



La Porte Independent School District

La Porte ISD Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

Public Health Guidance

General

The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials, or as environmental conditions change.

Attendance and Enrollment

In-Person Instruction

General

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), 25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Student attendance will be earned through in-person instruction.



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Student & Staff Safety Protocols

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

General

All students and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who present with symptoms will be separated and sent home.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Fever (> 100.0) or chills
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- New onset headache
- Fatigue
- Significant muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:



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- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on while not wearing a mask); or
- Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptoms onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab tests.

Screening Protocols

- Staff are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day to include taking temperature.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Teachers will monitor student health and refer students to the nurse if symptoms are present.
- Students or staff that display two or more COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and contact the campus (refer to the LPISD Process Map).

Isolation Protocols

Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine whether a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contact the student's parent/guardian. School transportation will not be provided.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to follow La Porte ISD, TEA and CDC guidance.



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Face Coverings and Protective Measures

Staff and Student Expectations

- Staff and students are encouraged to wear a mask if they choose.

Protocols for Authorized Campus Visitors

General

All visitors who enter the building are encouraged to social distance and wear a mask while on campus. We will continue to monitor community COVID transmission to determine updates to this practice.

Visitor Screening/Masks

- Visitors to the campus are subject to the following guidelines:
 - All visitors are expected to self-screen.
 - Visitors and staff will adhere to safety protocols for necessary on-campus meetings.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

General

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization help ensure the health and wellness of students and staff.



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Handwashing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Hand sanitizer is available at the main entry to the campus, in common areas and upon entry to the classroom.
- Staff and students are expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Provide periodic teacher reminders to wash and/or sanitize hands during the instructional day, after using the restroom and before eating.

Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff has access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

General

Staff will be trained in appropriate methods of cleaning and disinfecting to promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily.
- All high touch areas will be cleaned daily.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected throughout the day.

Additional Cleaning Measures for Covid-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, a recommended disinfectant will be used.



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Work and Learning Environments

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

- Each classroom is outfitted with the following:
 - Access to hand sanitizer
 - Access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces
- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- Students have access to hand sanitizer.
- Teachers will develop, teach, and implement procedures that:
 - Encourage students to clean personal areas.
 - Outline handwashing protocols and use of hand sanitizer.
- To the extent possible, keep doors open between classes to minimize contact with doors and door handles by students and staff entering or exiting classrooms.
- The gymnasiums may be repurposed for instructional space to increase the teaching capacity of the building.

Physical Education Classroom Protocols

- Any activities bringing students into close physical contact will follow TEA and UIL guidelines.
- Staff will provide reminders of social distancing.
- Equipment is frequently disinfected.
- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing are provided.

Special Education Considerations

- La Porte ISD will continue to support special education students through the implementation of student IEP's and follow La Porte ISD procedures and TEA guidelines.
- More resources can be found at: <https://www.lpisd.org/departments/special-programs>



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Common Areas and Flexible Learning Areas

Restrooms

- Students must wash hands before leaving the restroom.
- Visual reminders for proper handwashing are provided.
- Increased disinfecting of the restrooms will occur throughout the school day.

Cafeteria: Breakfast/Lunch

Students may have meals in the cafeteria and other areas to reinforce social distancing.

- Meals may be pre-packaged to ensure ease of pick up and transport to eating location.
- Signage and staff will reinforce social distancing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria.
- Hand sanitizer is available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.

Library

- Hand sanitizer is available at entrances and exits of the library.
- High touch surfaces (e.g. table tops, chairs, door handles) are cleaned regularly.

Transitions

- When transitioning between classes, students will be instructed to travel hallways as far to the right as possible.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus.
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transition periods to reduce high touch areas.



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Arrival

- Separate entrances will be designated for different groups of students (e.g. car riders, bus riders).

Dismissal

- Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups to maintain social distancing.

Outdoor & Off-Campus Student Activities

- Student participation in academic contests (robotics, UIL, etc.) will only be attended if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g. host site, La Porte ISD, TEA, UIL).
- Special Education Community-Based Vocational Instruction (CBVI) guidance will be followed to ensure these learning environments are available to students per ARD/IEP recommendations.

Extra-Curricular Programming

Athletics

- Practices and competitions will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL.
- Hand sanitizer is available in gym areas and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Locker room space will be utilized to follow social distancing guidelines.



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Fine Arts

- Practices and competitions will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL.
- Hand sanitizer is available in practice areas and equipment will be frequently sanitized.
- Off-campus fine arts performances will only be conducted if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL).
- Concerts/performance may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA, UIL), including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.

Transportation

It is recommended that parents/guardians bring students to school.

Requirements for students to ride the bus:

Parents must sign up for transportation.

- Parents must screen their children for COVID-19 before allowing them to ride.
- Students are encouraged to wear a mask.
- Students must stay in their seat during the route.
- Prekindergarten students may ride on an elementary bus when needed.
- Student stops may be adjusted (relocated) to limit the number of stops. (This is due to the double routes that may be required.)
- It may take a week to add a new rider to a bus route.

Special Education students will be contacted for arrangements.

Students that become sick at school will not be permitted to ride the bus home.



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Continuity of Services

La Porte ISD will address:

- **Academic Needs:**
 - Provide accelerated instruction to all students to address academic impact of lost instruction.
 - Provide accelerated instruction for each student who failed any STAAR 3-8 or STAAR EOC assessment (HB 4545).
- **Food Services:**
 - La Porte ISD will offer free meals to all students regardless of economic status. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued nationwide waivers to allow LPISD to offer this benefit for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Student/Staff Social and Emotional Needs:**
 - Implement district-wide Character Strong curriculum and continue to utilize restorative practices to address trauma situations for staff and students.
 - Utilize the Emotional Backpack training on each campus to identify student needs.
 - Collaborate with outside community resources for additional mental health support.
 - Staff members are offered access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) regardless of their participation in the employee health plan.