

2022-2023

LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS RETURN TO LEARN PLAN – 5TH ADDENDUM

(Effective January 1, 2023)





RETURN TO LEARN

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the overarching goal of Liberty Public Schools has been to keep our students and staff safe and healthy while keeping our schools open. To assist us in achieving this goal, LPS has complied with public health requirements and guidance as put forth by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the City of Liberty, Missouri, the Clay County Public Health Center and the Kansas City Health Department. When the requirements or guidance has been inconsistent between these entities, the District has adhered to the most restrictive approach.

The Plan outlined below was developed based on the guidance and recommendations put forward by public health officials and informed by our experience managing the District during the COVID-19 pandemic. As has been the case throughout, the District will remain connected with local public health officials and consider adjustments to this Plan as might be appropriate. Please note that the Board of Education could opt for more stringent COVID-19 mitigation strategies as it deems appropriate in light of conditions in the District, and with due consideration of local public health officials.

KEY PREVENTION MEASURES/MITIGATION PROTOCOLS

» MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS

All staff and students should closely monitor for any COVID-19 symptoms and stay home from school or work when sick. People with COVID-19 can have a wide range of symptoms resulting in mild conditions to severe illness. It is strongly recommended that individuals who experience any of the following COVID-19 symptoms [fever (100 F or greater) or chills; new cough; difficulty breathing; shortness of breath; fatigue; muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; or diarrhea] seek testing, unless they are confident that the symptoms are related to a different condition.

COVID-19 Testing

Testing sites are available throughout the community and can be found [here](#). Should an LPS student or staff member experience COVID-19 symptoms, it is recommended that they consult with their personal physician for medical advice and guidance. The District will continue to make self-test kits available to staff and students while supplies last.



KEY PREVENTION MEASURES/MITIGATION PROTOCOLS

Reporting COVID-19 Positive Cases/When to Stay Home

Any staff or family of a student who tests positive for COVID-19 should continue to report the result to the school nurse (for students) or immediate supervisor (for staff) and stay home in accordance with the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which can be accessed directly at the CDC website [here](#). COVID-19 positive students and staff will be allowed to return to school/work based on the CDC guidance.

Contact Tracing

The District no longer performs contact tracing when made aware of a COVID-19 situation within a school facility. Accordingly, close contacts will not be identified or notified by LPS staff. Please consult [CDC guidance](#) for when to stay home or quarantine.

Masks/Face Coverings

Masks are always an option for our staff and students and are recommended if there is high community spread in the area. KN95 and disposable masks will be made available to interested staff and students at each of our buildings while supplies last.

Social Distancing

The District continues to follow public health guidance, which currently does not call for social distancing at schools.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be situated throughout our school facilities.

Ventilation

Airflow, ventilation, and filtration will continue to be maximized to the extent possible, and all classrooms and learning spaces will continue to have a HEPA (High Efficiency Air Filtration) purifiers in place for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Staff and families should consider receiving a COVID-19 vaccine (and boosters) to limit possible exposure and illness. More information about vaccine locations can be found [here](#).

Communication

The LPS website will continue to include relevant information pertaining to our Return to Learn Plan and can be accessed here: <https://www.lps53.org>.

Virtual Learning Option

Virtual learning will be continue to be provided through a MOCAP (Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program) approved vendor to ensure compliance. Due to the complexities of class scheduling, any decision to learn virtually would be a semester-long commitment. Interested families should connect with your building principal to formalize this decision.