

# LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

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**LEA Name:** Lebanon Borough School District

**Date:** August 24, 2022

**Date Revised:** June 13, 2024

For the 2024/2025 school year, the Lebanon Borough School District will continue with a traditional school year with full in-person instruction for all students. The school day will be the normal 8:40 am to 3:00 pm hours. **The federal Covid-19 declaration ended on May 11, 2023.**

Below is an overview of the few COVID-19 protocols that will remain in place for the 2023-2024 school year as encouraged by the CDC and/or NJ Department of Health. Positive COVID-19 cases should still be reported to the school nurse, Mrs. Kosciolek at 908-236-2448 ext 114, so we can track any outbreaks or clusters.

## 1. Maintaining Health and Safety

### **VACCINATION:**

Vaccination, including booster shots, remains the most critical strategy to protect students and staff and reduce interruptions in learning. Everyone who is eligible should be “up-to-date” with regard to vaccination and receive all recommended doses.

CDC recommends that people remain [up to date](#) with their vaccines, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised and [booster doses](#) at regular time points. The NJDOH states that “up to date” with vaccination means being fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2 **AND** having received all recommended additional doses, including booster doses when eligible. “Fully vaccinated” means being at least two weeks past completion of a primary vaccination series. If schools are unable to determine the vaccination status of individual students or staff, those individuals should be considered not up to date.

If your child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, please consider sending in a copy of the vaccination record to the health office so that they may add it to your child’s immunization file. The vaccine is not a requirement, but it is a great way to keep your student’s records updated and all in one place.

### **MASKS:**

Masks remain optional for the 2024-2025 school year. Each student/family and staff member can make their own decision as to whether they want to wear a mask. We are asking everyone to respect each other’s decision, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. In accordance with our district policy and Code of Conduct, bullying will not be tolerated.

It is possible that the district may need to reinstate the mandatory mask requirement if the number of positive COVID-19 cases increases in our schools or Hunterdon County, or if outbreaks occur in our school community.

For those who choose to wear a mask, as a reminder, the following are unacceptable forms of face coverings: bandanas, gaiters, and masks with vents. Only surgical, cloth or clear masks will be allowed in schools.

#### **HAND WASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE:**

We will continue to reinforce proper hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to all students and employees. Touchless hand sanitizers installed in classrooms in 2020-2021 and mobile sanitizing stations at main entrances and common areas will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Teachers will also be reminded that the sharing of equipment and supplies is discouraged unless items can be cleaned between uses.

#### **CLEANING/DISINFECTION, AIRFLOW, AND VENTILATION:**

Enhanced cleaning protocols established in the 2020-2021 school year have continued over the last two years. The electrostatic sprayers will continue to be used throughout the building. . Common touch points such as door handles, knobs, railings, water fountains, etc. will be disinfected on a rotating basis throughout the school day. Custodial crews will continue thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting daily once students are dismissed.

In regards to airflow and ventilation, the HVAC system checks and increased filter changes for proper air quality will continue. Classroom windows and doors will be opened when possible to increase airflow.

#### **HEALTH SCREENING:**

Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Please use traditional protocols for keeping children home as per the student/parent handbook. Contact the school nurse for any questions or concerns.

#### **POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND ISOLATION PERIOD:**

It is recommended to follow CDC guidelines for students and staff who test positive for Covid-19. There are no mandatory requirements.

#### **Contact Tracing, Quarantining of Close Contacts, and Test to Stay Are No Longer Recommended:**

Per the updated guidance from the CDC released in August 2022, contact tracing of individual cases is no longer recommended for school settings. Our nurse will be monitoring for outbreaks or clusters, which will be reported to the NJ Department of Health. If your child tests positive, we do recommend parents conduct their own contact tracing when possible and let others know of potential COVID exposure. Per the CDC, close contact is defined as being

within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. Any close contact that begins to show COVID-like symptoms should go get tested.

Quarantining of students who are close contacts to a positive case is no longer recommended in school settings. Please monitor your child for COVID-like symptoms and get them tested if symptoms begin. If they test positive for COVID-19, they will be excluded from school for at least five days from symptom onset or positive case as outlined above.

### **APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES**

The IEP team will review physician's order and other formal and informal data to determine whether any additional accommodations are required with respect to the health and safety policies to support the safe return and/or continuity of services and in-person attendance of students with disabilities. When it is determined that additional accommodations and supports are needed, the student's IEP would be revised accordingly.

Teachers and staff will continue providing increased support for maintaining appropriate hygiene with regard to hand washing, sanitizing, and maintaining social distancing.

## **2. Ensuring Continuity of Services**

All students in the Lebanon Borough School District returned to a full school day (8:40 am to 3:00 pm) in the 2021-2022 school year as the option for remote learning was no longer in effect for the 2021-2022 school year per the expiration of the Governor's executive order. All extra-curricular programs and other programs such as our new food service have returned to regular operation as in a traditional school year.

The district will continue to assess students' progress in key subject areas and identify where remediation is needed. Supplemental information will be provided to parents and students related to learning strategies to help students succeed. Please reach out to your child's teacher or our School Social Worker, Mrs. Heller, if you need any assistance or support.

The district will continue to focus on student mental health and continue to share resources with families to assist them in this area.