

## LEXINGTON CUSD #7 Covid-19 RETURN TO SCHOOL HEALTH PLAN

These guidelines are designed to promote the safety, health, and welfare of our community, in accordance with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recommendations. Per IDPH-ISBE guidelines, all students, staff, and visitors will be screened daily at home by parents and before entry into our building for COVID-19 symptoms. Any visitors will be screened before entry into the building.

Students, faculty and staff will be required to stay home if they are sick. If an individual presents to school with the following symptoms, they will be sent home until return to school criteria (see below) is met.

### I. Symptoms Associated with COVID-19

#### a. COVID-19 like symptoms:

- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting/diarrhea, or abdominal pain from unknown cause
- New congestion/runny nose
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches

- Symptoms should be screened at home prior to student's arrival. If any **ONE** of the symptoms listed is present student will be sent home. In addition to at home screenings, daily temperature and health checks for students and staff will be performed before entrance of the building is granted.
- If one of the household members is being evaluated for COVID-19, the rest of the household must be quarantined until an alternative diagnosis is made or negative result received.

#### b. Exposure to COVID-19/Close Contact

- i. Individuals must let the School District nurse or administration know if they have been in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period) with someone, or they live with someone, who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected to have a COVID-19 infection.
- ii. Individuals who have had close contact, or live with someone, with positive COVID-19 diagnosis **must isolate at home and monitor symptoms for 14 days.**
- iii. Quarantined individuals should also isolate from all out of school activities (work, church, social events, etc.) as well as in person learning.

## II. Report of COVID-19 Symptoms Before School

If a parent/guardian (on behalf of a student) or staff member reports experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before school, they should not be permitted to enter the school building. All household members must quarantine until an alternate diagnosis is made or a negative result received.

- a. The following guidance on how to proceed if a student has symptoms before school:
  1. Keep your child home (and any members from the same household)
  2. Call your child's school to report the absence
  3. Be prepared to report all symptoms and date of onset of the symptoms to the school.
    - Grade School Office 309-365-2741
    - Junior High/High School Office 309-365-2711
  4. Call your child's healthcare provider or go to a testing center. At this time rapid antigen COVID tests are NOT accepted. A written result of a **PCR COVID test** must be provided to the school for your child to return.
  5. Contact the school nurse with test results or alternate diagnosis. **If your symptomatic child is tested, they must stay home while waiting for test results.**

## III. Report of COVID-19 Symptoms During the School Day

If a student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, they will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. There is a designated area of the building for this purpose. Students who report or are observed experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be sent to the school comfort/isolation room.

A staff member will be assigned to supervise the student while in the designated area and will not leave the student alone. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted to arrange to pick up the student from school and directed to contact a healthcare provider or seek COVID testing. The student will remain in the designated area until he or she can be sent home safely. Any siblings or other members of the same household will also be sent home until an alternate diagnosis is made or a negative test result received for the sick student. The District will not allow use of school buses to send a student home when exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms at school. **Parents will be picking their student up from Door #16 and can call 309-365-2741 when they arrive. The student will be escorted to personal vehicle by staff member. Parent/guardian should remain in the vehicle.**

The comfort/isolation space has been set up to reduce the risk of transmission:

- designed to allow for 6 feet of social distancing between individuals
- When interacting with individuals in these spaces, school nurses and/or the administrator or designee treating the individual will wear appropriate PPE.
- Additionally, treating staff will utilize appropriate hand hygiene and will follow standard precautions for patient care, as outlined by the CDC.

- The District will also close off any areas used by the sick individual and will not permit use of those areas until after proper cleaning and disinfection. All areas that were used by the individual who was sick will be cleaned and disinfected. The potentially infected area(s) will only be opened for use once proper cleaning and disinfecting has occurred.

#### **IV. When to Return to School**

- a. Untested with COVID-19 Symptoms
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
  - At least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications, and improvement of symptoms. **AND**
  - Household contacts must be quarantined for duration
- b. Alternate Diagnosis
  - Note from Healthcare Provider **AND**
  - At least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications, and improvement of symptoms.
  - Once alternate diagnosis is made household contacts may return to school
- c. Tested Negative with COVID-19 Symptoms
  - Documentation of Negative RT-PCR Test **AND**
  - At least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications, and improvement of symptoms.
  - Once negative results are received household contacts may return to school
- d. Tested Positive with Symptoms
  - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms **AND**
  - At least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without use of fever reducing medications, and improvement of symptoms **AND**
  - Improvement of symptoms **AND**
  - “Release from Isolation” letter issued by MCHD
  - Individuals who have tested positive do not have to be included in isolation or quarantine for a period of 3 months after onset of symptoms
- e. Tested Positive Without Symptoms
  - At least 10 days have passed since positive test **AND**
  - “Release from Isolation” letter issued by MCHD
  - Individuals who have tested positive do not have to be included in isolation or quarantine for a period of 3 months after specimen collection
- f. Exposure to COVID-19/Close Contact
  - 14 days have passed since date of exposure, with no onset of symptoms (length of time during which symptoms will appear) **AND**
  - “Release from Quarantine” letter issued by MCHD
  - Family members do not need to isolate unless the close contact develops symptoms or receives a positive test

- A negative COVID test will not shorten the length of quarantine

## **V. When to Wear a Mask/Face Covering**

- a. Per ISBE Return to School guidance, face coverings must be worn at all times, by both students and staff, while in the school building.
- b. When walking into or out of the building with other students (i.e.: before/after school)
- c. While riding the bus.
- d. In public, anytime it is not possible to stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

## **VI. On-Campus Procedures**

### **Masks & Face Shields**

Masks must be worn at all times while in the building. Face shields have not been approved by the IDPH to be worn in schools as effective protection against the coronavirus. However, if a student has a physician's note documenting medical indications that a student should not wear a face mask due to health concerns, then a Face Shield may be worn instead. Students who cannot wear any kind of face covering due to medical issues will be directed to school administration for further direction, and may have to do Virtual Academy full time.

We are asking all students and staff to provide their own mask on the first day if possible. If students do not have a mask and/or cannot obtain one, the school will provide you with one. We will also maintain a supply of disposable masks in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor forgets their personal mask on a given day. Hand hygiene should be performed immediately after removing, and after replacing the mask. Gloves or other PPE must be used as needed when assisting students requires close contact.

### **Hygiene**

Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Staff and students should clean hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. Staff and students should avoid touching their mouth, eyes, or nose as much as possible. Hand sanitizer will be placed in common areas and classrooms throughout the building. We will place signage reminding everyone of the need for proper hand hygiene in the appropriate areas. If assisting a student requires close contact, hand washing or sanitizing must be done before and after contact with students. It is recommended that hand hygiene is performed upon arrival to and departure from school; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; following restroom use; and before and after eating. We have also installed water bottle filling stations throughout the building so that students can obtain water without touching the water fountains. We will be allowing students to carry water bottles during the school day this year.

## Health Screenings

Only students who are healthy should report for in-person learning. As mentioned previously, all students and staff will be screened daily. Students will not be penalized for missing school when having any illness symptoms, and are encouraged to stay home when not feeling well. Students and staff with any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 must remain home:

- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- New onset of moderate to severe headache
- Shortness of breath
- New cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting/diarrhea, or abdominal pain from unknown cause
- New congestion/runny nose
- New loss of sense of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Fatigue from unknown cause
- Muscle or body aches

## VII. Communication: Preparing for When a Student or Staff Member Becomes Sick

Lexington #7 will communicate with families and staff when any individual at the school tests positive for COVID-19. We will NOT release names. Families and staff are asked to also report COVID-19 cases to the school, to initiate contact tracing. Attendance personnel should request specific symptom reporting when absences are reported, along with COVID-19 diagnoses and COVID-19 exposure. Information will be documented and only shared with the appropriate personnel and our local health department. Please refer to “Lexington Close Contact Protocol” for more information regarding positive cases.

## VIII. Determining Metrics

**County Metrics:** Lexington #7, in collaboration with McLean County Health Department, will look at the following county level metrics as a baseline for making decisions on our learning model

1. Positivity rate over 10%
2. New cases per 100,000- target is less than 100 per 100,000
3. ICU bed availability- at least 20% available.
4. Number of CLI admissions. Target- decreasing or stable Link to metrics:

Link to Metrics: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=McLean>

**Local Metrics:** Lexington #7 will also take into consideration the number and percentage of students and staff in our district that are probable COVID-19 positives as part of the decision to go to remote learning.

## QUICK CONTACTS

Who do I contact?

- Questions/concerns about academic work/remote learning:
  - o First point of contact is the classroom teacher.
  - o Second point of contact: Mrs. McCoy ([jmccoy@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:jmccoy@lexington.k12.il.us)/309-365-2711 or Mrs. Strating([jstrating@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:jstrating@lexington.k12.il.us)/ 309-365-2741)
- My student tests positive for COVID-19:
  - o School Nurse, Pam Sinnett [psinnett@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:psinnett@lexington.k12.il.us)/309-365-2741 OR
  - o Mrs. McCoy ([jmccoy@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:jmccoy@lexington.k12.il.us)/309-365-2711 or Mrs. Strating, [jstrating@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:jstrating@lexington.k12.il.us)/ 309-365-2741)
- I am a staff member who tests positive for COVID-19:
  - o Contact Mrs. McCoy/Mrs. Strating/Mr. Deters
- I have questions/concerns about transportation: Les Thomas [lthomas@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:lthomas@lexington.k12.il.us) or 309-268-1315
- My student needs tech support during Remote Learning: Please contact Mr. Steidinger, for tech support at 309-365-2711or [isteidinger@lexington.k12.il.us](mailto:isteidinger@lexington.k12.il.us) Support will be available on regular school days from, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
- Other COVID-19 related question:
  1. IDPH COVID-19 hotline 1-800-889-3931 OR
  2. Email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV)