

Appendix M – Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Response to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The Lafayette School Corporation, working together with the Tippecanoe County Health Department, has an important role in protecting vulnerable students and staff to help ensure they have safe and healthy environments in which to learn and work. All decisions regarding school-based strategies (i.e.: dismissals, closures, social distancing measures, etc.) are made locally in collaboration with the local health department.

Although evidence shows most children who are infected with COVID-19 display mild symptoms, some children may develop serious illness, especially those children at risk because of underlying health issues. Parents/Guardians should have discussion with their child's primary healthcare provider to determine if remote learning is appropriate until an adequate immunization can take place. The same recommendation is made to staff who are 65 years or older or who have underlying health issues.

The Lafayette School Corporation is prepared to respond to COVID-19 cases when they occur in its facilities. This includes reporting systems, decision-making process regarding closures, disinfecting, etc.

A student, teacher, administrator, or other staff is encouraged to self-screen before coming to school. Anyone who has one or more of the symptoms for COVID-19 infection should stay home and consult their primary healthcare provider. The symptoms include the following:

- A fever of 100.4°F or greater
- Cough
- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Students and staff will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or display one or more of the above symptoms based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance that is not otherwise explained.

Return to School After Exclusion

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

Untested

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following three conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Tested Positive- Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Tested Positive- Asymptomatic

Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days without symptoms and have been released by the student's healthcare provider.

Tested Positive- Impact on School Operations

The Lafayette School Corporation will work closely with the local health department to determine if school closure is appropriate.

Even without symptoms, if a student or employee has recently had contact with a person with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, has someone in their home being tested for COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere the CDC considered to be a "hot spot", the district/school may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

Clinical Spaces at School

COVID-19 Symptomatic:

Each LSC school will have a room or space separate from the nurse's clinic where students or employees who are feeling ill are evaluated or wait for pick up. All waiting staff and students should wear a cloth face covering. Only essential staff assigned to the room may enter. A record will be kept of all persons who entered the room and the room will be disinfected several times throughout the day. Strict social distancing is required and staff must wear appropriate PPE. Students who are ill will be walked out of the building to their parents. If

a student or staff member has a fever, for any reason, the district may adjust their policy to require staff and students to be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for 72 hours before returning to school. Additionally, all staff and students with fevers or symptoms associated with COVID-19 may be encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions. Students and staff may return before the 72-hour window has elapsed if they are approved to do so in writing by their healthcare provider.

Clinic Space Non-COVID-19 Related:

Students who do not display symptoms of COVID-19 can be seen and treated in the nurse's clinic. These include students who are injured during the school day or students with special health care needs such as those with chronic health conditions (i.e. - diabetes or seizures), those requiring medical treatments (i.e. - suctioning, tube feeding, or nebulizers), and those with individual health plans.

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 on School Property

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was on school property, the district will contact the local health department and the Indiana Department of Education immediately.

Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the district will work with the local health department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community, and other factors that will determine building closure. It is the responsibility of the local health department to contact the person confirmed with COVID-19, inform direct contacts of their possible exposure, and give instructions to those involved with the confirmed case, including siblings and other household members regarding self-quarantine and exclusions. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the local health department. If a closure is determined necessary, the district may consult with the local health department to determine the status of school activities including extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, and before and after-school programs. As soon as the district becomes aware of a student or employee who has been exposed to or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the custodial staff will be informed, so that impacted building or bus areas, furnishings, and equipment are thoroughly disinfected. If possible, based upon student and staff presence, the custodial staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately.

Preventative Measures

Social distancing can be accomplished in many different ways and Lafayette School Corporation is dedicated to safely implementing social distancing practices so that face-to-face instruction can occur. The Lafayette School Corporation will implement various strategies to ensure students are socially distanced while at school and school sponsored events. It is the expectation that all students follow measures put in place by the school district. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. Some of those strategies include, but are not limited to the following:

- Close communal use spaces such as cafeterias and playgrounds if possible. Otherwise, stagger use and disinfect in between use.
- Reorganize P.E., choir, band, orchestra, and other large classes to allow for social distancing and other precautions.
- Alternate recess to minimize the number of students on the playground, encourage social distancing, and allow time to disinfect equipment between uses.
- Increase space between students during in-person instruction.
- Rearrange desks to increase space between students.
- Face desks in the same direction.
- Require students to be in assigned seats.
- Minimize students traveling to different buildings to receive services.
- Teachers may rotate, as opposed to the students changing classrooms, when applicable.
- Limit or eliminate classroom visitors.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment, etc. assigned to a single child) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.
- Minimize the sharing of electronic devices or learning aids when possible.
- Study (field) trips may be done “in-house” using virtual platforms.
- All students riding a school bus will wear a cloth mask.
- School bus drivers will monitor where students sit every day in case of the need for contact tracing.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may also help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The LSC administration requests that parents provide their children a cloth mask, water bottle, hand and sanitizer. These are only recommendations. In some cases, the wearing of cloth masks will be required as directed by the CDC, the IDOE, and Tippecanoe County Board of Health. For instance, some specials like Choir/Music will require a cloth mask for participation. An acceptable mask must cover the mouth and nose and must be similar in nature to those provided by the state for student use. Since communal items like water fountains may not be used, parents are encouraged to provide their children with a water bottle. The building administration will provide more guidance about this and the procedures they will be using. The LSC administration will have age-appropriate face masks, hand sanitizer, and a limited number of bottles of water for emergency situations. However, parents should provide to their children the items they need to help them feel safe. If any family needs assistance with PPE, they should contact their child’s school administration. While supplies are limited, LSC administration will do everything possible to assist those families in need.