

# **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: 4/13/2022**

## **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. 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.

\*See “Test to Stay” option at the end of this document for additional guidance.

## **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.

If a student is fully vaccinated and they are asymptomatic they will not need to quarantine. If a student has to quarantine due to a possible exposure they will be allowed to return to school after 7 days with a negative test result.

\*See “Test to Stay” option at the end of this document for additional guidance.

## **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.

\*See "Test to Stay" option at the end of this document for additional guidance.

## **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.

\*See “Test to Stay” option at the end of this document for additional guidance.

## **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.

If the student tests positive for COVID, the local health department may then contact the parent/guardian and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).

If a staff member tests positive for COVID, the local the school nurse will then talk to the staff member and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).

\*See "Test to Stay" option at the end of this document for additional guidance.

### **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 contract 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.
  - Per CDC guidelines all passengers and drivers on a bus will wear a mask.

### **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.

### **Contact Tracing**

In the case of a positive test, the Leopold R-III School District will work with the local health department to conduct a risk assessment. The District will follow guidelines to determine close contact while students are at school and the local health department will conduct a risk assessment for the times that a student was not at school. All information gathered at school regarding close contacts will be shared with the local health department.

### **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 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 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 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)

### **Athletics**

The Leopold R-III school district will follow the guidance of MSHSAA when determining if a student is eligible to participate in athletics.

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

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. Students who are fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine due to an exposure as long as they are asymptomatic.

## **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.

## **Test to Stay**

The Leopold R-III school district will give parents the right to participate in the "Test to Stay" option as outlined below.

### **Options for Students and Staff Members who are exposed to COVID-19**

#### **Vaccinated students and staff members**

As long as they are asymptomatic, fully vaccinated students and staff members will not have to quarantine due to an exposure in the household or in any other situation. A student or staff member who is fully vaccinated and is considered a close contact will be asked to mask at all times for either 14 days if they do not choose to get an antigen test, or 5 days with a negative antigen test on day 3-5. This is per the CDC guidelines.

#### **Nonvaccinated students and staff members**

- If a nonvaccinated student or staff member is considered close contact in their household, the student or staff member will need to quarantine for 10 days from last exposure if they choose to not receive an antigen test.
- If a nonvaccinated student or staff member is considered close contact in their household, the student or staff member will need to quarantine for 7 days from last exposure and return to school on day 8 if they have one negative antigen test between days 5-7 and remain asymptomatic.
- If a nonvaccinated student or staff member is exposed to COVID-19 due to a positive case outside of their household, there are multiple options available.

### ***Option 1.***

A student or staff member can quarantine for 10 days after last exposure as described above.

### ***Option 2.***

A student or staff member can quarantine and return to school on day 8 if they follow the steps described above.

### ***Option 3 (Test to Stay):***

Quarantine outside of school setting is recommended. Stay in school and participate in extracurricular activities. –Students, teachers, and staff identified as close contacts can continue to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities, if the following test to stay criteria are met:

- The close contact does not include household exposures (i.e., exposures among persons who live in the same household). There may be other similar higher-risk exposures where test to stay would not be recommended. The final decision regarding the inclusion in Test to Stay is at the discretion of the LPHA based on findings of the case investigation.
- Does not develop symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the full duration of the quarantine period (14 days past the last date of exposure to the case).
- Wears a mask consistently and correctly in school at all times during their quarantine period (14 days past the last date of exposure to the case), other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain 6 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
- Receive a minimum of three rapid antigen tests (e.g., BinaxNOW) during the first seven days of the quarantine period per the following:
  - Test One: Upon identification as a close contact (unless already participating in a screening testing program);AND
  - Tests Two and Three: A minimum of two additional rapid antigen tests, preferably on two non-consecutive school days within the first seven days of the quarantine period. For example: contact identified as a close contact on day 2 of quarantine would be tested on day 2 (Wednesday); day 4 (Friday) and day 7 (Monday); AND

- The testing is conducted upon entry to school and negative results received prior to return to the K-12 setting.
- For participation in extracurricular activities, daily testing is recommended, though at a minimum, an additional rapid antigen test is to be taken on the day of participation throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period. The testing should be completed and a negative result received prior to participation in the event. This includes testing on days when the event occurs during weekends, holidays, or other days when schools are not in session (see additional guidance below regarding testing and participation in extracurricular activities)
- Receive negative test results from COVID-19 testing conducted throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period.
- Active monitoring of persons participating in test to stay for symptoms is conducted by the school throughout the duration of the 14-day quarantine period, and persons should self-isolate at home if symptoms develop
- Per DHSS and the Bollinger County Health Department recommendation, if there is a significant increase of positive cases in a student population then this “Test to Stay” policy may be modified or suspended.

### **For Test to Stay option**

1. Masks must be worn correctly. If a student is not consistently wearing a mask correctly, they will not be allowed to participate in this option.
2. Because masks can't be worn while eating, an alternative setting for lunch will be provided.
3. Students will report directly to the nurse to receive their test when they come to school.
4. Per DHSS guidance masks will not need to be worn on while participating in highly aerobic activities (practices and games).
5. Tests must be given either at school or by a health care provider. At home test results will not be accepted.
6. In order for students to participate in highly aerobic activities during school hours (PE, recess, and music) students will need to participate in the daily test procedure as described above. If a student does not choose to test daily, they will not be allowed to participate in the highly aerobic activities and they will be placed in an alternative setting during this time.
7. If a student needs a short “mask break” from wearing their mask during the school day they will need to see an administrator or the school nurse. They will be placed in a location where they can safely remove their mask.
8. A testing permission form, signed and completed by the parent or legal guardian, will need to be brought to school on the days the student needs tested. A test can't be given unless a signed and filled out permission form is at school.
9. The student will self-report any symptoms that develop during the quarantine period.

10. Signed participation permission form will be returned to the school before the student is allowed to participate in the “Test to Stay” option.