



LAWRENCE COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Return to In Person Instruction
Plan for the 2023-24 School Year

As of July 1, 2021, local school boards of public K-12 education institutions will be responsible for implementing whatever measures and restrictions deemed necessary and prudent to address the impact and spread of COVID-19 for their buildings, facilities and grounds, to include transportation. Educational governing bodies are encouraged to follow CDC guidance and any guidance that may be issued by the Indiana and Local Departments of Health and Education.

School Day

- In-person instruction will continue to be provided 5 days a week.
 - ☐ School Doors Open - 7:45 a.m.
 - ☐ Breakfast Available - 7:45 until 8:05 a.m.
 - ☐ Start of School Day - 8:05 a.m.
 - ☐ Tardy Bell- 8:05am
 - ☐ Student Dismissal - 3:00 p.m.
- Virtual learning may be an option for families who prefer to keep students at home **ONLY** if approved by the Director of Schools and have medical reasons for doing so. (Physician consultation and documentation will be necessary)

Bus Transportation

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventive measures such as:
 - Encourage students to wash hands and provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.

Meal Service

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - Encourage students to wash hands before and after meal service. Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
 - Students will use hand sanitizer after recess prior to entering the lunch room. Instructional staff will place a small amount in each child's hand, unless they have a medical reason that they cannot use hand sanitizer. The student will be instructed to wash their hands. .
 - Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
 - Consider single serve/pre-wrapped items and utensils when appropriate.

Transitioning (Hallway)

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day.
 - Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff at entrances to classrooms.

Entering School Buildings

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventive measures such as:
 - Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
 - Post signage to communicate how to stop the spread. Include COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and specific protocols.



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Vaccinations

- Follow Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidance if COVID-19 becomes a required or recommended vaccine. **Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine is not listed as either a required or recommended vaccine.** Should that change, religious and medical exemptions will be followed like with all other vaccines.
- Provide parents/guardians with ISDH COVID-19 vaccination information for students if required for the 2023-24 school year.

Practicing Prevention

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, etc.
- Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use.
- Take steps to make sure all water systems and features are safe.
- Turn off the water fountains except for water filling stations and encourage students and staff to bring water bottles from home.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff.

Illness

The best place for a student to be when they are ill is at home. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please keep them at home to recover and prevent the spread of any illness:

| <u>SYMPTOM</u> | <u>EXPLANATION</u> |
|-----------------------|--|
| Fever | 100.4°F or greater. May return when fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) |
| Vomiting | Any unexplained episode in the past 12 hours. May return 24 hours after last episode |
| Diarrhea | Three or more unexplained episodes of watery or loose stools in 24 hours OR sudden onset of loose stools. May return 24 hours after last episode. |
| Rash | Any new rash accompanied by a fever. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider. |
| Skin Lesions (Sores) | Drainage from a sore that cannot be contained within a bandage OR sores are increasing in size OR new sores are developing day-to-day. All skin lesions must be covered at school. |
| Cough | Serious, sustained coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing. |
| Other | Symptoms that prevent the student from active participation in the usual school activities OR student is requiring pain medicine stronger than Tylenol or Ibuprofen. |

These recommendations are based on the guidelines provided by the Communicable Disease Program of the Indiana State Department of Health. They were developed to help prevent the spread of potentially contagious disease.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- All federal, state, and local guidelines will be followed as well as adherence to FERPA and HIPAA requirements.



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Terms:

- In-School Instruction- students present in the school building.
- Virtual Learning - students completing lessons and activities remotely through technology.
- Vulnerable populations - elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy as identified by national health organizations.