

Leopold R-III School District



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Planned 2021-2022

Note: This is a living document. The Leopold R-III School District will continue to monitor the situation and follow current guidelines and recommendations. Our decisions will be based on recommendations and data from CDC, DESE, Missouri Governor, and applicable state and local agencies. Plan Review

This plan may be reviewed and modified anytime a new recommendation (from the CDC, DESE, Missouri Governor, Stoddard County Health Department, and applicable state and local agencies) advises Missouri Public Schools to review, change, or adapt policies to ensure a safe learning environment. At the least, this plan will be reviewed at the conclusion of each semester and any recommended changes and updates will be communicated to the staff and school community.

Adopted: 6/29/2021

Updated: 7/21/2021

Introduction

The Leopold R-III School District has created this plan to assist in the event that we deem it necessary to close the school district for a period of time due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the state or the community. It is our hope that this document will assist in answering questions and alleviating any concerns that employees, students, or families may have upon the return to school. As new information becomes available or new decisions are made based on situations which may arise updates to the document will be made as needed.

The Leopold R-III School District remains dedicated to providing the highest quality education to all students, while attempting to recognizing that the health of the community and the student population is of the utmost importance. Appropriate accommodations will be made to this plan for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies.

The school will continue to follow the latest guidance of public health officials.

For level 1, in-person classes will be taught in a traditional format. During this time, teachers will continue to develop lessons that can be taught in an alternative setting if the need arises. At different times during the school year teachers may present lessons using these alternative methods of instruction in an attempt to prepare students if the need arises to close school for a period of time due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. If there is an increase in the number of COVID related cases in the community, the district may transition into level 2. Level 2 would be very similar to what was in place during the 2020-2021 school year. If cases continue to increase and we feel that it is the best interest of our students the district would transition to a level 3. In the event of a level 3 closure, in-person classes would transition to distance learning and distance learning would continue until it is deemed safe to return to in-person learning.

Surveillance, Screening and Triage

- If the district is in level 1 or 2 students and staff are asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor if they:
 - have tested positive for COVID-19;
 - have been diagnosed presumptive positive for COVID-19;
 - are awaiting COVID-19 test results; and/or
 - exhibit one or more symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained. These symptoms include but are not limited to:
 - a fever of 100° or higher without fever-reducing medication
 - cough;
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - chills;
 - repeated shaking with chills;
 - muscle pain;
 - headache;
 - nausea/vomiting;
 - diarrhea;
 - sore throat; and/or
 - new loss of taste or smell.

Siblings or Other Students in the Household

If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his/her siblings or other students living in the same household will also be excluded from school until it is determined that it is safe for them to return to school. CDC and local health department guidelines will be used for the basis of this decision.

Self-Quarantine

If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a “hot spot” by the CDC, the District may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 calendar days.

If the local health department deems it necessary for a student to be quarantined the family is to contact the district to inform them of this decision. Arrangements will be made to transition that student to an on-line learning model.

Masks

- Secondary students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to wear masks in hallways.
- Elementary and middle school students in grades K-6 are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.
- Masks are available to all students during transportation on buses.
- All students are encouraged to wear masks during intermittent periods in classrooms throughout the day depending on the activity and proximity to others.
- Students who choose to wear a mask are able to bring their own mask.
- All masks must be school appropriate.
- If a student needs a mask they need to contact the principal or school nurse upon arrival to school and one will be provided.
- Students with special needs or medical needs may be exempt from the requirement to wear masks.
- Any student will be allowed to wear a mask at any time as long as it does not present a safety concern.
- Staff will be encouraged to wear masks / face coverings when within 6 feet of others or in common areas.
- When masks are worn they should be worn in an appropriate manner. That is that the masks should be snug to the face and cover the mouth and nose completely.

Wearing masks correctly

- [Wash your hands](#) or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask.
- Put the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Fit the mask snugly against the sides of your face, slipping the loops over your ears or tying the strings behind your head.
- If you have to continually adjust your mask, it doesn't fit properly, and you might need to find a different mask type or brand.
- Make sure you can breathe easily

Employee Self-Screening

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees, we will be requiring employees to complete a daily self-screening, which includes answering a set of questions related to COVID-19 symptoms including.

1. Staff should ask the following questions:

- a. Have you had a fever in the last 3 days?
- b. Have you been experiencing any respiratory symptoms?
- c. Do you have any symptoms such as chills, fever, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat?
- d. Have you been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 symptoms recently?

COVID-19 Related symptoms:

- Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea
 - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19
- All screening information will be kept confidential by the Administrative Team and the district nurse.

Parent/Student Self-Screening

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our employees, we ask that parents complete a daily self-screening which includes answering a set of questions related to COVID-19 symptoms including.

1. Parents should ask the following questions:
 - a. Have you or your child had a fever in the last 3 days?
 - b. Have you or your child been experiencing any respiratory symptoms?
 - c. Do you or your child have any symptoms such as chills, fever, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat?

COVID-19 Related symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

All screening information will be kept confidential by the Administrative Team and the district nurse.

Student and Employee Screening

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or may be excluded if they exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained:

- A fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell

Guidance if Suspected Case of COVID-19

While we all hope to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If you or someone you've been in contact with has been exposed to the virus, our first concern is for your health and safety and for the health and safety of those around you. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers should have the most up-to-date information from the CDC. Students and staff must stay home if sick. All student and staff members should follow these guidelines to screen for symptoms of COVID-19, and must stay home if ill.

Social Distancing

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. Leopold R-III employees, students, parents, and visitors to the buildings should practice social distancing for as long as the CDC and Missouri Governor recommends.

Bus Transportation Mitigation Strategies

- Loading/Unloading
 - Each bus will have a roster of eligible student riders all students will be given an assigned seat.
 - Members of the same household will sit with each other if there is an increase of COVID-19 cases.
 - Students are to remain in one seat for the entire bus ride to assist in the event that contact tracing is needed.
 - Bus drivers will not work if they are sick.
 - If a student has transportation written into their IEP plan, the IEP will be followed.
 - Staggered seating if not at full capacity.

Strategies for Mitigation

In grades K-12, every best effort will be made to maintain stable groups. Classroom protocols will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact.

Handwashing

Throughout the day, we will encourage hand washing, and we will also supply hand sanitizer in every classroom. Students and staff members must wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after meals and recess.

Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette

The following measures to contain respiratory secretions are recommended for all individuals with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Use in the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use;
- Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic handwash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

Water Fountains

- All staff should have their own water bottle.
- Students should bring their own water bottle.
- Water bottles must not be shared.
- Water fountains will not be utilized.
- Water bottle filling stations can be used to refill water bottles.

Student Dismissal

Student dismissal should be staggered to eliminate bottlenecks at the exit points that impact social distancing.

Special and Elective Classes (Library/Art/Music/Physical Education)

- Activities will be modified to reduce the amount of shared equipment.
- Teachers will utilize activities that limit close contact with other students.
- Class will be moved outdoors when possible.
- Space will be increased between students/performers.

Social Emotional Well-being of Students and Staff

District counselors will provide social, emotional, and mental health support for teachers and students. Counselors will work with students individually or in small groups to address any well-being needs. Counselors will allow for individuals to give feedback on how to support student needs.

General Cleaning Procedures

- Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned at least once a day, including the use of electrostatic cleaning machines.
- Bathrooms will be disinfected regularly.
- Other frequently-touched common surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Teachers will have a spray bottle of disinfectant to wipe down desks and tables.
- Traditional water fountains will be disabled.
- There will be staff hired to sanitize the building in the evening when students are not present.
- Efforts will be made to improve ventilation through mechanical means in the building

Instructional Formats

- Traditional instruction will take place while practicing social distancing guidelines as possible.
- Blended learning will be introduced and practiced in the beginning of the school year to prepare for the possibility of distance learning.
- The school was required to create a plan for Alternative Methods of Instruction (**AMI**) and (**AMI-X**) and submit it to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
- AMI refers to alternative instructional methods provided during a brief shut down, such as 2-3 days.
- AMI-X refers to alternative instructional methods provided during a longer closure such as, 10 to 14 days.
- AMI/AMI-X include independent practice and application of previously taught concepts via:
 - App or web-based software to teach/reinforce concepts
 - Distance Learning (3-5 minute video/powerpoint)
 - Assigned reading, study or activity to introduce new concepts
 - Educational packets
- On AMI/AMI-X days, the school will use the following types of materials and assignments to effectively facilitate teaching and support learning for the benefit of the students:
 - Electronic/web-based
 - Textbooks
 - Library/classroom library books
 - Packets/worksheets
 - Manipulatives

- Learning games
 - Teacher created materials
- In the event of a school shutdown the administration will deliver and collect work on a regular basis. Teachers will be available to students to answer questions.

2021-2022 RETURN TO SCHOOL

INSTRUCTIONAL PLANS

In order to provide consistent communication and keep our employees and students safe, the district has developed three instructional plans for the 2021-2022 school year depending on the status of COVID-19:

Levels of Reopening

The goal of the school district is to have as many days at Level 1 as possible. We feel that the best education occurs at this level. However, for the safety of our student and staff we need to be prepared in the event there is an increase in COVID-19 cases in the district or in the community.

- Level 1-Daily on Campus Learning-no restrictions (Similar to what we did ever year before last year)
- Level 2-Daily on Campus Learning w/ social distancing and Elementary in Cohorts (Similar to what we did during the 2020-2021 school year)
- Level 3-School Closure and we will offer distance learning for all students to ensure an equitable education through Google Classroom (True distance learning with no students on campus)

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Temperature checks	No	No	N/A
Guests	Yes (After checking in with office)	No	N/A
Athletic events	Open attendance	Limited attendance	Limited attendance
Hallway for students	Masks optional	Masks mandated	N/A
Masks on busses	Available	Available and encouraged	N/A
Extracurricular events	Open with no restrictions	Open with possible restrictions	TBA depending on the severity of the outbreak
Lunch	Students sit with class. High school can go to gym after lunch	Extra elementary lunch shift. Students sit with one other classmate. Disinfecting between lunch shifts	Available to be picked up at school
Elective classes	Regular schedule	Only with class and limited interaction with other students	On-line
Breakfast	In cafeteria beginning at 8	In classroom beginning at 8:15	Available to be picked up at school
Student Arrival	Not before 7:50. Students will stay in their designated areas	Not before 8:00. Students will go directly to their classroom	N/A
Special events	Guests allowed	Events will continue without guests allowed	N/A
Recess	Normal	Students in zones based on grade level	N/A
Bus Routes	Normal 3-routes	Possibility of extra bus routes to enable social distancing	N/A

Our decisions on what level to be at will be based on recommendations and data from CDC, DESE, Missouri Governor, and applicable state and local agencies. The Leopold R-III School District recognizes the importance of having a plan in place.

Vaccinations

In an effort to recognize an individual's personal health choices, vaccines will not be required for our staff or our students. The community hosted on site vaccine clinics last school year, and will continue to search out opportunities to share with the school community about local vaccination clinics. If a staff member or student would like to receive a vaccination every effort will be made to accommodate their wish.

Plan Review

This plan may be reviewed and modified anytime a new recommendation (from the CDC, DESE, Missouri Governor, and applicable state and local agencies) advises Missouri Public Schools to review, change, or adapt policies to ensure a safe learning environment. At the least, this plan will be reviewed at the conclusion of each school quarter and any recommended changes and updates will be communicated to the staff and school community.

Accessibility

This plan can be made available in other languages as requests are received.

Community Input

We will continue to offer public surveys if there is a need for public input based on any new developments with Covid-19 and its treatments.