

Lexington Local Schools

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

1. How will the LEA maintain the health and safety of students, educators and other staff?

Lexington Local Schools will continue to follow and/or consult the health and safety guidelines set forth by the Governor and Richland PublicHealth. Please check the RPH website for the most current information: <https://richlandhealth.org/>

2. Extent to which LEA has adopted policies and description of such policies on each of the prevention and mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC

a. Masks

Policy 8450 was written to address Protective Facial Coverings during Pandemic/Epidemic Events. As per the June 2, 2021 rescinding of state health orders, masks will no longer be required, however, mask wearing will be welcomed.

b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.

The district will follow all state statutes and/or Richland Public Health protocols which pertain to immunization and other means for controlling casual-contact communicable disease spread through normal interaction in the school setting.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Hand washing and personal hygiene are important measures for use to prevent illness and communicable disease. Hand washing with soap and warm water for a minimum of twenty (20) seconds, paying close attention to the surfaces between the fingers and on the back of the hands, is best for removing dirt and germs. The proper use of hand sanitizers is also useful in controlling the spread of germs. Students and staff should wash their hands with soap and water:

- *after using the restroom;*
- *before and after eating;*

- *if hands are visibly soiled;*
- *upon encounter with chemicals or other items, such as soil, in a science lab , art room, career/tech facility or other activity that may soil hands;*
- *upon encounter with chemicals during cleaning processes;*
- *after cleaning animal habitats, and before and after handling animals;*
- *Before and after food preparation activities in family science or other integrated class;*
- *after athletic practices games;*
- *upon encounter with bodily fluids (e.g. blood, nasal discharge,mucus from coughing, etc.);*
- *after recess;*
- *After sneezing or coughing. When soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, waterless disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used in place of handwashing, however, not all sanitizers are effective. Proper education in hand washing and hand hygiene shall be provided and good hand washing habits shall be encouraged.*

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

The District has an environmental health and safety program that is positive, proactive, integrates responsibilities within the District, and promotes and incorporates the following: Procedures related to District employee health and safety issues that include, but are not limited to, provision of work areas free from recognized hazards and OSHA-related programs that are required by Federal and State law, such as, employee safety and health training and training in hazard recognition, and defining employer and employee responsibilities and expectations related to health and safety. In addition, custodial expectations will continue by making sure teachers are provided with all supplies needed including disinfectant and paper towels and/or wipes; sanitized classrooms afterschool, disinfected offices, and restrooms.

e. Improving ventilation

Classrooms without air-conditioning will have windows open, as appropriate for the weather or season. HVAC in buildings with air-conditioning will be serviced regularly and the level of filtration maximized. Water fountains have been modified to fill water bottles.

f. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Lexington Local will collaborate with Richland PublicHealth, to the extent allowable by privacy laws, to confidentially provide information about district individuals diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. Quarantining is not part of state health orders, so the district is not impacted by the rescinding of state orders. Close contacts are currently required to quarantine for a period of 14 days per Richland Public Health. If a student has been fully vaccinated (2 doses) for 14 days, with documentation, no quarantine will be required. Parents will be asked to report positive cases to schools to facilitate contact tracing and ensure communication and planning in schools. Staff, teachers, families, and emergency contacts or legal guardians will be notified immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, HIPAA, and ADA.

g. Diagnostic and screening testing

Lexington Local will not conduct COVID-19 diagnostic screening nor testing but will encourage anyone who asks to visit Richland Public Health for testing and then isolate until they have met the criteria for release: 10 days have passed since symptom onset; at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without medication; and other symptoms have improved.

h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to return to in-person learning to facilitate essential instruction in the school setting. Accommodations as prescribed in the IEP will be followed.

i. Coordination with State and local health officials

Lexington Local will follow protocols as prescribed by state and local authorities.

3. How will LEA ensure continuity of students' academic needs

The district has returned to in-person learning and will

continue that format in August 2021. Students in grades 6-12 will also be able to utilize the Lexington Learning Lab which will allow for blended instruction, where instruction is delivered in a combination of time in the building and time online in a location where the students have some element of control over time, place, path or pace of learning. Academic needs will be identified through the continued implementation of the universal screener iReady for reading and math in grades K-6 and special education at the junior high and high school. The district will also use district benchmark tests, report cards, interim reports, graduation rate, student attendance data, and teacher-based-team recommendations for identifying students' academic needs. Further information about the Extended Learning Plan can be found on the district website.

4. Students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, food services

Lexington Local Schools provides social-emotional and mental health service options for staff and students. In the event of another government mandated shut down, Lexington will provide meals to students who need them. Kitchen staff will prepare the food for distribution. Information regarding local food banks has been distributed. P-EBT cards are being provided during the school year.

5. Every six months, with public input, review and revise plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services

Lexington Local Schools ARP ESSER and Continuity of Services Plan will be posted on the district website. Updates will occur in January and June each year with input from stakeholders from surveys.

ADDRESSING ACADEMIC IMPACT OF LOST INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Not less than 20% of ARP ESSER allocation will be to address the academic impact of lost instructional time

a. Summer Learning

The district will provide summer instruction to close learning

gaps due to COVID disruptions from the FY21 school year during Summer FY21, FY22, & FY23. The focus will also be on students needing to recover graduation credits who, during remote learning, did not progress as expected. 1:1 Chromebooks have been, and will continue to be purchased for students, and laptops for teachers will continue to supplement desktops in each classroom. Online curriculum and online assessments will maintain an uninterrupted use of curriculum and assessments for Lexington Learning Lab students and for students in the buildings should the need arise to return to remote learning due to COVID or other reasons. Online resources are being provided to supplement or replace outdated textbooks. The current screener includes universal and gifted assessments, progress monitoring, instruction and interventions in reading and mathematics. Spring & Summer 2021: Chromebooks & teacher laptops acquisition and distribution; 1-week of math camp and 2 -weeks of science camp with snacks and lunches provided. All students will continue to have access to i-Ready reading and math instruction and myON Digital Library through August 6th. Summer ACT bootcamp was offered in 2021 and will be offered in the summers of 2022 and 2023. Students in grades 6-11 have the opportunity for acceleration or remediation/credit recovery via the Lexington Learning Lab. Fall 2021 -Spring 2023: Use of online curriculum for students during in-school and remote learning, training and implementation of the new universal screener, assessment, progress monitoring, and intervention program.

b. Blended Learning

Purchase of online curriculum and support resources aligned to the curriculum will promote ease of transition in and out of remote learning, should the district be required to close. These resources will also be used during in-building instruction. The Lexington Learning Lab will continue for students in grades 6-12 who are approved for the program. End of semester check-in will allow online students to return to the building.

MAINTENANCE OF EQUITY FOR HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS

Lexington Local Schools FY21 demographics: 21% Low income;

14% Students with Disabilities; 89% White non-Hispanic, 1% Black, 5% Multiracial, 3% Hispanic, 15% Chronic Absenteeism, 97% 4-year Graduation Rate. Through the use of ESSER and Wellness funds, the district is able to increase the number of Chromebooks to a 1:1 distribution so that every student has access. Students/Families in need of the internet have received a hotspot for internet access. Online courseware (Edgenuity) will be used for credit recovery. Learning opportunities through iReady personalized Learning Program will aid in credit recovery, enrichment opportunities, and assessments for third grade, universal screening, and gifted screening/identification in math & reading. The district will implement the following approaches to address achievement gaps:

- *Emphasis on data-based decision making to address achievement gaps*
- *After-school intervention*
- *Small group tutoring*
- *iReady personalized Learning for Reading & Math*
- *Grade and/or content TBT collaboration*
- *Credit recovery options*
- *Increase in Special Education staffing*
- *Utilization of the MTSS/RTI process*