

Lake Central Modifications to in Person Instruction Protocols Fall 2021
Includes Board Approval on *Masks and Visitors to School* on September 20 ,2021

The following guidance has been given by recognized health experts and will be used in all Lake Central facilities beginning August, 2021. Given the fluid nature of potential infection rates, if the situation worsens, LCSC will take definitive guidance from the CDC, ISDH or Lake County Department of Health if they provide it. Federal, state, and local mandates *may* continue to change.

Masks

- Masks on all school buses have been mandated in CDC guidance
- Masks are strongly recommended by the CDC, ISDH and Lake County Board of Health. Masks are mandated for Lake Central students at all developmental levels until changed by the Board. The administration and Board are closely following infection rates, Indiana Department of Health guidance and Governor Holcomb's executive orders which will determine when masks may become optional.
- Masks are not required at outdoor events
- As long as the terms of Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 21-27 remain in effect, the masking and associated quarantine guideline contained within will be followed. The order states that if everyone is masked in a school, then close contacts of positive Covid-19 students do not need to be quarantined. Instead, they need to monitor for any symptoms for 14 days. Close contacts of positive cases in situations where students are unmasked, like while eating, would still result in a quarantine.
- If this guidance is extended by Governor Holcomb, it will remain in place for the Lake Central School Corporation. Should the order expire, previous guidance will be re-implemented or we will update our guidance at a future board meeting. Executive Order 21-27 as well as the most recent Indiana Department of Health guidance are available on our web site.

Vaccines

- The CDC states that "vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic."
- Lake Central School Corporation is not mandating the vaccine for students or staff members.

Quarantine Guidance

- Students or staff with a positive test must quarantine for ten days, should be isolated if others in the household are unvaccinated, and may return on the eleventh day after the positive test provided individual is fever free
- Students or staff who are close contacts while at lunch or during athletics while unmasked will not have to quarantine if vaccinated and symptom free.

Notification of Local Health Officials

- As in the past, per I.C. 20-33-2-47, LCSC will notify the county health department any time student absence reaches 20% in any school.
- As was done last year, all COVID positive data will be shared with the State of Indiana through the Gateway portal which also notifies the county health department each time a school submits data
- As was done last year, any “cluster” of COVID positive students (quarantined students subsequently test positive), will be discussed with the county health department.

Reporting Data to Stakeholders

- The Superintendent will continue to post COVID positive data and quarantine data for students and staff members on a weekly basis.

Mitigation Options

- As was the case last year, students at times will be in close proximity to one another while on buses and at school. Additionally, vaccines are not available yet to all age groups. Masks/face coverings are the one option that we will utilize to minimize the spread of COVID and reduce the need to quarantine students and staff members in our schools.

eLearning

- Students will be permitted to “listen in” to the lecture part of class in the event they are at home due to being COVID positive or are a close contact quarantine. Teachers main focus will be on the students that are physically in the classroom.
- eLearning will also be used in case a weather event causes school to be closed. If the event lasts more than 2 days, the third day and beyond will be made up at the end of the school year.
- Classrooms or schools closed due to an outbreak of COVID cases will utilize eLearning for the duration of the closure

Cleaning Practices

- Lake Central will continue to employ the 11 department members that were added in the spring of 2019 and will clean all areas of every facility as was the practice last school year.

Cafeteria Use

- Cafeterias will be used similar to the 2019-2020 school year.

Drinking Fountains

- Students are encouraged to bring personal water bottles to school.
- Drinking fountain use will be limited to refilling personal water bottles for this school year.

Athletics and Marching Band

- LCSC will follow crowd restrictions or other protocols at home events should the county department of health mandate them.
- Lake Central will follow the guidelines set forth by the IHSAA and ISSMA.

Visitors to School/Volunteers

- Volunteers must provide proof of a negative test from a clinic or pharmacy that is conducted no more than 36 hours prior to the time of volunteering. An internet search of “free covid-19 test near me” will yield several local providers. It is likely that our schools will utilize fewer volunteers than in prior years
- Volunteers may also provide proof of vaccination in lieu of a recent negative test.

Special Events

- A decision regarding Veterans Day festivities and decisions about Fun Fair events will be made later this fall.

It cannot be stated enough by our administrative team that maintaining in person instruction for our students is our highest priority. We want to reiterate that masking allows us to avoid quarantining close contacts with the exception of those experiencing symptoms.