



July 16, 2020

Dear families,

We are working very hard on reopening LCSC for the 2020-21 school year. We continue to monitor data from Boone County and the state level, as well as consult with public health agencies and area school districts to implement the best possible plan.

We know that many questions and concerns remain. The purpose of this communication is to provide information and answers regarding some of the most frequent topics and questions we have received including **clarification of expected use of masks and face coverings**. We hope this information is helpful as you prepare alongside us for a successful 2020-21 school year.

Masks and Face Coverings

Current guidance indicates that wearing face coverings is one of the most effective ways to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. **We want to be clear that students will be asked and expected to wear a disposable or cloth face coverings throughout the day.**

If you send your child to school for in-person instruction we assume you understand and are supporting the following:

- Administrators and teachers will ask students to please **wear their masks when in the hallways, in line in the cafeteria, and when transitioning from individual desk work to other group or academic activities in the classroom**;
- Students will be **expected to comply** with the administrator, teacher, and staff member requests to wear masks;
- Students are expected to have a face covering or mask with them **at all times**;
- Teachers may request students to wear masks during instruction time;
- We understand there may be medical reasons for students to remove masks or not wear a mask. In these situations, the student is still expected to have a mask with him/her at all times, as there may be a mask requirement such as when a student meets with a staff member and social distancing is not possible (i.e. student enters the health clinic, meets with an administrator or counselor);
- Administrators and teachers will model the wearing of masks throughout the day, including in the instructional setting and consistently in hallways and transition times;
- The school has a limited supply of masks. Therefore, we are asking parents to include masks in their back to school shopping and preparation and to have a supply of disposable or reusable masks prepared to send with the child each day.

We ask for your assistance in practicing the use of masks with your children, including practicing wearing them for longer durations. The Indiana Department of Education has provided a [helpful graphic](#) to assist families with this.



When students defy the requests or consistently are unable to follow the requests to wear masks, an administrator may contact the parent to determine if the in-person instructional setting is the best fit for the child.

In Governor Holcomb's recent press conference, he shared the following regarding the use of masks: "We ask that Hoosiers take responsibility for their own actions and wear masks." We are asking our students to take this responsibility. We want parents to know the expectations and considerations regarding face coverings to allow you to make the best decision for your family.

School Buses

We are asking the assistance of parents in communicating the expectation of the use of face coverings by students while riding on the school bus.

We want our bus drivers' focus to be on the road ahead and on navigating the safe pick-up and drop-off of students. It is difficult, if not impossible, to expect drivers to have a focus on driving safely while also monitoring the use of face coverings by students.

Additionally, our drivers need to have a clear vision and remain undistracted while performing their jobs. As some drivers wear eye correction or have medical conditions prohibiting them from wearing masks, we ask that parents understand that drivers may wear face coverings at times, but some may not be able to model this behavior for our student riders.

We will be reducing ridership to two students per seat (with the exception of siblings), using assigned seats, coordinating the filling and emptying of buses to reduce student proximity to one another, and cleaning and sanitizing buses each day.

General Description of At Home Learning Choice

Parents indicating a potential choice of At Home Learning instruction for their child during the registration process will be contacted by the school. We ask for some patience with this process.

It is important to know that the At Home Learning options were determined through a great deal of research and a thorough selection process. Our goal is to provide a consistent and reliable model to deliver grade level content to our students.

The At Home Learning experience is not a live interaction with the in-person classroom.

In grades K-5, the program will be a computer-based curriculum in the four main subjects of English, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. A teacher or paraprofessional will monitor the students' progress in the coursework. Although the curriculum does not include the same assignments as the in-person classroom, the overseeing teacher or staff member has the ability to assign custom assignments or to sequence the assignments in a manner that will attempt to match the pace of the



work being completed by the in-person students. The students' in-person teacher is not who will oversee the online At Home Learning platform. Our staff will provide support to the students.

In grades 6-12, the At Home Learning student will be assigned courses to complete through an online curriculum. Students will be expected to engage in the courses daily. In addition to content, the program also utilizes assessments to keep students on track, make corrections to his/her work, and move successfully toward course completion.

At the high school level, the courses have been customized by our LHS faculty to match (to the degree possible) the sequence of learning taking place in the classroom.

We have selected the At Home Learning programs because they meet the content requirements, are targeted to the students' grade level expectations, and because the platforms are engaging for the students.

Questions about the program should be directed to your child's school.

Safety Measures in Place

We are continuing to add equipment, steps, practices, and protocols to enhance the safe return of our students and staff including but not limited to:

- Expectations of the use of masks and face coverings (see above)
- Equipping each classroom with hand sanitizer
- Equipping each classroom with sanitary wipes
- Purchase of Ultraviolet Germicidal Light Source Devices (to be delivered)
- Installation of American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) approved Merv 13 air filtration systems in all schools
- Purchase of electrostatic sanitation backpack sprayers to sanitize busses, playground equipment, PE equipment and other surfaces
- Expanded seating in cafeterias
- Additional lunch periods to minimize number of students in cafeterias
- Purchase of masks and shields and other devices for staff members
- Purchase of masks for student use (limited supply)
- Additional custodial staff assigned to each building to wipe frequently touched surfaces throughout the day
- Purchase and installation of plexiglass dividers at point of sale areas in cafeterias, office areas, and for teacher spaces in classrooms as needed
- Installation of no touch hand sanitizer stations in cafeterias
- Installation of touchless water bottle filling stations in each school
- Daily sanitation of playground equipment
- Daily sanitation of buses
- Use of additional entrances and exits during student entrance and exit from buildings



We continue to investigate best practices and equipment that may be implemented and purchased to enhance the safety of our learning and work environments.

Student Orientation to New Schools

Our administrators are working hard to design programs to allow our kindergarten, 6th grade, freshmen, and new students the opportunity to visit and learn about their new schools. There are many pieces to this puzzle and logistics that need to be worked out to maximize the safety of our staff, administration, and families.

We know how important this is to our students. It may not look like the traditional orientation, but we are committed to helping our students transition successfully.

Your child's school will share information with families as soon as possible.

Flexibility of LCSC Phases of Learning

On June 25, the LCSC School Board approved our plan to reopen schools according to Phase Five of our LCSC Phases of Learning. At the time of Board approval, we shared that the situation is fluid and could change according to state directives or guidance from the public health agencies.

At this time, we are continuing with our plan to reopen in Phase Five with our modifications and clarifications such as those outlined in this communication. **LCSC may be required to modify practices within one of the Phases or change Phases altogether, possibly with very little notice. We appreciate everyone's understanding of the necessity for flexibility during this time.**

Final Thoughts

In order for LCSC to serve families in the best way possible, we ask that registration for the 2020-21 school year be completed as soon as possible. We rely on the data from registration to make staffing and facility decisions. At this time, more than any other, we need to make any needed changes and preparations based on informed decisions driven by our enrollment and registration data.

Thank you for all you are doing to help us prepare for the upcoming school year!

Sincerely,

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