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Superintendent, Mr. Jay Belcastro

Lake Superior School District

Safe Return Plan

2021-2022

The Lake Superior School District is committed to the health and wellness of our students and staff. The district has worked closely with guidance from Lake County Public Health, the Minnesota Department of Education, The Minnesota Department of Health and the Center of Disease Control to create a fluid plan for the return to school.

The school district has reviewed local data, discussed options with local public health and formulated a plan using guidance from other agencies.

The goal of the plan is to monitor data, adjust the plan as needed to provide the best opportunity for students to experience a more traditional learning experience. COVID has taught us a lot. We have experienced a lot of transitions through the past year and I would expect the district plan will need to be modified throughout the school year. LSSD will communicate all changes and updates to the learning model so families can plan and prepare for changes.

To maintain a full in-person learning experience for our students, it will require a committed partnership between the school district, parents/guardians, and students. This plan will provide guidelines and action steps parents will need in making decisions.

Promote/Maintain a safe program environment:

- Adapt practices to allow physical distancing whenever possible.
- Wherever possible, hold activities outdoors and encourage students/participants to spread out.
- Arrange classrooms to allow staff and students/participants to practice social distancing.
- Plans are in place for back-up staffing in case a staff member becomes ill during the day/program.

- Avoid community/shared supplies when possible, this includes but not limited to: phones, pens, computer equipment, desks, cubicles, workstations, offices or other personal work tools and equipment.
- The district has signage, markings and instructions to address social distancing reminders.
- Masks are **REQUIRED** on the bus ride to and from school.
- Masks are strongly recommended indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Protect Yourself and Others

It is up to all of us to protect ourselves and others by following recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19. The more steps you take to slow the spread of COVID-19, the safer we will all be. No single step on its own is perfect at preventing COVID-19 spread, so try to layer prevention measures when and where you can.

Each morning, parents, students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to review health screening information and ***must stay home*** if you have any one of these:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- New cough or a cough that gets worse
- Difficulty/hard time breathing
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Two or more of these***: sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; and new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol

Regular practices of cleaning and disinfecting have been implemented, including a schedule for routine cleaning and disinfecting of occupied spaces, including but not limited to: classrooms, gyms, cafeteria, common areas, work surfaces, equipment, tools and machinery, vehicles, meeting rooms, and drop-off and pick-up locations. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting is being conducted of high-touch areas.

Hand sanitizing options are available for visitors/students to use as they enter and exit the building.

COVID-19 Protocol

The Lake Superior School District is strongly recommending masks indoors regardless of vaccination status but is not enforcing a mask mandate at this time. Each family must make a decision regarding masking for what you feel is best for your family, child, and those around you. No one knows the specific concerns each family must consider when making this decision and the decision to wear or not wear a mask will be respected by staff and students at each school.

The Lake Superior School District reserves the right to implement and enforce a mask mandate if at any time it is deemed necessary for the health of our staff and students.

We will be following the MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree as a guideline, which you can find here: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

If a Student or Staff Member Feels Sick, the Following Steps will be Taken:

1. A staff member will contact the nurse immediately.
2. The school nurse will assess the individual for any COVID symptoms.
3. All household members attending LSSD will be provided a mask to wear and brought to a quarantine room until they leave or are picked up by a family member.
4. The individual(s) must remain home until symptoms no longer exist and get tested:
 - a. IF test results are POSITIVE = stay home for 10 days from the start date of symptoms.
 - b. IF test results are NEGATIVE = return to school when symptoms have improved, and a negative test result is provided.
5. For all other household members when the symptomatic individual is POSITIVE, if you are:
 - a. **Fully Vaccinated:**
 - i. Contact your school nurse to verify.
 - ii. **Quarantine** = no quarantine, resume normal activities unless you begin to feel sick.
 - iii. **Get tested** = 3-5 days after exposure and report the results to the school nurse.
 - b. **Not Vaccinated:**
 - i. **Get Tested** = immediately and then again in 3-5 days after exposure, report all results to the school nurse.
 - ii. **Quarantine** = 14 days after the positive individual completes their 10 day isolation as long as you remain symptom free.

6. Parents of students or staff that are identified as a close contact will be notified and advised of next steps.

If You Have Been Identified as a Close Contact of a Non-Household Member:

1. Notify your school nurse and team coach (if applicable).
2. The school nurse will follow up with each family for next steps.
3. If you are:
 - a. **Fully Vaccinated:**
 - i. Contact your school nurse to verify.
 - ii. **Get tested** = 3-5 days after exposure and report the results to the school nurse.
 - iii. **Quarantine** = no quarantine, resume normal activities unless you begin to feel sick. (per the MDH they recommend wearing a mask for 14 days after exposure)
 - b. **Not Vaccinated:**
 - i. The student will be provided a mask to wear and brought to a quarantine room until they are picked up by a family member (if you are onsite).
 - ii. **Get Tested** = immediately and then again in 3-5 days after exposure, report all results to the school nurse.
 - iii. **Quarantine** = 10 days after the last exposure of the confirmed case as long as you remain symptom free

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Privacy of students and families is critical during this time. In accordance with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), names and information of those that have been identified as positive or those that went home sick are not to be shared (staff or child). Sharing of this information violates HIPAA and can result in discipline. LSSD cannot disclose or assume the health conditions of children, staff or families to anyone. Please note that families are adjusting to these unique times and may choose to remove their child from care for a variety of reasons.

LSSD will do it's best to protect the privacy of each student and staff member in accordance with the 2020 Minnesota Statute [144.3351 IMMUNIZATION DATA](#)

Outbreak Procedures in Building or Grade Level:

Below are the thresholds for LSSD learning model based 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate. Lake County data will be reviewed weekly. **Outbreak procedures are subject to change at any time based on emerging science and data. State or federal rules, statutes or executive orders supersede this plan.**

# of Cases per 10,000 over 14 Days	Min # of Cases in County in Last 14 days	Max # of Cases in County in Last 14 days	Elementary Students	Middle/High School Students
0-19	0	21		
20-34	22	31	Mask Mandate	
35-49	32	52	Distance Learning	Mask Mandate
50+	More than 52	More than 52	Distance Learning	Distance Learning

School Outbreak Metrics

School	Total Population	2%	3%	4%	5%
Minnehaha	455	9	n/a	18	n/a
Two Harbors HS	697	n/a	21	n/a	35
WKE	212	4.24	n/a	8	n/a
WKHS	184	n/a	5.52	n/a	9
		Mask Mandate Elementary	Mask Mandate Middle/H.S.	Distance Learning Elementary	Distance Learning Middle/H.S.

County and District data will be reviewed twice a week.

* Parents who refuse to send their children to school because of masking mandates can excuse them for up to 10 school days. After that they will be considered unexcused absences.