



Liberty County School System

COVID-19 Re-entry Plan

September 9, 2020

Mission

The mission of the Liberty County School System is to provide all students an education which promotes excellence, good citizenship, and a love of learning.

Vision

All students will receive a high quality education providing them the knowledge and skills to be successful, contributing members of a global society.

The Liberty County School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

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Introduction of LCSS Phase-in

Current data in Liberty County shows a significant decrease between initial COVID-19 cases and the cases reported currently. Liberty County School System has taken steps during the COVID-19 Pandemic to ensure the safety of our students and staff by implementing a virtual model of teaching and learning. Students have been receiving instruction in this model for several weeks, and we believe that due to the steps taken, we have decreased the spread of COVID-19, which will allow us to begin bringing our students back to school to receive face-to-face instruction. The guidance included below is meant to provide instructions pertaining to the re-entry to schools. As we continue to make decisions that consider the safety of our students and teachers, adjustments and modifications to this re-entry plan may occur.

Re-entry Schedule

September 14, 2020- All Staff return to buildings to continue virtual instruction.

September 21, 2020 - Identified special education students and students in grades Pre-K, K, 2, 5, 8, 9,12 and all students at Horizons return to face to face instruction.

September 28, 2020 - Students in grades 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, and Dual Enrollment return to face to face instruction.

	PreK-5	6-8	9-12	Special Education
August 10, 2020	Virtual Learning for All Students			
Phase 1 September 21, 2020	Grades PreK, K, 2, 5	Grade 8, Horizons	Grades 9, 12, Horizons	All students served in special education classes <i>Excluding Speech Impaired Only students (These students will phase in with their grade)</i>

				<i>level.)</i>
Phase 2 September 28, 2020	Grades 1, 3, 4	Grade 6, 7	Grade 10, 11, Dual Enrollment	All students

Attendance

- Students are required to attend school in accordance with Georgia Compulsory Attendance regulations.
- Students who remain in the virtual model due to parent requests will continue to have attendance taken through Canvas.

Classroom Safety

- Classroom desks, light switches, and door handles will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- To the extent possible, teachers should move from classroom to classroom to decrease the number of student transitions.
- To the extent possible, classroom configurations will support social distancing. This could include having all students face in the same direction.
- Sharing of personal items and classroom materials will be discouraged to the extent possible.
- Staff will teach and reinforce good hygiene practices (handwashing, use of face coverings, appropriate actions when sneezing or coughing).
- Each classroom will have access to hand sanitizer.
- Parents will not be allowed to escort students to the classroom.

Cleaning and Disinfecting in Schools

- All buildings have received a deep cleaning and have been sanitized and disinfected.
- Building inspections will be conducted by designated personnel before opening of school to staff.
- Staff will be provided masks, face shields and hand sanitizers, to include refills as available.

- Thermometers have been provided to each school, and anyone entering the building shall be scanned. School safety protocols will be followed if temperatures are higher than normal (see Staff Screening Tool).
- Air conditioning units and equipment have received service according to the established protocols and timelines of the system.
- Signage (to include infection control materials and posters) have been posted, and established protocols for social distancing must be followed as practical.
- Traditional water fountains will remain inoperable in all facilities. Bottle water fountains will be installed in schools no later than September 11, 2020.
- Additional wall-mounted sanitizer dispensers have been installed at all LCSS facilities.
- Staff should clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day in their work areas.
- Staff should follow CDC Guidelines for social distancing, hand washing, mask recommendations, etc.
- Custodial schedules may be adjusted for additional sanitation.

Before Reporting To School - Staff/Student COVID-19 Self-Screening Tool

*****This tool is not meant to take the place of consultation with your healthcare provider or to diagnose or treat conditions. If you are having a medical emergency, please call 911.**

Parent At-Home Screening

Although we will be checking temperatures and watching for symptoms at school, we are requiring our parents to screen their children at home before boarding the school bus or arriving at school. The following provides guidance for families in making decisions.

- Have you been within 6 feet of a person for 15 minutes or longer who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Has anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
- Are you currently awaiting COVID-19 test results?
- Have you traveled on a plane, train or bus or traveled outside of the United States in the past 14 days?
- In the last 72 hours have you had TWO or more of the following symptoms:
 - Fever of 100.0 or greater
 - Possible fever symptoms such as alternating chills and sweating
 - Cough
 - Trouble breathing, shortness of breath or severe wheezing

- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- New loss of smell or taste or changes in taste
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Headache

****If you answered “Yes” to any of the questions above, you should NOT report to school. Follow up with a healthcare provider and return to school based on medical advice.**

Face Covering Requirement

- Face coverings must be worn by students and staff. Individual concerns regarding face coverings should be addressed with the school principal.
- Wearing of face coverings should follow guidelines set forth by the Department of Public Health.
- Face covering logos, designs, etc. should not be offensive in nature.

Staff COVID-19 Positive Result

- Safety is the top priority of the district. The district is committed to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.
- A staff member must contact his/her principal if the staff member has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- A staff member who receives a confirmed, positive COVID-19 result must not report to work and must contact the principal immediately.
- In the event a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the principal must immediately contact the Superintendent or his designee.
- The Superintendent or his designee will contact the Department of Public Health for guidance for contact tracing and quarantine directives.

Student/Staff Arrival Health Screening

- Upon arrival, **ALL** students and staff members will have their temperature screened using a touch-free Infrared thermometer.
- Students and staff will practice social distancing while waiting to be scanned. This also ensures each individual's privacy.

- Any student or staff member who registers a temperature of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater will be asked to report to the nurse for a temperature recheck and symptom check. The nurse will be located in the isolation room.
- Any student or staff member who continues to have a temperature greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit on rescreen or has two or more symptoms will be required to go home.
- The nurse will contact the parent or guardian to pick up the student. In the event that the nurse is unable to reach anyone within one hour, the principal, social worker or lead nurse will be contacted for assistance.
- Students will be instructed to wait in the designated holding room until they are picked up by their parent/guardian.
- The staff member who is monitoring the holding room is required to follow LCSS COVID-19 safety protocols.
- If at any time the student or staff member requires emergency assistance, EMS will be called.
- The nurse will keep a student and staff log of anyone who was sent home. The nurse will provide a copy of this log to the principal on a daily basis.
- Prior to coming to work/school, parents should monitor their children and staff members should monitor themselves for any symptoms
- In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19, visitors will be limited into the schools. Visitors who are permitted into the building will have a temperature screening performed before being admitted.

Holding Room Guidelines

- Upon arrival, any student who has a temperature screening of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater must report to the holding room for a recheck of temperature with a hospital-grade thermometer and symptoms screening.
- Any student throughout the day who is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 should be evaluated by the nurse and sent to/remain in the holding room until parent/guardian pick-up.
- All staff working in the holding room are required to wear a mask at all times and utilize other PPE as necessary such as gloves, face shields, goggles, etc.
- All students waiting for parent pick-up must wear a mask at all times.
- All students evaluated must be signed in to log, and a copy of this log must be given to the Principal at the end of each day.
- All students waiting in the isolation room will be socially distanced. Each student should be assigned to an area and instructed not to leave this area without permission and not to interact with other students.

- After a student has been picked up by their parent / guardian, the staff member must wipe down the student area with approved disinfectant (provided by custodial staff). Area should be allowed to completely dry before another student is assigned to that area.
- The staff member may have a work area set up in the holding area or outside the door as allowed by the Principal. Staff members must be able to visualize students at all times.
- If the student's symptoms worsen, the staff member monitoring the holding room should contact the school nurse for immediate re-evaluation. In the event of a medical emergency, EMS should be called.

Academics

Students in the grade levels identified to return on above dates will be provided in person, face to face instruction by teachers identified on the students' schedules. Students who will attend school virtually will be provided instruction by teachers identified in each student's current schedule but will continue to be provided virtually using Google Meets and Canvas.

Parent teacher conferences, IEP/504 meetings, faculty meetings, PLCs, grade level meetings, professional development, etc. are encouraged to be conducted virtually.

All classrooms will be required to have an active Canvas component.

Teachers who teach special education and/or multiple grade levels may be required to provide face to face and virtual instruction simultaneously using Canvas and Google Meets.

Technology

Students are provided an iPad to enhance learning both in and out of the classroom. Students are expected to take their assigned iPad home each night and bring back to school charged each morning. This will allow for continued learning in the event of any unexpected closure of a building that would prevent the students from retrieving their iPads from school.

School Counseling

School counselors will serve students' academic, career, and social-emotional needs by conducting individual and group counseling sessions at each school site. Social distancing and safety procedures will be followed.

Special Education

Students with disabilities served in the areas below will return to face-to-face instruction on September 21, 2020:

- Self Contained classrooms-including the Transition Academy
- CoTeaching/Inclusion Classes
- Consultative Students
- Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired Students

Students served only in the Speech-Language Impaired program will return with their grade level.

Speech-Language Pathologists/School staff will contact parents to inform them of the date they will return.

Transportation Services

- Parents are encouraged to provide transportation for their student(s) if possible.
- Bus routing for all returning students will be completed by September 11th.
- Bus schedules for returning students will be posted on the district website by September 15th for specific pick up and drop off times.
- Students will be required to wear face coverings on the bus, unless otherwise documented and approved by the school principal.
- Students will be assigned seating.
- All buses will be sanitized and disinfected after each morning and afternoon route.
- Families will be notified if routing information is updated.

Nutrition Services

- Breakfast and lunch meals will be provided to all students *free* of charge until December 18, 2020.
- Breakfast and lunch meals for virtual students will continue to be provided at each school site from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. for pick up.

- To the extent possible, lunchroom configurations will support social distancing. This may include having meals provided in the classrooms.

Human Resources

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, unless otherwise expanded.

The district will follow The FFCRA guidelines for COVID-19 related leave. If an employee needs to use the Emergency Paid Sick Leave or Extended Family Medical Leave they should contact the Human Resources Department. For all other leave, HR will follow the LCSS district leave Policy GARH: Employee Leaves and Absences.

Athletics

Fall sports will resume on *September 9, 2020*, and the school district will follow Georgia High School Association guidelines for sporting events and practices. Decisions pertaining to schedules, practices and makeup games will be addressed through collaboration between high school principals, athletic directors and coaches consistent with GHSA regulations.

Virtual Option

The district believes that face-to-face instruction is the best method for teaching our students. If parents are uncomfortable with face-to-face instruction due to COVID-19, virtual/distance learning remains an option. Virtual learning content will continue to be delivered through Canvas. Families wishing to have one or more of their students continuing in virtual/distance learning will need to complete the *Learning Option* form located on each student's iPad by Thursday, September 17, 2020. One form must be completed per student. Once the form is submitted, a staff member will contact the parent for confirmation and further direction. Students participating in virtual/distance learning will receive their daily schedule from their teachers.

Students who are participating in virtual/distance learning may have a schedule change based on the number of students selecting virtual learning as opposed to face-to-face learning in each school/grade/class. Because it is unknown at this point how many students will select the virtual option, virtual class schedules cannot be determined in advance.

Students who are participating in virtual/distance learning will be contacted about changes in meal distribution.

Additional Information

The LCSS Re-entry Plan is based on current COVID-19 cases in the district, guidelines from federal, state, and local agencies, and other conditions that may impact safety of students and staff. This plan may be modified as conditions warrant.