

COVID-19

School Health & Safety Guidelines

FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



REVISED: July 20, 2022 • Based on current guidance
provided by the Louisiana Department of Education and
the Louisiana Department of Health



Introduction

This guidance can help Pre K-12 school administrators support safe, in-person learning for K-12 schools, while managing the spread of COVID-19. Based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#), this guidance provides flexibility so schools and school district's can adapt to changing local situations, including periods of increased community health impacts from COVID-19.

The guidance in this document is closely aligned with current guidance provided by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). This guidance is subject to change based on COVID-19 Community Levels and updated guidance provided to East Baton Rouge Parish School System (EBRPSS) by the CDC, LDH, LDOE and the EBRPSS Health Advisory Committee.

For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit the [LDH website](#) and the [CDC website](#).

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL COVID-19** **COMMUNITY LEVELS**

Immunization planning resources can be found on the [Louisiana Department of Health](#) website.

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should be tested for COVID-19.
 - If a rapid antigen test is negative, a symptomatic person should seek confirmatory PCR testing.
 - If confirmatory testing is negative, they can return to school as long as they meet return-to-school requirements (e.g., 24 hours fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication).
 - If confirmatory testing is positive, the symptomatic person has COVID-19 and should complete [at-home isolation](#).
- Anyone who tests positive by viral test (antigen or PCR) for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should complete at-home isolation.
- Anyone who is identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case should follow the appropriate [masking and COVID-19 exposure guidance](#).
- Schools and Early Childhood Education programs should teach and reinforce proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses. Hand hygiene should be monitored and reinforced during key times in the day (e.g., before and after eating and after recess).
- Schools and Early Childhood Education programs should teach and reinforce covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases.
- Schools and Early Childhood Education programs should clean surfaces at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. If a facility has had a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the space should be [cleaned and disinfected](#). Additionally, Early Childhood Education programs should follow recommended procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection in their setting such as after diapering, feeding, and exposure to bodily fluids.
- Schools can consider screening testing for high-risk activities such as indoor sports and extracurricular activities.

To Learn More, visit LOUISIANABELIEVES.COM

EBRPSS COVID-19 Guidance for Pre K-12 Schools and K-12 Sports

Each morning, parents should monitor their student(s) for [symptoms](#) and ensure no other family member(s) at their home is ill before sending their student to school. Parents/guardians should immediately notify the school's nurse and/or principal if their student(s) test positive for COVID-19.

In the school setting, students are encouraged to maintain physical distance, to the extent possible, and to practice hand hygiene routinely throughout the school day.

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 is responsible** for notifying school administration, district leadership, and school health leadership of all student cases by completing the district's Student COVID-19 Reporting Tool. Reports are required to be completed 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 Student COVID-19 Reporting Tool. Reports are required to be completed as soon as feasibly possible (In order to avoid delays in contact tracing, 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 district's COVID-19 Staff Reporting Tool. (In order to avoid delays in contact tracing, the school's Executive Director should be contacted for immediate support). *The EBRPSS Supervisor of Health Services can be consulted for additional support at (225) 317-8703.*

❖ *Please note: School nurses and/or school health leadership 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 Student Support and the Chief of Schools.
 - If additional support/guidance is needed, please also contact:
 - J. Cheree Duvic, EBRPSS Supervisor of Health Services at (225) 317-8703 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:

Weekly On-Site COVID-19 Testing

For the 2022-23 school year, East Baton Rouge Parish School System and Orion Labs will continue working with the LA Department of Health to offer free on-site weekly COVID-19 testing opportunities for both students and staff in all district schools and administrative sites. Additional details and registration can be found at [EBRPSS COVID Safe Testing Registration](#).

COVID-19 Vaccinations & Testing

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

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, visit [OLOL Children's Health Centers in Schools](#).

For additional information on the benefits of COVID-19 vaccinations & boosters, please 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>

Transitioning to Remote Learning:

District leadership will consult with public health officials (e.g., the Louisiana Department of Health's Regional Epidemiologist) and EBRPSS Health Advisors prior to finalizing any decision to transition a school or multiple classrooms at a school to remote learning.

Please note that this guide 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. Current EBRPSS COVID-19 Guidance can be found at [EBRSchools.org](#).