COVID-19
School Health & Safety Guidelines
FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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EBR and
Health Centers in Schools
A Partner of
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE
CHILDREN'S HEALTH
Introduction

As we approach the start of the 2021-2022 school year, our community is facing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases. Although access to the COVID-19 vaccine is widely available for our community members (age 12 years and older), current parish vaccine data indicates that only .9 of every 30 school aged students have been fully vaccinated. The district’s health and safety guidance has been updated in preparation for our students’ and staff’s return to school.

Our standards for the 2021-22 school year are aligned with guidance provided by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), and the East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) Health Advisory Committee.

The guidance in this document is subject to change over the course of the pandemic as the CDC, LDH and other medical experts learn more from the science of vaccinations, viral transmission, and effective public health practices.

We appreciate our educators for building adaptive plans for teaching and learning as they respond to our community’s updated safety procedures and protocols. We also appreciate our school health teams, as they continue to offer our staff and administrators guidance and support in adhering to the updated COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. It is important to acknowledge that there will continue to be cases of COVID-19 in our schools and we will have the protocols necessary to help guide our educators and school health teams in determining the appropriate next steps to keep our school community healthy and ready to learn. We can get through this together!

For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit the LDH website and the CDC website and follow the standards and guidance outlined in this document.
**Operational Health & Safety Standards for Schools***

The following operational guidelines will be in place for the 2021-22 school year. These guidelines are based on the Louisiana Department of Education’s School Opening Guidelines (found at "Ready to Achieve!” Guidelines). *These standards are subject to change as conditions change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom/Group Sizes</th>
<th>The maximum group size that may convene indoors in a single room should be determined by physical distancing requirements and student grouping method (the CDC recommends that students should maintain a distance of 3-6 feet of distance in the classroom setting).</th>
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| Classroom Grouping Options | • Classrooms with students and teachers who are not fully vaccinated and unable to maintain physical distancing requirements will be assigned to static groups. The static group composition will be maintained for as long as possible.  
• The composition of a group may change if students are able to maintain a physical distance of at least three feet from other students and six feet from adults in a classroom or indoor setting, to the greatest extent possible. Adults should maintain six feet of distance from other adults.  
• Students with disabilities will continue to receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment. EBRPSS will factor in any additional service providers who may need to enter the classroom, students who receive services outside the classroom (e.g. resource, APE), and/or students who receive services through alternate instructional methods. |
| School Bus Capacity | Buses may carry their normal capacity. All persons (students and adults) will wear masks at all times. (Presidential Executive Order 13998)  
Additional transportation guidance:  
• assigned seats and a seating chart are required  
• high touch surfaces will be cleaned according to CDC guidelines  
• windows will be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard |
| Use of Shared Indoor Space | When using indoor shared spaces (such as cafeterias and gyms) social distancing guidelines will be followed:  
• minimum of 3 feet between students  
• minimum of 6 feet between students and adults  
• minimum 6 feet between adults |
| Use of Outdoor Space | If groups convene outdoors, a physical barrier is not required, but each group will remain separated.
Classroom/Group

Each school will have a designated isolation room and self-quarantine room (separate from the designated school nurse/clinic work area) to house anyone showing signs of being sick. (This area will be cleaned after it is occupied by any sick student or adult.)

EBRPSS Isolation Room Process

Reporting Requirements

All schools and district sites are required to report all known and suspected cases of COVID-19 via the Staff/Student COVID-19 Reporting Tool.

Visitors to School Facilities

All visitors are required to wear masks and maintain a physical distance of six feet from others.

• Nonessential visitors and volunteers will be limited


Implementing Physical Distancing Measures

Entering & Exiting School Buildings: Schools will implement the following standards to support students and staff in limiting contact with others.

Entry & Exit Points

Maintain physical distance recommendations, to the extent possible, at all entry and exit points.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Processes

Schools will encourage families and employees to self-monitor for Symptoms of COVID-19 prior to arrival on campus.

Individuals who have a fever of 100.4°F or above, or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. Students/staff should not attend school when they are sick.

Practicing Prevention: In accordance with the CDC’s recommendations and with input from medical professionals, schools will implement the following standards to help reduce the spread of infection.

Daily Cleaning

High touch surfaces will undergo cleaning with a commercially available cleaning solution, including EPA approved disinfectants, at least twice per day (including bathrooms). *Desks will be cleaned between each class.

Refer to page 5 of the LDOE’s “Ready to Achieve!” guidance for a list of high touch surfaces.
### Personal Hygiene

Students and teachers will have scheduled handwashing with soap and water or hand sanitizer every two hours as well as at the following times as found in CDC Guidance including at arrival, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, and at exit.

### Personal Protective Supplies

School employees will be provided with adequate access to hygienic supplies, including: soap, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol), disinfectant wipes and/or spray, paper towels, and tissues. Face masks/shields will be provided upon request.

### Signs to Remind/Educate

Schools will post signs in highly visible locations (such as school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to limit the spread of germs. *Schools can request additional signage through the Graphic Arts Department.

Print resources can be found at:
- [Print Resources | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [How To Protect Yourself and Others](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [Stop the Spread of Germs](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [Posters | Handwashing | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [Face Covering Checklist](https://www.cdc.gov)

### Face Masks

- All individuals 5 years of age or older are required to wear a face mask while inside the school facility, regardless of vaccination status.
- Unvaccinated individuals age 2 – 4 years old should wear a face mask, if tolerated.
- While inside the school facility, children under two years old and individuals with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering.

### Water Fountains

Schools will encourage staff and students to bring their own bottled water or water bottles from home each day. Shared water fountains are closed, but water bottle filling stations will be available.

### Student’s with Exceptionalities:

To maintain a healthy environment as students move around the school facility to receive services through alternate instructional methods, schools will implement the following standards.

### Special Education & Additional Service Providers

Students with disabilities should receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment. After services are provided, all shared surfaces and equipment will be cleaned before the next student is served.
**Child Nutrition:** Our schools will maintain a healthy environment and provide healthy school meals to our students by implementing the following guidance.

| Eating at School | • Schools will ensure 6 feet of distance between students to the maximum extent possible when they are eating in the cafeteria.  
• If cafeterias are used, meal times for each group will be staggered, and maximum group sizes will be determined based on physical distancing requirements.  
• Classrooms will be utilized for eating in place.  
• Students may bring food from home.  
• Schools will have single-file spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and in serving, disposal, and exit lines. Schools will delineate designated entrances and exit flow paths. |

**Extracurricular Activities:** Schools will offer extended school day options and non-academic experiences for students. In order to comply with health and safety guidance, during these activities, schools will implement the following extracurricular standards.

| Aftercare | Schools will maintain static groups where possible and implement physical distancing requirements for groups of changing composition. Face covering protocols must be followed for all indoor activities (regardless of vaccination status). |
| Bands and Vocal Music | In Phase 3 band or vocal activities may occur indoors or outdoors. When band and vocal music classes are unable to practice outdoors, class can be held indoors in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education Guidance which has physical distancing, masking and instrument covering provisions. Refer to page 9 of the LDOE’s “Ready to Achieve!” guidance for additional guidance. |
| Field Trips | Field trips can occur as long as masking, co-horting, and transportation requirements are followed. Outdoor field trip opportunities will be prioritized. |
| Athletics | Athletic activities are to comply with the recommendations put forth in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association’s Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics & Activities. It is strongly recommended that students participating in athletics are vaccinated or participating in a weekly testing regiment.  
ALL attendees of indoor athletic events are required to wear a face mask. |
Additional Considerations for Schools Served by Health Care Centers in Schools (HCCS)

Each morning, parents should monitor their children for symptoms and ensure no other family member(s) at their home are ill before sending them to school.

Each morning, school staff will monitor themselves for symptoms and ensure that no other family member(s) at their home are ill before reporting to the school campus.

Known and Suspected Cases of COVID-19

Once schools are notified of a confirmed case or identify a suspected case in their school community (student or staff member) either through public health contact tracing, family notification or school provided routine testing, the school is to report this incident in the following ways (EBRPSS Reporting and Communication Process):

- **Single Confirmed or Suspected Case**:
  - School Nurse and School Principal/Designee should be notified immediately.
  - **During school hours**: The School Nurse (Clinic Nurse) is responsible for notifying school administration, district leadership, and school health leadership of all student cases by completing the district’s Student COVID-19 Reporting Tool. Reports are required to be completed as soon as feasibly possible. (In order to avoid delays in contract tracing, nurse managers can be contacted for immediate support).
  - **After school hours/holidays/weekends**: The School administrator or designee is responsible for notifying district leadership, and school health leadership of all student cases by completing the Student COVID-19 Reporting Tool. Reports are required to be completed as soon as feasibly possible. (In order to avoid delays in contract tracing, the school’s Executive Director/school nurse leadership should be contacted for immediate support).

- **All Staff Cases**: The School Administrator/Site Supervisor is responsible for notifying the Office of Human Resources, facilities and district leadership of all staff cases by completing the COVID-19 Staff Reporting Tool. (In order to avoid delays in contract tracing, the school’s Executive Director should be contacted for immediate support). School nurses and/or school health leadership can be consulted for support in contact tracing, but individual names may not be shared to maintain confidentiality.

- **Multiple Confirmed Cases**:
  - If multiple cases of COVID-19 are reported at a single site, schools are required to contact their Executive Director who will then consult with the Chief Officer of Support and Special Projects and the Chief of Schools.
  - If additional support/guidance is needed, please also contact:
    - J. Cheree Duvic, HCCS Director of Clinical Services and/or Kristen Gradney, OLOL Children’s Health Senior Director at (225) 343-9505 or via email at jacqueline.duvic@fmolhs.org or Kristen.gradney@fmolhs.org
COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Resources

The availability of testing for symptomatic individuals, routine testing and access to vaccinations are vital components of our ongoing strategy to keep students and staff safe and ready to learn. Below is an overview of the current resources that OLOL Children's Health Centers in Schools is offering to both students and staff:

Symptomatic/Close Contact Testing
All students, teachers, and school staff experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to seek treatment by a medical professional.

Health Care Centers in Schools will continue to offer free COVID-19 evaluation and testing for our school staff and students, as warranted, at our 7 School Based Health Clinics. For additional information consult OLOL HCIS COVID-19 Parent Resource Guide.

Routine Testing
East Baton Rouge Parish School System and Health Care Centers in Schools are currently working with LDH to offer free weekly COVID-19 testing opportunities for both students and staff in all district schools served by HCCS/school nurses. Additional details and consents will be released to parents and staff after the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

COVID-19 Vaccination
Vaccines against the virus that causes COVID-19 are promising because of the potential to decrease rates of disease, hospitalization, and death. All eligible unvaccinated students (12 years of age and older), teachers, and staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.

Pfizer (2 dose) vaccinations are available at all 7 of our school-based health clinics and mobile vaccination services are available upon request (please call 225-343-9505 to schedule mobile services).

For additional information on the benefits of vaccination, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html

For more information on public health measures to protect against COVID-19 after vaccination, please visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html

Returning to School after Illness:
Students who have been sick with COVID-19 like symptoms can return to school once conditions, as identified in the COVID-19 Return to School Certification, are met. The form must be presented to the school nurse. Staff should contact the Office of Human Resources for return to school (or work) guidance.

School Closure Decisions:
District administration, appropriate public health officials (e.g., the State of Louisiana Regional Epidemiologist), and contracted school health leadership will be consulted prior to finalizing any decision to close multiple classrooms at a school or a school.

Please note that this guidance is a living document, adjustments to this guidance may be made as our community continues to see changes or improvements in infection, vaccination and community spread. For the most recent guidance please visit https://ebrschools.org/safe-reopening-plan/