

**Plan for Safe Return**  
**Lexington Public Schools**  
**Elevated Risk**

**Overview**

- This plan was written taking into account a broad base of stakeholder input and public comment, including the consultation of local medical providers, parents, and staff.
- The superintendent is authorized to implement this plan at any time based on exigent circumstances involving the outbreak of COVID-19.
- It shall be posted to the District’s website: [www.lexschools.org](http://www.lexschools.org) by August 10, 2021.
- It is accessible in the languages of English, Spanish, and Somali, but can be translated into other languages as requested, or reformatted for persons with disabilities.
- This plan will be reviewed at least every six months and revised as necessary taking into account input from members of the public, local medical providers, public health agencies, and the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”). Any revisions will be publicly available on the District’s website.
- The District shall maintain records of the people involved in writing this plan; and document input received about, changes to, posting locations of, and policies referenced within, this plan.

**Plan Contents**

**i. Universal and Safe Wearing of Masks**

In the event of another COVID outbreak, grades preK-12 will be required to wear fabric or cloth masks or other approved face coverings at all times including in school vehicles, during class, during passing periods, in lunch lines, and during any other times that social distancing is not possible. Exceptions may be made only as required by law, such as based upon the decisions of a student’s IEP or 504 teams, or as otherwise necessary such as while eating or drinking.

Masks must be worn over both the nose and mouth at all times, and students and staff will be instructed not to touch the outside of the mask as well as how to safely and effectively put on and take off the mask or face covering. School staff shall model correct and consistent mask use.

If the wearing of masks is a rule adopted by the school board, similar to any other health and safety or dress code rules, students who refuse to wear masks will face consequences consistent with the District's student discipline policies. Mask wearing is currently included as a possible requirement in District handbooks in the event this plan is implemented.

Parents may provide an approved face covering for their children, but the District will have them available at no cost to the student.

Staff will also be required to wear approved face coverings when not teaching, and to the extent possible when teaching. Special circumstances may constitute not wearing a face covering during the school day.

Students will be required to wear masks on school buses, and may be required to wear them at recess and during secondary extra-curricular activities, depending on CDC and/or guidance from the Two Rivers Public Health District ("TRPHD").

Unnecessary traffic into buildings by visitors, vendors, etc. will be eliminated. Visitors shall be required to wear masks in school buildings and parents will need to schedule appointments to meet with school staff to reduce the risk of transmission. Upon entering buildings, parents and visitors shall be required to perform a self-check for COVID symptoms. If they are symptomatic, they will not be allowed to enter.

Spectators may also be required to wear masks at indoor and/or outdoor activities as recommended by the Nebraska School Activities Association ("NSAA").

**ii. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g. use of cohorts/podding)**

Physical distancing will be maximized to the greatest extent possible, ideally achieving 3 feet of distance between students while seated in classrooms. In

large population environments, students may be required to maintain 6 feet of distance from one another if possible. If 6 feet of physical distancing is not possible, in some circumstances students may be assigned to cohort groups to minimize interaction with students in other groups. For example, students may be assigned seats during lunch or assigned to play groups during recess. Large group assemblies and unnecessary trips will be eliminated in the event of an outbreak. Students will be spaced as far apart as possible in school vehicles with ideally one student assigned per row. Windows may be opened, if safe and weather permitting, to improve circulation of fresh air. Students may be required to enter their school buildings through an assigned door and to congregate after school in an assigned location to reduce interaction and possible transmission.

### **iii. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Frequent hand-washing and/or use of hand sanitizer will be enforced in all buildings. The District has an ample inventory of soap, disposable wipes, and hand sanitizer for the 2021-2022 school year.

Handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizer may be required of students before and after breakfast and lunch in all buildings, upon returning from recess at LMS and elementary buildings, and upon entry into a new classroom during period changes in the secondary buildings.

Students shall be instructed to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When handwashing is unavailable, hand sanitizer shall be used.

Students and staff shall be instructed to cover their mouths and noses while coughing or sneezing with a tissue when masks are not worn; and to immediately wash their hands after blowing their noses.

### **iv. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

The District will increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting buildings using EPA-approved detergents and disinfectants. Cleaning staff will be trained on the use of various cleaning agents, the use of PPE, and other relevant safety protocols.

Buildings will be cleaned at least once daily and high touch surfaces more frequently as needed. CDC guidance will be followed concerning the cleaning of

soft surfaces and keyboards, and strategies to reduce spread if/when someone becomes ill will be implemented.

The District will work collaboratively with its cleaning contractor to ensure cleaning staff are trained and apprised of recommended practices.

When possible, the District will also increase the introduction of outdoor air and/or higher SEER filtration to improve ventilation and indoor air quality. Student transportation vehicles will be cleaned at the beginning and end of every shift using EPA-approved disinfectants following CDC-recommended protocols.

Desks will be spread throughout classrooms to maximize spacing with orientation to the front of the classroom.

Food service sandwich and salad bars may be eliminated and water fountains disabled to reduce the potential for COVID spread. Students in grades PK-5 will be provided water bottles to reduce the potential for transmission.

**v. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaborations with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

The District will comply with privacy laws and the CDC's recommended protocols for quarantine and isolation. An internal tracking document has been created to record the dates, medical orders, and isolation requirements for students and staff across the District, accessible only to authorized District personnel and the TRPHD. The TRPHD will be contacted when the District becomes aware of a potential exposure requiring their assistance in contact tracing, and the District will assist the department in contacting close contacts. The District will use its website to publish the most current health department recommendations concerning quarantine and isolation as well as utilize its communications system (email, text, voice) and translation services to inform households.

Students and staff who show symptoms of COVID will be encouraged to stay home. Those symptoms will be communicated to students, their families, and staff in multiple translations using the District's website, social media platforms, and communications system. Available substitute teachers will be identified and

principals will assist in developing staffing plans to cover the classrooms of quarantined or isolated staff members.

**vi. Diagnostic testing and screening testing**

The District shall refer students and staff having COVID symptoms to community diagnostic testing locations. If diagnostic or screening testing is recommended and becomes available in schools, the District will avail its facilities to students and staff who provide informed consent, and provide training to school nurses who may be able to assist in testing. Rate of community transmission will be monitored to determine whether asymptomatic screening is warranted. The District will use its website to publish the most current health department recommendations concerning quarantine and isolation as well as utilize its website, social media platforms, communications system, and translation services to apprise households.

**vii. Efforts to provide vaccinations in school communities**

The District will continue to work collaboratively with TRPHD, local medical providers, and community leaders to promote and disseminate information on vaccinations to students, staff, and the community at large. The District will continue to avail its website, social media platforms, communications systems, message translation services, and facilities toward this effort.

**viii. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**

The District will accommodate exceptions to mask wearing and other mitigation measures only as permitted by a student's IEP or 504 team decisions. Such students may be further accommodated by placement changes approved by their respective teams. The District has acquired technology to be able to serve some students at home if the need arises and if approved by the respective team.

**ix. Coordination with State and local health officials. Including the needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant CDC guidance**

District personnel will continue to participate in weekly information-sharing sessions with local health care providers, TRPHD personnel, and other

community leaders. District administrators will continue to participate in regular state education department and governor briefings.

### **Continuity of Services**

**Student Academic Needs.** The District has invested in iPads, wireless connectivity, academic and organizational software, and student and staff training to ensure continuity of instruction should in-person learning not be possible due to another COVID outbreak. Students will continue to be provided accommodations as stated in their IEP/504 Plans during remote learning. Parent input will be sought to develop a plan for the provision of remote IEP services. Student progress will be reviewed by the student's team when in person learning resumes.

**Social emotional, mental health, physical health, and food service.** The District is implementing a social-emotional universal screener for students and staff beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. A social, behavioral and emotional approach using evidence-based curriculum, professional development, and interventions will be implemented. Additional staff have been put in place to help support the mental health needs of all staff and students. In the event of another outbreak, regular communication (using all available modalities) with students will be required of administrators and teaching staff to ensure the safety, academic engagement, and wellness of students. If in-person instruction is not possible, breakfasts and lunches may be provided to students through a USDA approved system. School counselors and mental health support staff will be available online by appointment for any students or staff in need of assistance.

Date Approved by Board: August 9, 2021