

LMCSD Return to Learn Plan

August 6, 2020

These plans will help guide the school during the 2020-21 school year to determine when it is best to utilize one of three learning plans: 100% Face to Face, Hybrid Model or 50/50, or Virtual Learning. This document will help provide a clear understanding of how these plans will function by identifying student learning practices, health and safety procedures, lunch procedures, recess expectations, and transportation. In some cases the procedures will be identical no matter what plan is in place. **Our district will be in continual contact with state and local health departments regarding the need to move from one plan to the other. We will take into account current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance in creating school COVID protocol and procedure. In some cases, the decision may be directed by the state. In the event of needing to change models, we will give the community as much notice as possible.**

Guiding Principles

The intentional design of the delivery models planned for by Louisa-Muscatine CSD staff is to provide flexibility to our system so as to be able to deliver high quality, engaging instruction in a safe environment regardless of the health context in our community. The design is also built to provide flexibility to students and parents so as to have some choice in delivery that meets their needs. Given this, the district's Return to Learn plan is based on a simple principle: FLEXIBILITY.

Note that there may be specific building and classroom guidelines/procedures based on needs in each location.

Parental Educational Options

We recognize that some students may be unable to attend school in-person due to either pre-existing medical conditions or out of personal family choice. We understand these decisions are difficult ones and families must make educational decisions that are best for their families.

If families are not comfortable with sending their student(s) to school, there will be an option to select a required continuous (online) learning program for students to continue their education.

Entering District Buildings

Prior to being on school property (including buses) students, staff and visitors need to be nonsymptomatic, unless otherwise explained. Visitors during the school day may be limited.

On-site Delivery

A full return of students and staff. This delivery model will be done in buildings with face-to-face delivery of instruction for all students given application of mitigation steps described below. We know the power of relationships, that are critical to student success, are best developed in face-to-face learning. Similarly, the feedback students and teachers get to improve student learning is most efficient and effective in this model. **For these reasons, our first and foremost preference for returning to school is to do so with students and teachers together in classrooms.**

Academic Requirements

All students will move throughout the building in a regular fashion. Elementary (PK-6) students will attend music, PE, and library classes as scheduled. Students in (7-8) will move to their respected classes throughout the 8 period day which will also include music, band, PE, and exploratory classes. Our 9-12 students will also follow their individual 8 period schedule attending classes with mixed grade level students at times. All students will have assigned seats that they will sit in daily or regularly throughout the day, with social distancing where possible.

L-M school will begin bringing students back on August 17th, a week earlier than the designated state start of August 24, 2020, to provide more instructional hours and learning opportunities. We may use flexibility during the week of August 17 to return students gradually. The use of student data driven support through our Multi-Tiered Support Systems (MTSS) will continue. Early out Wednesdays will be used for further MTSS time with a second PM bus route provided to students.

We will ensure that these practices are met by using instructional practices that facilitate grade-level learning while addressing any missed, prior learning (e.g., scaffolding up age- and grade-level learning with prior standards, bundling of standards). We will also provide teachers and instructional staff with opportunities to collaborate around student learning data to inform instructional planning, differentiation, and intervention determinations (i.e., MTSS) for both academic and social-emotional-behavioral health.

Health and Safety

The data we will use to support our plan will include coordination and communication with local public health and emergency management, the number and percentage of—and reason for—student absences, and a communication log of interactions with local public health and IDPH (e.g., PPE needs, health risks).

All employees of the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District will complete the DE required health and safety modules to prepare for student health measures.

We have several measures in place to monitor the health and safety of our students and staff. The school buildings and buses will be hydrostatically cleaned prior to each new school day unless school has not been in session for over 48 hours. Additional hydrostatic spraying will occur if a student has been sent home due to being symptomatic. At the same time teachers will be provided with additional sanitation spray and wipes that they can disinfect their tables, desks, and chairs more regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the school buildings and buses. Students, staff and visitors will disinfect hands prior to entering the school bus and/or building. While on school site cover coughs/sneezes, monitor for symptoms, and hand wash frequently.

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Social Distancing

Social distancing (6 feet when possible) will be used to arrange classrooms and common places. Students, staff and visitors attempt to respect the implementation of social distancing as much as practically possible in the school and on the playground and athletic field.

Drinking Fountains

At this time, traditional drinking fountains will be closed. Bottle filling stations will be available. Students may bring an empty water bottle from home.

School Nurse

The school nurse's office will have two rooms this coming year. The main room will treat students that have needs other than those with symptoms that are associated with Covid-19. Students that are assessed to have symptoms of Covid-19 will be isolated in a separate room that is convenient for the nurse to provide adequate supervision.

The District has purchased several infrared digital thermometers to use as needed. **Please do not give your child Ibuprofen or Tylenol to reduce a fever in order to send them to school.** If your child has a fever it will be expected that they don't attend school and they should be fever free without medication for the next **48 hours**.

Screening

The current CDC guidelines do not require screening of all students or employees for COVID-19 prior to entering a school building. Districts are strongly encouraged to communicate information to parents and employees about the symptoms of COVID-19 and asking them to **self-screen**

prior to coming to school. A list of symptoms follows in the Excuse from School section. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, they will be sent home immediately.

Excuse from School

Students and employees should not attend school, or will be sent home, if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained:

- a) A fever of 100° F or greater
- b) Constant Coughing
- c) Repeated shaking with chills
- d) Muscle pain
- e) Headache
- f) Sore throat

Regardless of the model chosen, the district will be required to track attendance. It is important that you communicate absences with the school. Perfect attendance rewards/certificates will no longer be given as we encourage families to keep their children home when ill or showing symptoms.

Return to School After Illness

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC, as well as the current IDPH guidelines.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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 or her siblings or other students living in the same household may be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine based on guidance from the Louisa County Health Department.

Wearing Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Face coverings will be worn if/as directed by the superintendent in conjunction with the school board under correspondence to federal, state, and county guidelines and/or recommendations.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), along with Governor Reynolds, is asking the public to #StepUpMaskUp. Current guidelines provided by the IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that face coverings are an important mitigation strategy for the reopening of schools safely and responsibly.

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/36/2020-07-20ReopeningandPublicHealth.pdf>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>

Louisa-Muscatine Schools is recommending all staff, visitors, and students to wear face coverings, especially on school buses and in the school educational setting (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday) when social distancing is not possible. Alternative mitigations can be made due to individual health needs, other CDC considerations, local health department recommendations and extra-curricular activities (which follows association/union guidance).

If you are attending and not participating in an extra-curricular event at Louisa-Muscatine, we encourage you to wear face coverings but there is no requirement. Attendance at school activity events is voluntary. If state, girls union, athletic association, conference, or other controlling bodies dictate differently we will conform appropriately.

District Response to Exclusion from School or Self-Quarantine

While students are sick, symptomatic or quarantined they should participate in lessons through the day online with their class whenever possible. Assignments and student work should be completed as assigned. Technology/devices will be provided as needed.

Confirmed Case of COVID-19 In the School Building

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in a school building, the district will contact the local health department immediately. The district will contact parents/students and employees and notify them that a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was in the building and encourage cooperation with the district and the local health department to trace contacts with the individual. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department.

Lunch Procedures

We will practice social distancing during this time. Classroom space may be used to socially distance all students during a particular time.

Recess

When recess is scheduled at the elementary, we will keep grade level students in designated areas, and possibly further divide into classroom cohorts.

Transportation

Students need to respect the six-foot social distancing guidelines while waiting at the bus stop. The students will stagger their entry onto the bus by following the directions of school personnel.

Students fill buses from the back forward with family members sitting together when possible. Students will be instructed to not touch seats while walking down the aisle. Bus riders will follow additional directions by school personnel on seating and other bus COVID19 protocol.

Social/Emotional/Behavioral Health

As a district, we will continue to meet the needs of our students to our best ability utilizing school professionals and outside resources as needed and/or available. The Conditions for Learning survey results will be analyzed and holistic changes will be implemented if needed.

We will use the student/family connection log if students/families need additional resources from the school district.

Further mitigations and procedural strategies will be implemented at the building level and possibly at the classroom level based on unique circumstances.

Hybrid 50% Student Capacity

The district has two model possibilities for a hybrid program that could be implemented district wide or different models between the two buildings. Daily schedules will be determined by site administration. Some students may be required to attend with both the L and M groups based on data determined need.

Plan A: Half of the student population will attend school physically on three days/week (L Group) while the other half will attend school from home remotely (M Group). The M Group is on site and the L Group is taught remotely during two different days/week. The following week the M Group will be taught on-site three days and the L Group two days with remote learning provided to those at home. The configuration of days can change due to shortened weeks or weather interruptions. Start and end times will be 8:10 (Secondary) & 8:17 (Elementary) and 3:18 (Secondary) & 3:25 (Elementary) with a two hour early end time on Wednesdays.

Plan B: A daily AM/PM rotation of the L & M groups four days a week, with all students being taught remotely on Wednesdays, using the following schedule:

L Group:
8:00-12:00

M Group:
12:30-4:30

Wednesday (for both groups):
8:00-12:00

Grab and go lunch

Lunch in room

12:30-2:00 Staff PD/PLC

Students will be assigned an AM or PM attendance time 8:00 - 12:00 or 12:00 - 4:30.

12:00-12:25 Teacher Duty Free Lunch

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Virtual Learning

Virtual learning will commence if an outbreak occurs, via local health department recommendation, or state recommendation/proclamation.

All of the student population is educated remotely from home. Learning devices such as Chromebooks (3rd-12th) and iPads (K-2) will be made available from the school district. Instructional days follow the approved school calendar. There are no early out days in the remote learning model. All formal lessons are from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon with the afternoon primarily dedicated to individual and small group assistance and staff professional learning. Multi-Tiered Support Systems (MTSS), Title I services, and Flight Time may be incorporated into afternoon support.

Associates will also assist in individual and small group interventions throughout the school day.

Associates may also provide duties outside of the conventional classroom setting during this time.

Zoom and/or Google Meets will be used as the primary educational delivery mechanisms and Google Classroom the primary platform.

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Parent Selected Virtual Learning Option:

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, we understand there may be many reasons parents wish to educate their child from home rather than the L-M On-site/Hybrid models as we return to school in August. If this is your desire, the district will provide access to online services provided by the district and/or AEA. Registration for online learning will occur during our normal on-site registration day August 4th. Please contact Amy Lantigua at (319) 726-3541 ext. 354 or alantigua@lmcsd.org to request this service.