

COVID-19

School Health & Safety Guidelines

FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



RELEASED: January 4, 2022 · Based on recommendations from the EBRPSS Health Advisory Committee, the LA Department of Health, & the LA Department of Education



Health Centers in Schools
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Introduction

As we return to school after the winter break, our community is again facing a resurgence of COVID-19 cases (the Omicron surge). Although access to the COVID-19 vaccine is widely available for our community members (age 5 years and older), current parish (region 2) vaccine data indicates that only 6.99% of our school aged population has been fully vaccinated. The district's health and safety guidance has been updated in preparation for our student's and staff's return to school (following the winter holiday break).

Our standards are aligned with current guidance provided by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), and the East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) Health Advisory Committee.

The guidance in this document is subject to change over the course of the pandemic as the CDC, LDH and other medical experts continue to learn more from the science of vaccinations, viral transmission, and effective public health practices.

We appreciate our educators for building adaptive plans for teaching and learning as they continue to respond to our community's updated safety procedures and protocols. We can get through this together!

For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit the [LDH website](#) and the [CDC website](#) and follow the standards and guidance outlined in this document.

Operational Health & Safety Standards for Schools*

The following operational guidelines will be in place for the 2021-22 school year. These guidelines are based on the Louisiana Department of Education's School Opening Guidelines (found at ["Ready to Achieve!" Guidelines](#)). *These standards are subject to change as conditions change.

<p>Classroom/Group Sizes</p>	<p>The maximum group size that may convene indoors in a single room should be determined by physical distancing requirements and student grouping method (the CDC recommends that students should maintain a distance of 3-6 feet of distance in the classroom setting).</p>
<p>Classroom Grouping Options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Younger students who are unable to wear face coverings or maintain a physical distance from other students or adults should be assigned to static groups. This should include, at a minimum, students in grade 2 or lower. The static group composition should be maintained for as long as possible. · The composition of a group may change if students are able to maintain a physical distance of at least three feet from other students and six feet from adults in a classroom or indoor setting, to the greatest extent possible. Adults should maintain six feet of distance from other adults. · Students with disabilities will continue to receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment. EBRPSS will factor in any additional service providers who may need to enter the classroom, students who receive services outside the classroom (e.g. resource, APE), and/or students who receive services through alternate instructional methods.
<p>School Bus Capacity</p>	<p>Buses may carry their normal capacity. All persons (students and adults) will wear masks at all times. (Presidential Executive Order 13998)</p> <p>Additional transportation guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · assigned seats and a seating chart are required · high touch surfaces will be cleaned according to CDC guidelines · windows will be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard
<p>Use of Shared Indoor Space</p>	<p>When using indoor shared spaces (such as cafeterias and gyms) social distancing guidelines will be followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · minimum of 3 feet between students · minimum of 6 feet between students and adults · minimum 6 feet between adults
<p>Use of Outdoor Space</p>	<p>If groups convene outdoors, a physical barrier is not required, but each group will remain separated.</p>

Classroom/Group	Each school will have a designated isolation room and self-quarantine room (separate from the designated school nurse/clinic work area) to house anyone showing signs of being sick. (This area will be cleaned after it is occupied by any sick student or adult.) EBRPSS Isolation Room Process
Reporting Requirements	All schools and district sites are required to report all known and suspected cases of COVID-19 via the EBRPSS Staff/Student Reporting Tool and the LDH COVID-19 Reporting Portal.
Visitors to School Facilities	All visitors are required to wear masks and maintain a physical distance of six feet from others. · nonessential visitors and volunteers will be limited

For additional information regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019/COVID-19, please visit the LDH website and CDC website: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/index.html>.

Implementing Physical Distancing Measures

Entering & Exiting School Buildings: Schools will implement the following standards to support students and staff in limiting contact with others.

Shared Common Areas	Limit use of indoor shared spaces, such as cafeterias and gymnasiums, to maximum group sizes to ensure physical distance and clean between each group's use.
Drop-Off & Pick-Up Processes	Schools will encourage families and employees to self-monitor for Symptoms of COVID-19 prior to arrival on campus. Individuals who have a fever of 100.4° F or above, or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. Students/staff should not attend school when they are sick.

Practicing Prevention: In accordance with the CDC's recommendations and with input from medical professionals, schools will implement the following standards to help reduce the spread of infection.

Daily Cleaning	Bathrooms and other frequently used shared areas should be cleaned (with EPA approved disinfectants), at least twice per day, with a focus on high touch spaces - door handles, sink handles, soap dispensers and other areas that are touched frequently.
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Personal Hygiene	Students and teachers will have scheduled hand washing with soap and water throughout the school day. Hand washing should also occur at the following times: at arrival, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, before and after using the restroom, and at exit.
Personal Protective Supplies	School employees will be provided with adequate access to hygienic supplies, including: soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and/or spray, paper towels, and tissues. Face masks/shields (with a drape at the bottom) will be provided upon request.
Signs to Remind/Educate	<p>Schools will post signs in highly visible locations (such as school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to limit the spread of germs. *Schools can request additional signage through the Graphic Arts Department.</p> <p>Print resources can be found at: Print Resources CDC How To Protect Yourself and Others Stop the Spread of Germs Posters Handwashing CDC Face Covering Checklist</p>
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · All individuals 5 years of age or older are required to wear a face mask while inside the school facility, regardless of vaccination status (students/staff with a medical exception will be provided with a face mask/shield, with a drape at the bottom, upon request). · Unvaccinated individuals age 2 – 4 years old should wear a face mask, if tolerated.
Water Fountains	Schools will encourage staff and students to bring their own bottled water or water bottles from home each day. Shared water fountains are closed, but water bottle filling stations will be available.

Physical Distancing Outside of the Classroom Setting: To maintain a healthy environment as students move around the school facility, schools will implement the following standards.

Small Groups and Student Screenings	Students working in small groups/engaging in screenings must wear face coverings and must maintain at least 3 feet of distance from other students and 6 feet from staff/teacher(s) at all times. After services are provided, all shared surfaces and equipment will be cleaned before the next student is served (virtual screenings should be considered when possible).
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Child Nutrition: Our schools will maintain a healthy environment and provide healthy school meals to our students by implementing the following guidance.

Eating at School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will ensure 6 feet of distance between students to the maximum extent possible when they are eating in the cafeteria. • If cafeterias are used, meal times for each group will be staggered, and maximum group sizes will be determined based on physical distancing requirements. • Classrooms will be utilized for eating in place. • Students may bring food from home. • Schools will have single-file spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and in serving, disposal, and exit lines. Schools will delineate designated entrances and exit flow paths.
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Extracurricular Activities: Schools will offer extended school day options and non-academic experiences for students. In order to comply with health and safety guidance, during these activities, schools will implement the following extracurricular standards.

After School Programs	After school programs may continue but must adhere to maximum group sizes and physical distance protocols (face masks are required for students 5 years and older). For younger students who are unable to maintain physical distance, static groups will be maintained.
Extracurricular Activities & Sporting Events	<u>Spring 2022 - Updated Extra-curricular Activity & Sporting Guidance</u>

Daily Home Screening

Each morning, parents should monitor their children for [symptoms](#) and ensure no other family member(s) at their home are ill before sending their student to school.

Each morning, school staff will monitor themselves for [symptoms](#) and ensure that no other family member(s) at their home are ill before reporting to the school campus.

Known and Suspected Cases of COVID-19

Once schools are notified of a confirmed case or identify a suspected case in their school community (student or staff member) either through public health contact tracing, family notification or school

provided routine testing, the school is to report this incident in the following ways ([EBRPSS Reporting and Communication Process](#)):

- **Single Confirmed or Suspected Case:**

- School Nurse and School Principal/Designee should be notified immediately.
 - **During school hours:** The **School Nurse (Clinic Nurse) is responsible** for notifying school administration, district leadership, and school health leadership of all student cases by completing the District Reporting Tool and the LDH Reporting Portal reports as soon as feasibly possible. (In order to avoid delays in contact tracing, nurse managers can be contacted at (225) 343-9505 for immediate support).
 - **After school hours/holidays/weekends:** The **School administrator or designee is responsible** for notifying district leadership, and school health leadership of **all student cases** by completing the District Reporting Tool and the LDH Reporting Portal reports as soon as feasibly possible. (In order to avoid delays in contact tracing, contact the school's Executive Director for immediate support).
 - **All Staff Cases:** The **School Administrator/Site Supervisor is responsible** for notifying the Office of Human Resources, facilities and district leadership of **all staff cases** by completing the COVID-19 Staff Reporting Tool. (In order to avoid delays in contact tracing, contact the school's Executive Director for immediate support). *The EBRPSS Supervisor of Health Services can be consulted for additional support at (225) 397-2210.*

Please note: School nurses and/or school clinic staff will not be involved in reporting staff cases to assure we maintain confidentiality.

- **Multiple Confirmed Cases:**

- If multiple cases of COVID-19 are reported at a single site, schools are required to contact their Executive Director who will then consult with the Chief of Support Services and the Chief of Schools.
 - If additional support/guidance is needed, please also contact:
 - J. Cheree Duvic, EBRPSS Supervisor of Health Services at (225) 397-2210 or via email at jduvic1@ebrschools.org

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Resources

The availability of testing for symptomatic individuals, routine testing and access to vaccinations are vital components of our ongoing strategy to keep students and staff safe and ready to learn. Below is an overview of the current resources that our School Health partners are offering to both students and staff:

COVID-19 Vaccinations & Testing

All students, teachers, and school staff experiencing [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) are strongly encouraged to seek treatment from a health care provider.

Health Care Centers in Schools will continue to offer free COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and evaluations for our school staff and students, by appointment, at our 7 School Based Health Clinics. For additional information consult [OLOL HCIS COVID-19 Parent Resource Guide](#).

For additional information on the benefits of vaccination, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

For more information on public health measures to protect against COVID-19 after vaccination, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

Weekly On-Site COVID-19 Testing

East Baton Rouge Parish School System in partnership with Orion Labs is offering free weekly on-site COVID-19 testing opportunities for both students and staff in all district schools (The Safer, Smarter Schools weekly testing program is supported by the LA Department of Health).

Returning to School/Work after COVID-19:

We encourage parents to contact their child's health care provider for guidance and support in managing their child's healthcare needs.

<https://eberschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Omicron-Return-to-School-Recommendations.isolation-and-quarantine-12.30.21.pdf>

https://eberschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EBRPSS-Return-to-School-Criteria-for-Students_Rvsd-11.22.pdf

Covid Leave, Quick Reference, HR Questions:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WuXlhsztrmruJyYBz8UL2zbiQt6-yvoU3/view?usp=sharing>

School Closure Decisions:

District administration, appropriate public health officials (e.g., the State of Louisiana Regional Epidemiologist), and contracted school health leadership will be consulted prior to finalizing any decision to close a school or multiple classrooms at a school. Guidance for transitioning to Remote Learning can be found at.

<https://eberschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Transition-to-Remote-Learning-Rev.-01.05.2022-2P-0028.pdf>

Please note that this guidance is a living document, adjustments to this guidance may be made as our community continues to see changes or improvements in infection, vaccination and community spread. For the most recent guidance please visit <https://eberschools.org/covid-19/>