

Lake Central Modifications to in Person Instruction Protocols Fall 2021

**Subject to Board Approval on August 2, 2021**

**Based on school case counts, county infection rates and other data, our district mask policy may fluctuate for all students and staff.**

The following guidance has been given by recognized health experts and will be used in all Lake Central facilities beginning August, 2021. Given the fluid nature of potential infection rates, if the situation worsens, LCSC will take definitive guidance from the CDC, ISDH or Lake County Department of Health if they provide it. Federal, state, and local mandates *may* continue to change.

**Masks**

- Masks on all school buses have been mandated in CDC guidance
- Masks are required to be worn by all pre-K-6 students and pre-K-6 unvaccinated staff to start the year.
- For grades 7-12, masks are strongly recommended but not required for vaccinated students. Unvaccinated students should wear masks. 7-12 students will be on the honor system.
- Students in grades 7-12 who report to the nurse's office with COVID like symptoms will be provided a mask and the mask must be worn until the student is picked up by a parent/guardian.
- Masks are not required at outdoor events
- Unvaccinated staff members are required to wear a mask when inside Lake Central facilities.
- Vaccinated staff members should submit proof of a vaccine to their school nurse to avoid wearing a mask and to avoid any quarantines.
- Masks are unpopular among many in society. However, our top priority is to keep students in school. Masks were proven to be effective last school year. We will re-implement a mandate for all, if necessary, to avoid jeopardizing in person instruction which is our top priority. This may change later in the school year depending on case counts, vaccine availability for pre-K-6, and updated CDC guidance.

**Vaccines**

- The CDC states that "vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic."
- Lake Central School Corporation is not mandating the vaccine for students or staff members.

**Quarantine Guidance**

- Students or staff with a positive test must quarantine for ten days, should be isolated if others in the household are unvaccinated, and may return on the eleventh day after the positive test provided individual is fever free.
- LCSC will quarantine students who are seated near peers who test positive. LCSC nurses will look in database to determine any student who has been vaccinated as these students will not be quarantined. In the case of staff members, nurses will ask staff members to present proof of vaccination to avoid being quarantined.
- In addition to proof of vaccine, proof of a positive test in the past 90 days, without any symptoms, will also alleviate the need to be quarantined

- Unvaccinated individuals who are identified as a close contact must quarantine and can return on day 15.

#### **Notification of Local Health Officials**

- As in the past, per I.C. 20-33-2-47, LCSC will notify the county health department any time student absence reaches 20% in any school.
- As was done last year, all COVID positive data will be shared with the State of Indiana through the Gateway portal which also notifies the county health department each time a school submits data
- As was done last year, any “cluster” of COVID positive students (quarantined students subsequently test positive), will be discussed with the county health department

#### **Reporting Data to Stakeholders**

- The Superintendent will continue to post COVID positive data and quarantine data for students and staff members on a weekly basis

#### **Mitigation Options**

- As was the case last year, students at times will be in close proximity to one another while on buses and at school. Additionally, vaccines are not available yet to all age groups. Masks/face coverings are the one option that we will utilize to minimize the spread of COVID in our schools when the data supports their use.

#### **eLearning**

- Students will be permitted to “listen in” to the lecture part of class in the event they are at home due to being COVID positive or are a close contact quarantine. Teachers' main focus will be on the students that are physically in the classroom.
- eLearning will also be used in case a weather event causes school to be closed. If the event lasts more than 2 days, the third day and beyond will be made up at the end of the school year.
- Classrooms or schools closed due to an outbreak of COVID cases will utilize eLearning for the duration of the closure

#### **Cleaning Practices**

- Lake Central will continue to employ the 11 department members that were added in the spring of 2019 and will clean all areas of every facility as was the practice last school year.

#### **Cafeteria Use**

- Cafeterias will be used similar to the 2019-2020 school year.

#### **Drinking Fountains**

- Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles to school.

- Drinking fountain use will be limited to refilling personal water bottles for this school year.

#### **Athletics and Marching Band**

- LCSC will follow crowd restrictions or other protocols at home events should the county department of health mandate them.
- Lake Central will follow the guidelines set forth by the IHSAA and ISSMA.

#### **Visitors to School**

- Volunteers must provide proof of vaccination and will be limited to those who are involved with student learning and student support, such as field trip chaperones or guest speakers. Elementary classroom parties will limit parent support to one per classroom.
- All visitors will be required to wear a mask.

#### **Special Events**

- A decision regarding Veterans Day festivities will be made by the end of September and decisions about Fun Fair events will be made later this fall.

**It cannot be stated enough by our administrative team that maintaining in person instruction for our students is our highest priority. Trends in America and across Indiana have recently indicated marked increase in infection rates. Should this trend be seen in our schools and/or community, additional mitigation of risk through mandating masks will be implemented for all students and staff.**