

LAKE HAMILTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

LAKE HAMILTON SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE WOLVES

Ready for Learning

APRIL 2021

LAKE HAMILTON

SCHOOL DISTRICT



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CURRENT GUIDANCE



The Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Department of Education strongly advise districts to continue to follow all measures that have allowed successful in-person learning to occur. Our success in keeping schools open can be attributed to the multiple layers of mitigation strategies that have been implemented by the Lake Hamilton School District, such as social distancing, reduced class sizes, mask-wearing, disinfecting and cleaning, handwashing, and physical distancing.

MASKS

The mask policy will remain in effect at this time. Continuation of mask requirements and proper mask-wearing has the following benefits:

- Wearing masks keeps students and staff healthier.
- Wearing masks helps us avoid quarantining students for potential virus exposure.

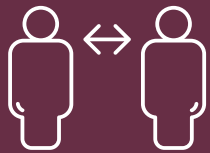


Mask wearing continues to be a very important and effective way to prevent the spread of the virus.

Until further notice, the Lake Hamilton School District will continue its current practice of requiring teachers, students, and visitors to wear masks in all schools and district facilities, as recommended by the Ready for Learning committee.

Our COVID-19 health and safety protocols, including the mask mandate, have allowed us to keep our schools open. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance stating proper mask-wearing may now prevent individuals from being identified as close contacts in K-12 schools that have implemented a mask mandate. This means that if both individuals at school – the person diagnosed with COVID-19 and the person exposed to the positive case – have masks on and are wearing them correctly, the individual exposed does not need to quarantine.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING



LHSD will continue with physical distancing practices that have been in effect since August. The CDC now recommends that, with universal masking, students can maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings. The CDC still recommends social distancing of 6 feet between adults, as well as adults and students in common areas, when masks can't be worn (such as while eating), during activities with increased inhalation like sports or band practice (which would preferably be held outside), and in community settings outside the classroom.

HAND & RESPIRATORY HYGIENE

School staff will continue being proactive in the teaching of hand and respiratory hygiene to students. Signage is posted throughout each school and other facilities encouraging good hygiene practices. Hand sanitizer stations are located in multiple locations in each building on campus and all classrooms. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors are encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.



VENTILATION / AIR CIRCULATION



Evidence suggests that improved air circulation is beneficial in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Whenever possible, teachers may open windows to allow outside air to circulate in the classroom.

VISITORS AT SCHOOL

When possible, parents and visitors should call the school to make an appointment with school staff. Many issues may be resolved by utilizing telephone or online resources. Guests for lunch are not allowed.

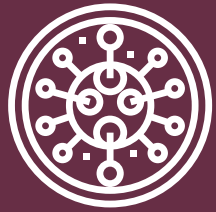


SCREENING



Parents will screen students daily, including taking body temperature and checking for symptoms related to COVID-19, before sending/bringing their children to school. Unless fully vaccinated, all visitors and staff will complete a temperature and symptom screening before entering the building.

RESPONDING TO CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

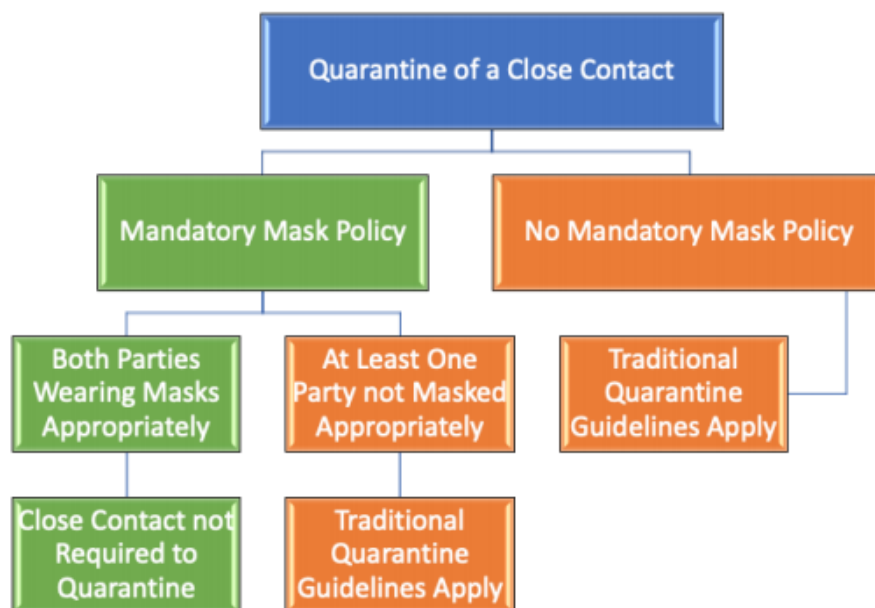


Schools continue to be responsible for responding to confirmed cases within district schools.

Close Contact Determination: The definition of close contact in schools is evolving with the ongoing understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios are determined in consultation with the district point of contact and the Arkansas Department of Health.

The CDC defines a close contact as an individual confirmed to have been within six feet for 15 cumulative minutes or longer within a 24-hour period during the infectious period of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19; however, additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e., both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), vaccination status, and prior infection status may affect this determination.

1. Under this updated guidance, proper mask-wearing may now prevent individuals from being identified as close contacts in K-12 schools that continue to implement a mask requirement. This means that if both individuals involved in an exposure that occurs at school – the person diagnosed with COVID-19 and the person exposed to the positive case – were wearing masks correctly at the time of exposure, the individual exposed does not need to quarantine.
2. Exposed individuals should self-monitor for symptoms and stay home at the first sign of illness. They also should continue to wear a mask at all times to further reduce the likelihood of transmitting the virus. The person who tests positive for COVID-19 is still required to isolate at home.



CLOSE CONTACTS (CONT.)



A 14-day stay-at-home period for close contacts was previously advised by the CDC based on the incubation period of the virus. As of December 2, 2020, the CDC amended its guidance to allow two shorter options for the stay-at-home period. Based on current CDC guidance, the stay-at-home period can end for individuals experiencing no symptoms according to the following guidelines:

1. After 10 full 24-hour periods since close contact exposure without testing, or
2. After seven full 24-hour periods since close contact exposure and after receiving a negative test result (sample taken no earlier than five 24-hour periods after exposure).

If individuals return to school from these shorter stay-at-home windows, they should regularly monitor themselves for symptoms to ensure they remain symptom-free and take appropriate precautions (e.g., consistent mask usage) for the duration of the 14-day incubation period.

Additionally, the CDC updated guidance on March 8, 2021, to indicate that a fully vaccinated individual does not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual if the following conditions are true:

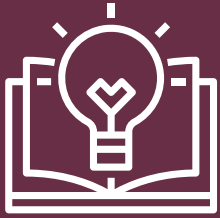
1. The exposed individual is fully vaccinated (at least two weeks have passed since receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or the first dose of a single-dose vaccine), AND
2. The individual has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms following the close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual.

Individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered who are subsequently exposed to someone with COVID-19 within three months of their original diagnosis do not have to stay at home or get tested again, as long as they do not develop new symptoms. Individuals who develop symptoms again within three months of their first instance of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

These factors will be considered for quarantine.

- Because we are continuing our mask mandate, we may now exempt individuals from being identified as close contacts if both the confirmed and exposed individuals are properly masked.
- Fully vaccinated individuals will not need to stay at home following close contact exposure to a test-confirmed individual.
- Individuals who previously have had COVID-19 and recovered and are within 3 months of their original diagnosis may not have to quarantine.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS



Students and staff should stay home when sick. The Lake Hamilton School District has implemented digital options that can allow for teacher/student interaction when unable to physically attend school. See individual school Ready for Learning Plans for more information.

CONTINUATION OF SERVICES

Our return to school plans were developed with the assistance of the district's Ready for Learning Team. This group consisted of parents, teachers, administrators, healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses and pharmacists, law enforcement representatives, higher education representatives, and other school employees. This team met multiple times and managed the plan as the school year progressed to implement updates and changes according to shifting mandates, rules, and guidance. A group of secondary students also served as an advisory council on COVID related issues.



Besides the main goal of keeping staff and students healthy, the priorities on the Ready for Learning Team were having onsite, in-person learning as well as offering an option for families who wanted their children to learn remotely. Basic health precautions such as physical distancing, face coverings and other personal protective gear, testing and screening for the virus, preparing for and responding to outbreaks, and cleaning and disinfection, were all considered. Every operation and location was reviewed for an appropriate response to Covid-19. We made changes to arrival and departure, cafeteria procedures, changing classes and hallway traffic, recess and playgrounds. We implemented virtual learning blended learning with the use of learning management systems at all schools. We also made plans to continue all services beyond the classroom such as counseling and health services. Keeping our parents and public informed was also included in our plan.

Ready for Learning plans for each building can be found at this link:
<http://lhsd.info/Building-Level-Plans>

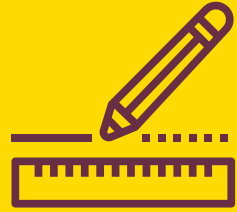
FEEDBACK



The LHSD strives to meet the community's evolving needs and is accepting feedback on the Ready for Learning updates for the remainder of the 20-21 school year and the upcoming 21-22 school year. If you would like to provide feedback or input on the development or modification of school plans, please visit this link:
<http://lhsd.info/Ready-For-Learning-Feedback>

SUMMER & BACK TO SCHOOL PLANNING

The Ready for Learning Team will continue to monitor unfolding events and changes in the state of the pandemic and will modify the plan accordingly for summer activities and back-to-school procedures for the beginning of the 21-22 school year.



One Pack. One Purpose. Our Students' Success!
#LHWOLFNACTION