



Dear Louisville Family,

In regard to the start of the 2021 - 2022 school year and the district's approach to Covid-19 related protocols at Louisville Public Schools, with the increase in vaccinations, a better understanding of the Coronavirus and a decrease in active cases currently in the Louisville School District, LPS will maintain the approach to social distancing and other protocols when possible, however, the use of masks is recommended, but not required.

As we progress through next school year, LPS will continue to maintain our relationship and stay in constant contact with the Cass-Sarpy Health department, as well as review recommendations from the Center of Disease Control and the state of Nebraska. As related to Covid-19, in the event of required, or necessary updates, or changes, the district will communicate those actions as quickly as possible to our families.

In formulating our approach for next school year, LPS intends to communicate all recommended health guidelines and has moved to the aspect that the maintenance of Covid-19 is the personal responsibility of our families and staff. With that said, although not required, we would encourage our families to consider being vaccinated and if at any time, your individual students are experiencing symptoms related to Covid-19, please notify the district and follow all protocols outlined by the local health department and Center for Disease Control.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Louisville Public Schools intends to operate in a "pre-covid" learning environment, unless we have a significant Covid - 19 outbreak. In the event of an increase in Covid - 19 cases in Cass County and the Louisville School District, LPS will continue to keep our students and staff safe and minimize disruptions to the academic environment. In the event of a Covid - 19 outbreak, the district will implement the following ratios identified below. The goal of this approach is to provide guidelines to our families and staff for when the district may need to take steps to reduce lab confirmed Covid - 19 cases in the district, specific grades and individual classrooms, as well as extra curricular teams. **This change will take effect on September 8, 2021.**

The ratios provided below indicate the actions LPS may take in the event of a Covid - 19 outbreak. LPS will utilize lab - confirmed Covid -19 cases of both students and staff in the district when taking the steps below. Potential actions taken will be for a limited period of time, or until LPS drops below the identified threshold.

Additional consideration will also be given if the district is required to adjust based on a state directed health measure (DHM), or a federal mandate.

A “Covid tracker” indicating total lab confirmed cases and the percentage of the school district can be located at <https://lpslions.org/covid-dashboard-updated-august-26-2021/>. It will be updated as Covid cases change. Louisville Public Schools will also notify families of changes via email home.

**LPS acknowledges the following identified groups and applicable thresholds for a Covid - 19 outbreak include the following.**

- 1.) **5% of a classroom or individual grade level has been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19,** the district reserves the right to maintain a safe classroom setting and limit disruptions to the educational environment.
  - In the event that 5% of an individual grade or classroom have been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19, the building principal may implement a level of responses to that group that include, but are not limited to: masking, cohorting, plastic barriers, additional lunch protocols, upgraded cleaning protocols, no outside visitors and social distancing.
  - Students and staff in the identified group that have been exposed to Covid - 19 will be required to quarantine at home and should follow all requirements outlined by the health department.
  - Actions taken will be for a limited period of time or until LPS drops below the identified threshold.
  
- 2.) **2.5% of our total district population (approximately 20 individuals) have been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19.**
  - In the event that 2.5% of our total district population has been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19, the district may implement a level of responses that include, but are not limited to: possible masking, cohorting classes and students, plastic barriers, additional lunch protocols, upgraded cleaning protocols, no outside visitors and social distancing.
  - Students and staff that have been exposed to Covid - 19 and are symptom free may come to school and will be required to mask during the quarantine period.
  - Actions taken will be for a limited period of time or until LPS drops below the identified threshold.
  
- 3.) **5% of our total district population (approximately 40 individuals) has been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19 .**
  - In the event that 5% of our total district population have been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19, the district may implement a level of responses that include, but are not limited to: required masking, cohorting of classes and individual students, plastic barriers, additional lunch protocols, upgraded cleaning protocols, no outside visitors and social distancing.
  - Students and staff that have been exposed to Covid - 19 **will be** required to quarantine at home and should follow all requirements outlined by the health department.
  - Actions taken will be for a limited period of time or until LPS drops below the identified threshold
  
- 4.) **Staff Shortage**
  - Currently LPS has 59 certified teachers that can provide instruction to our students; this includes 55 certified classroom instructors and 4 certified administrators.
  - In the event that 15% of our certified staff that directly teach,(approximately 8-9 instructors) is unavailable due to Covid -19 related challenges, the district may be required to shut down for a period of time and provide alternative learning options to our students.

- To prevent a staff shortage, the district may implement a level of responses that include, but are not limited to: masking, cohorting, plastic barriers, additional lunch protocols, upgraded cleaning protocols, no outside visitors and social distancing.
- Students and staff that have been exposed to Covid - 19 will be required to quarantine at home and should follow all requirements outlined by the health department.
- Actions taken will be for a limited period of time or until LPS drops below the identified threshold.
- This possibility also reflects the challenge faced by LPS to acquire certified substitutes and other qualified individuals who can legally facilitate an effective teaching environment for our students.

**The chart below outlines the Louisville Public Schools approach to Covid-19.** Please keep in mind that based on recommendations from the CDC and SCHD, these protocols may change at any time. The district's Pandemic and Continuity of Learning Plan can be located on the school website at [lpslions.org](http://lpslions.org).

<b><u>Capacity</u></b>	Participation in academic experiences and activities/athletics will be at full capacity.
<b><u>Working Collaboratively with Sarpy/Cass Health Department</u></b>	<p>The school district will continue to work closely with the Sarpy/Cass Health Department, Nebraska Department of Education, and the NSAA when implementing our Return to School Plan. Adjustments to this plan will be made based on the current health conditions in our district and through collaboration with the health department.</p> <p>For example, if the district moves from the “Green” protocol to the “Yellow” or “Orange” protocol and possibly implement additional restrictions, those decisions will be made collaboratively with the Sarpy/Cass Health Department and state of Nebraska.</p> <p>Any changes to this plan will be communicated with families through email and/or phone calls through our school messaging system. Current CDC protocol can be located at the following link: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html">http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</a></p>
<b><u>Masking / Face Coverings</u></b>	<p>Masking is <b>not</b> required for outside activities, however, students and staff wishing to engage in masking will be allowed to do so.</p> <p>For academic experiences and activities scheduled inside the building, masking for non - vaccinated individuals is recommended but <b>not</b> required.</p> <p>Keep in mind, the effective use of a mask or face covering entails the covering of the nose and face by the wearer. Individuals who are not vaccinated should strongly consider the use of a mask or face cover to provide added protection and exposure to Covid - 19.</p> <p>Currently the CDC recommends the use of a mask for all individuals not vaccinated.</p>
<b><u>Vaccinations</u></b>	<p>Covid-19 vaccinations are not required for students and/or staff to attend school. However, keep in mind that individuals can assist LPS in mitigating Covid-19 outbreaks by getting vaccinated.</p> <p>As we have learned, an outbreak that affects an entire classroom, grade level, or our teaching staff, may affect the district’s ability to continue school in our current protocol.</p>

<p><b>Remote Learning / School Absence</b></p>	<p>Remote learning <b>will not</b> be an option for the 2021-2022 school year. On site attendance for all students is required.</p> <p>Individual remote learning possibilities will be considered due to changes in the pandemic plan, with the district shifting from green to yellow, orange or red. With an increase in confirmed positive Covid-19 cases, changes to the state directed health measure, along with accommodations for students on 504 and IEP plans that have an exposure to, or have tested positive for Covid-19.</p> <p>As Louisville Public Schools believes that the maintenance of Covid-19 is the personal responsibility of our families and staff, Covid-19 cases will be treated like the “flu”, or any other communicable disease. <b>Families should connect with both their building office and classroom teacher in the event of any illness, or missed school.</b></p>
<p><b>Academic Recovery</b></p>	<p>Louisville Public Schools acknowledges that some students experienced a loss of learning due to the pandemic and its effect on the academic environment. The district recognizes that students were affected by remote learning in the spring of 2020, as well as absences related to Covid - 19. Louisville Public Schools will continue to utilize all applicable academic practices in place prior to the pandemic, as well as additional instructional strategies to support student learning.</p> <p><b>Strategies utilized may include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensuring Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) academic, behavioral, and social emotional processes and guidelines are provided to all students</li> <li>● Universal Screener (K-10) - Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Performance (MAP)</li> <li>● Universal Screener (K-5) - Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Learning Skills (DIBELS)</li> <li>● Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) for grades 3rd-8th</li> <li>● Formative and summative classroom assessments</li> <li>● Benchmarking of individual student skill levels</li> <li>● Implementation and maintenance of newly identified 504 and IEPs as related to Covid - 19.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff Shortage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently LPS has 59 certified teachers that can provide instruction to our students; this includes 55 certified classroom instructors and 4 certified administrators.</li> <li>● In the event that 15% of our certified staff that directly teach,(approximately 8-9 instructors) is unavailable due to Covid -19 related challenges, the district may be required to shut down for a period of time and provide alternative learning options to our students.</li> <li>● To prevent a staff shortage, the district may implement a level of responses that include, but are not limited to: masking, cohorting, plastic barriers, additional lunch protocols, upgraded cleaning protocols, no outside visitors and social distancing.</li> <li>● Students and staff that have been exposed to Covid - 19 will be required to quarantine at home and should follow all requirements outlined by the health department.</li> <li>● Actions taken will be for a limited period of time, or until LPS drops below the identified threshold.</li> <li>● This possibility also reflects the challenge faced by LPS to acquire certified substitutes and other qualified individuals who can legally facilitate an effective teaching environment for our students.</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Covid in the Classroom</u></b></p>	<p>If 5% of a classroom, or individual grade level have been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19, the district reserves the right to maintain a safe classroom setting and limiting disruptions to the educational environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event that 5% of an individual grade or classroom have been diagnosed with lab - confirmed Covid - 19, the building principal may implement a level of responses to that group, that include, but are not limited to: masking, cohorting, plastic barriers, additional lunch protocols, upgraded cleaning protocols, no outside visitors and social distancing.</li> <li>• Students and staff that have been exposed to Covid - 19 will be required to quarantine at home and should follow all requirements outlined by the health department.</li> <li>• Actions taken will be for a limited period of time, or until LPS drops below the identified threshold.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Social Distancing</u></b></p>	<p>Students and staff should maintain suggested social distancing when possible.</p>
<p><b><u>Good Hygiene</u></b></p>	<p>Regular use of hand sanitizer and soap and water, as well as promoting respiratory etiquette (coughing, sneezing into sleeves, etc). The district will provide opportunities and encourage good hygiene, etiquette and work to reduce the spread of illness. To assist the district, parents should encourage students to maintain good hygiene at all times.</p>
<p><b><u>Food</u></b></p>	<p>Students should not share food and/or water. Individual water bottles and prepackaged food should be utilized by students and staff.</p>
<p><b><u>Cohorts</u></b></p>	<p>Students engaged in all academic experiences and activities may be cohorted with an individual group if needed. This action could include academic experiences, lunchtime and all activities.</p>
<p><b><u>Cleaning</u></b></p>	<p>To reduce the spread of Covid - 19 and other viruses, the district will engage in continued, increased cleaning practices.</p>
<p><b><u>Bussing</u></b></p>	<p>Busses will be cleaned daily Students will be assigned seats. Masking is not required, however, students and staff wishing to wear a mask on the bus may do so. Masking is recommended by the CDC for those individuals who are not vaccinated.</p>
<p><b><u>Cafeteria / Lunch</u></b></p>	<p>All cafeteria procedures will resume as normal. Wash / Sanitize hands before entering the cafeteria line. Cleaning between lunch groups. All students will return to eating in the cafeteria space. If needed, students will eat lunch with a cohort. If necessary, students will be separated with a clear, plastic divider.</p>
<p><b><u>Extra Curricular Activities</u></b></p>	<p>The district will follow all guidelines provided by the Nebraska State Athletic Association and Nebraska Department of Education. NSAA website can be located at: <a href="https://nsaahome.org/">https://nsaahome.org/</a></p>

<p><b><u>Visitors</u></b></p>	<p>During the school day, all school visitors are required to check in their respective office before moving throughout the building. All district policies and procedures will be followed regarding visitors and public speakers. Please see district policies at <a href="https://lpslions.org">https://lpslions.org</a>.</p> <p>In the event of a Covid - 19 outbreak as outlined in the plan, the district may not allow visitors during the school day, for a period of time.</p>
<p><b><u>Playground and Outdoor Activities</u></b></p>	<p>Normal use of playground equipment will be allowed. Outdoor activities will be allowed as normal.</p>
<p><b><u>Use of school by Outside Groups</u></b></p>	<p>While in the current protocol, the school facility may be used by outside groups as normal and must follow the district's facility use agreement.</p> <p>This may be limited during a Covid - 19 outbreak.</p>
<p><b><u>Ventilation and Facility Care</u></b></p>	<p>LPS is currently in the process of engaging in the improvement and upgrade of the HVAC and ventilation system throughout the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPS Bipolar technology was installed on over 30 air handler units in both the elementary and middle school buildings during the summer of 2021.</li> <li>• Regular filter changing will continue to take place to assist in providing a clean learning environment for all students and staff.</li> <li>• The district has added a new HVAC unit in the large gym, this will assist with the overall environment , increased regular air flow, and the future mitigation of potential viruses and the furthering of education for all students.</li> <li>• The district will continue to look at other opportunities to improve the air flow and ventilation in the school facility.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Attendance at School Activities</u></b></p>	<p>Attendance at school activities will be at full capacity. Masks are recommended, but not required, however those in attendance wishing to wear a mask or face covering may do so. We encourage that spectators sit in family groups to the greatest extent possible.</p>
<p><b><u>Screening for Covid - 19 and other Illnesses</u></b></p>	<p>Students and/or parents should check for Covid related symptoms and other illnesses at home, prior to arrival at school. Students and staff who are symptomatic should remain home and away from school events for 14 days past their first symptom onset, if they receive a negative test or an alternate diagnosis.</p> <p>Parents should should follow all CDC and local Health Department guidelines and keep students at home if any of the following symptoms are experienced: * Fever or chills *Cough * Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing * Fatigue * Muscle or body aches * Headache * New loss of taste or smell * Sore throat * Congestion or runny nose* Nausea or vomiting * Diarrhea</p> <p>If at school, students exhibiting symptoms related to Covid - 19, or other significant illness, will be screened by health office personnel and may be sent home.</p>
<p><b><u>Exposure and Covid Diagnosis</u></b></p>	<p>Individuals diagnosed with, or have been exposed to, Covid-19 should contact LPS and follow all protocols outlined for recovery by the health department and CDC.</p> <p>Covid - 19 positive individuals will be asked to remain home and away from school events for 10 days past their positive test. They may return to school on the 11th day from their positive test.</p>

	Following current CDC and health department guidelines, contracting , or exposure to Covid-19 could include contact tracing, isolation and possible quarantine.
<b>Nutritional <u>Needs</u></b>	Student concerns of nutritional needs will be addressed on an individual student basis. Please contact the building principal for further information.
<b>Social Emotional <u>Approach</u></b>	In regard to social-emotional mental health and related needs, Louisville Public Schools will continue to provide necessary guidance to parents and students to assist in possible trauma resulting from the Pandemic or any other emergencies. Please contact the building counselor for further information.

**Last updated 09/08/21**