities: LBSD will adhere to the guidance of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, the Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi Department of Health regarding extracurricular events. Additionally, LBSD will adhere to the use of wearing masks for all indoor extracurricular activities including athletic events.

Covid-19 Related Illness

Close Contacts: Students are considered a “close contact” if they are within 6 feet of a COVID-19 infected person who is contagious for 15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period without masks, or have a COVID-19 positive and/or symptomatic unmasked household member. Based on this close contact information, the following instructions are provided:

Exposure Outside of the Household: LBSD will require close contacts from exposure outside of the home (i.e., classroom, playground, daycare) to quarantine. The following guidelines will be implemented.

1. Wearing masks-no symptoms-NO QUARANTINE REQUIRED
2. Fully vaccinated-no symptoms-NO QUARANTINE REQUIRED
3. No mask, no vaccine- QUARANTINE REQUIRED

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Exposure to a Positive Household Member: Students with confirmed positive household members will be required to quarantine. Documentation from a physician (i.e., positive test result, doctor's note) is required for absences to be excused or for Distance Learning to be made available. **Home tests will not be accepted.**

Following potential exposure to a positive close contact, students identified as close contacts will be excluded from the school setting for a minimum of 5 days after last exposure to the case of COVID-19 and should remain quarantined at home for a full 5 days after the last exposure to the case. Students should monitor for symptoms and take temperature twice daily during the entirety of the quarantine period. If at any point, fever or symptoms present, a healthcare provider should be contacted for evaluation. At the end of the 5-day quarantine, students may return to school if no symptoms develop. Upon returning to school, masks will be mandated on days 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 following the exposure.

Reasons the Quarantine Period May Be Waived:

1. Student is fully vaccinated and provides proof of vaccination to their school.
2. Student has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

Testing Positive for COVID: Students, staff and faculty will be isolated for 5 days from the 1st date of symptoms and may return to school/work at the conclusion of the isolation period if symptoms are improved and the individual is fever free for 24 hours. Upon returning to school, masks will be mandated on days 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 following the onset of symptoms. **Home tests will not be accepted.**

Asymptomatic positive cases will be isolated for 5 days from the date of the test. Upon returning to school, masks will be mandated on days 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 following the positive test. **Home tests will not be accepted.**

While a student is awaiting test results, their absences may be excused as an Administrative Absence. Asymptomatic siblings of a student awaiting test results will not be required to stay home.

Close Contact Notification: Official communication by letter or phone call will come from the school to inform the legal parent/guardian if a child has been identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case in the school setting. School administration and/or school nurses reserve the right to quarantine students with masks at their discretion.

Temperature Checks: Temperature checks will be conducted as needed. Students and staff with fever will be immediately sent home. Students will remain supervised until parent/guardian arrives. Also, a questionnaire will be available for consideration at the entrance of the school district's front offices to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

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School Nurses: The school nurse reserves the right to extend out-of-school time based on the severity of symptoms.

Absences: Absences will be excused for the day a student is sent home and the following calendar day. All other days will require a doctor's excuse or a COVID-19 positive test from the student or the student's close contact (household member) in order to receive excused absences. All other days will be unexcused unless the quarantine was initiated by LBSD. In those instances, absences will be excused. Those who return to school after a COVID-19 related absence may be subject to monitoring by a school nurse for 14 days following their return. Documentation from a physician (i.e., positive test result, doctor's note) is required for absences to be excused or for Distance Learning to be made available. **Home tests will not be accepted.**

School Events: Hand sanitizing stations will be available at various locations during events. During increased case cycles, occupancy may be reduced to a per participant count to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community and schools. Participation by parents may be limited depending on available and adequate spacing in conjunction with current data. Assemblies and gatherings will be allowed using the principal's discretion.

School Closures: Local short-term closures may be required with a confirmed outbreak in a class or 3 simultaneous outbreaks in a school/grade.

Disclaimers:

- LBSD will adhere to these aforementioned recommendations to the greatest extent possible.
- LBSD strives to follow CDC guidelines, MDE guidance, and MS Department of Health guidance in all situations possible.
- Schools are implementing procedures and practices in an effort to promote health and safety.
- All plans are subject to change based on updated guidance from MSDH, MDE, CDC, and the Office of the Governor.

**** The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan will be re-evaluated as needed.**