



**Return to Learn**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
*(Updated Thursday, August 19, 2021)*

<b>General Return to Learn FAQ's (2021-2022 School Year)</b>	
<b><i>Will LPS offer five days per week of in-person learning for all students (K-12) during the 2021-2022 school year?</i></b>	It is a top priority for LPS to offer five days per week of in-person learning in a safe and healthy environment for those students/families choosing this model of learning. There is always the possibility of the need to close a classroom, school, or even the district if there would be a significant COVID-19 outbreak. LPS will remain engaged with local health officials if/when making decisions.
<b><i>Is LPS offering a virtual school option again this year?</i></b>	Liberty Virtual School returns for a second year in LPS. If a family would choose to make a change for their child(ren), they would need to connect with their child's home school to inquire about the process and availability in the program.
<b><i>If students choose to change learning modes, when can this be completed and how?</i></b>	Elementary students can change learning modes (in-person learning to virtual or virtual to in-person) at the conclusion of the first semester. This can be done by contacting your child's school. Changing learning modes for secondary students can also be made at the conclusion of the first semester (winter vacation) and will be based on class availability.
<b><i>Will LPS require the wearing of face coverings while at school?</i></b>	The District, in conjunction with the most recent guidance and recommendations provided by local public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will require that masks be worn by all students, staff and visitors while inside any District facility. Masks may be removed temporarily while eating or drinking and during strenuous, aerobic activity. Masks are not required outdoors but are strongly recommended when social distancing is compromised.
<b><i>Will students be required to wear face coverings while on LPS school buses?</i></b>	Current federal guidelines require masks to be worn at all times on public transportation, including school district buses. LPS Transportation will maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. The current goal is to limit students to two per seat, but this could be increased to three per seat should routing demands increase. Prior to the beginning of each school day, all

	busses will be cleaned and sanitized.
<b><i>Will the requirement of wearing face coverings at school, and other mitigation practices in effect for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, remain in place for the entire year?</i></b>	As we have shared throughout the pandemic, this remains an extremely fluid situation and one that has seemed to change regularly. We will remain engaged with our local health officials and follow any mandates when making decisions related to mitigation strategies in our schools and facilities. In the event school guidance and/or mandates would change, we would certainly take it into account when making future decisions. Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff will always take precedence and be our top priority.
<b><i>Will LPS socially distance all students while at school?</i></b>	The District, in conjunction with the guidance and recommendations provided by local public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is committed to accommodating all students who choose in-person learning five days/week. Because more students will be in District facilities this school year, it is anticipated that the CDC social distancing recommendation of 3-6 feet could be compromised at certain times throughout the day. All reasonable efforts will be made by the District to maximize social distancing to the greatest extent possible while striving to meet the overarching goal of maintaining at least 3 feet.
<b><i>If my student is quarantined, either due to a positive COVID-19 test or being identified as a close contact, will they have the opportunity to virtually join their class while absent?</i></b>	Students who are quarantined will be asked to join their in-person class during the class times they would regularly meet. Students should maintain close contact with their teachers while they are quarantined in order to seamlessly transition learning throughout their quarantine.
<b><i>Similar to last year, will families be notified if a child tests positive for COVID-19 and was physically present in the school?</i></b>	As we remain in the midst of a pandemic, we understand that the possibility of positive cases of COVID-19 in our schools exists. Please know we are committed to sharing as much information with you as possible while still following legal and ethical privacy laws. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case in one of our schools, the following communication will take place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The individual who tests positive will be immediately contacted by the Clay County Public Health Center.</li> <li>● The contact tracing process will immediately begin, and any individual(s) determined to be close contacts of the infected individual will be contacted.</li> <li>● All staff from the building will receive written notification.</li> <li>● All parents/guardians of students within the same school building will receive written notification that a positive case exists.</li> <li>● In addition, an LPS COVID-19 Dashboard is available</li> </ul>

	<p>and is updated each Wednesday during the school year. The dashboard can be accessed by <a href="#">clicking here</a>.</p> <p>There is always the possibility that a situation may require additional building and district-wide communication to our staff and families. We would like to thank our entire LPS community for your continued patience, flexibility, and grace as we navigate this challenging time.</p>
<b><i>Will elementary and secondary schools have Back-to-School Nights/Orientations prior to the start of school?</i></b>	Elementary schools will have a Back-to-School event for Kindergarten families. Students in grades 1-5 will receive a welcome video from their teacher. Secondary schools will have Orientation days that allow families to come in throughout the day. Back-to-School will also consist of a welcome video from all teachers. Be looking for additional information distributed directly from your child's school.
<b><i>Is it possible that the LPS Return to Learn Plan would need to be adjusted again prior to the start of the school year?</i></b>	As we have shared throughout the pandemic, this is an extremely fluid situation and one that always has the potential to change. There is always the possibility that our plan will need to be adjusted based on changing conditions related to COVID-19. We are committed to keeping our staff and families updated in a timely manner, as needed.

***Student/Staff Health & Safety Questions***

<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>What guidelines will be provided about wearing masks for students and staff?</i></b>	The District, in conjunction with the most recent guidance and recommendations provided by local public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will require that masks be worn by all students, staff and visitors while inside any District facility. Masks may be removed temporarily while eating or drinking and during strenuous, aerobic activity. Masks are not required outdoors but are strongly recommended when social distancing is compromised.
<b><i>How will teachers handle students who are not able to wear a mask or who wear them incorrectly?</i></b>	We will ask our Health Services Department to assist in identifying students who are unable to wear a mask for health reasons. This will be communicated to staff. If we have students who are having difficulties with following the expectations for masks, staff will be asked to work gracefully with the student and family to ensure the safety of everyone in the school. In addition, students identified as not being able to wear a mask may also be able to wear a protective shield.

<b><i>How will the District handle students/staff who don't have an exemption from wearing a mask and yet refuse to wear a mask?</i></b>	Students and staff will be required to wear a face covering while in our schools and facilities. Students who refuse to wear a mask will be asked to follow the mask mandate or will work with administration on an alternate learning mode.
<b><i>Is LPS providing a COVID-19 testing site this year for students and staff?</i></b>	Should an LPS student or Staff member experience COVID-19 symptoms or have a COVID-19 exposure, Liberty Public Schools can provide "take home testing kits" for personal use. Liberty Public Schools encourages all students and staff to consult with their personal physician for medical advice and guidance. Testing sites are available throughout the community and can be found at: <a href="http://clayhealth.com/285/COVID-19-Testing">clayhealth.com/285/COVID-19-Testing</a> .
<b><i>Is LPS requiring that eligible students and staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine?</i></b>	Proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is not required for Liberty Public Schools students or staff members. More information about vaccine locations can be found at: <a href="http://clayhealth.com/301/COVID-19-Vaccine">clayhealth.com/301/COVID-19-Vaccine</a> .

### ***Elementary Return to Learn Questions***

<b><i>Question</i></b>	<b><i>Response</i></b>
<b><i>Will students need to wear a mask while at recess or participating in outdoor activities?</i></b>	According to the current KCMO mask mandate, masks are only required indoors; thus, students and staff will not need to wear masks while outside at recess or participating in other outdoor activities.
<b><i>Will students eat meals in the school cafeterias?</i></b>	School cafeteria spaces will be utilized for lunch and breakfast this school year and measures will be taken to maximize social distancing as much as possible. In addition, other mitigation measures will continue to be in place to provide added layers of health and safety support to students and staff – including enhanced air flow and filtration, less confined eating areas, and targeted cleaning/sanitization. Other strategies will also be in place to minimize the window of time in which students will be unmasked, which will only be permitted while they are actively eating. It is anticipated that the typical window of time when students will not be masked will be between 10-14 minutes. In addition, cohorting and assigned seating will be utilized during lunch, when possible, to better manage and track students.
<b><i>Will social distancing of students be possible in our elementary schools for the upcoming school year?</i></b>	The District, in conjunction with the guidance and recommendations provided by local public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is committed to accommodating all students who choose in-person learning five days/week. Because more students will be in

	<p>District facilities this school year, it is anticipated that the CDC social distancing recommendation of 3-6 feet could be compromised at certain times throughout the day. All reasonable efforts will be made by the District to maximize social distancing to the greatest extent possible while striving to meet the overarching goal of maintaining at least 3 feet.</p>
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**High School/Secondary Return to Learn Questions**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>Will social distancing be possible in our secondary schools?</b></p>	<p>The District, in conjunction with the guidance and recommendations provided by local public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is committed to accommodating all students who choose in-person learning five days/week. Because more students will be in District facilities this school year, it is anticipated that the CDC social distancing recommendation of 3-6 feet could be compromised at certain times throughout the day. All reasonable efforts will be made by the District to maximize social distancing to the greatest extent possible while striving to meet the overarching goal of maintaining at least 3 feet.</p>
<p><b>Will there be activities offered to secondary students, such as athletics and fine arts?</b></p>	<p>Liberty Public Schools, in conjunction and partnership with the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference and local public health officials, will have the following COVID-19 precautions and recommendations in place for events this fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*There will be no capacity limits for activities, events and games held outdoors.</li> <li>*There will be no capacity limits for activities, events and games held indoors. However, this is subject to change for specific activities or events should excessive crowd size become a concern.</li> <li>*Spectators are encouraged to sit with family and maximize social distancing as much as possible.</li> <li>*Masks are required to be worn indoors for all staff, students and visitors. The only exceptions to this requirement are for eating/drinking and for those actively engaged in a strenuous and/or aerobic activity.</li> <li>*Masks will not be required outdoors but are strongly recommended when social distancing might be compromised.</li> <li>*For outdoor activities, events and games, LPS high school students are welcome to attend and are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing is compromised. LPS middle and</li> </ul>

	<p>elementary school students may attend events but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.</p> <p>*Concessions will be made available with pre-packaged items only.</p> <p>*Digital ticketing is available for your convenience and strongly recommended to minimize long lines.</p>
<p><b><i>Do you have to attend in-person school in order to be eligible for middle/high school sports?</i></b></p>	<p>No. Students will be able to participate in activities, regardless of learning platforms. Our secondary schools will provide more information leading up to the start of the new school year.</p>
<p><b><i>Could there become a situation in which LPS would need to transition to a hybrid or completely virtual mode if COVID-19 cases would reach a high threshold?</i></b></p>	<p>As we have shared throughout the pandemic, this remains an extremely fluid situation and one that can change rapidly. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, there is always the possibility of the need for the closure of a classroom, a school, or the District. It is our top priority to provide five days per week of in-person learning for all LPS students in a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff.</p>

