

# La Grange ISD

## Safe Return to School Plan: Student/Staff/Parent Information

### School Year 2020-2021

Updated: March 1, 2021

*The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and La Grange ISD's Safe Return-to-School plans will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of La Grange and surrounding Fayette County communities.*

*Please know that La Grange ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year.*

### Health and Safety Measures

Ensuring all students, staff, and community members remain healthy and safe by following best practices in the areas of:

- Guidance, directives, and recommendations from health authorities
- Health and safety information, social distancing as feasible and infection control practices (handwashing, face coverings, etc.)
- School health office practices, personal protective equipment (PPE), management and isolation of students and staff showing signs of illness

### Infection Control Measures

- Our District will follow any Governor's Executive Order regarding face coverings while they are in effect
- Students and staff required to wear face coverings for in-person learning; if face shields are used without a mask, they should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below the chin
- If the Executive Order would cease at any point, students and staff will be highly encouraged to continue to wear face coverings when social distance cannot be maintained as well as when students and staff are in any hallways, common areas, and during all arrival and dismissal times
- Face coverings include masks, gaiters, face shields or anything else that provides covering over the nose and mouth
- Important to note that students or staff who meet the definition of "close contact" with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to self-isolate for 14

days if they were not wearing a mask (definition of “close contact” defined later in this document)

- Students in grades 4-12 are required to wear their own masks at all times as well as when in hallways, common areas, and during arrival and dismissal; students in lower grades are highly encouraged to wear a mask
- Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE); PPE will be provided as needed to staff and students
- Social distancing encouraged at all times – however important to note that social distancing will not be possible with students allowed to attend every school day; TEA guidelines state enforce social distancing as feasible
- Water fountains will be available for filling of water containers only
- Staff will work to try to maintain social distancing at restrooms where possible
- Hand sanitizer in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common spaces
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash hands for 20 seconds or sanitize hands
- Students will have instruction on effective handwashing. Elementary students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, following restroom breaks and after recess. All secondary students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer regularly.
- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezed with a tissue and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues are to be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed for at least 20 seconds or hand sanitizer used.
- Health clinics will have well and sick students separated when needing health services

## Health Screenings

- Staff required to complete daily health self-screening for COVID-19 before coming onto campus each day
- Parents/guardian are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present
- Visitors required to complete health screening upon entry into the building to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry to the building

## Campus Operations

- Lockers will not be assigned at the high school - students will carry needed materials with them; no other lockers on District campuses
- Custodians will wear masks and gloves
- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, teacher workrooms etc.), including how to sanitize between use. All students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.

- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common areas
- Restrooms will continue to be disinfected daily / Classrooms will have surfaces disinfected daily
- Plexiglass is installed in high-traffic areas such as reception desks, cafeteria cashiers, etc.
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transition times to reduce high-touch areas
- Campuses will open multiple entrance/exit points to the extent possible to promote social distancing during arrival and dismissal times

### Learning Environment

- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students; desks and tables will not always be placed 6 feet apart due to space constraints
- Staff will have access to disinfectant solutions to regularly sanitize high-touch/working surfaces
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible
- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited
- The use of outdoor space for learning will be considered when possible. Classroom groups working outside will maintain social distance between other classroom groups as is feasible
- PE classes will be conducted outdoors whenever possible. Appropriate social distancing will be followed as feasible
- Students will be encouraged to supply their own art supplies
- To support contact tracing, students will have assigned seats and a seating chart will be maintained by the classroom teacher

### Breakfast / Lunch

- Recommended health and safety measures will be followed by the cafeteria staff including staff wearing face coverings and gloves
- Sanitizing and hand washing practices in all areas of the kitchen and serving area
- Eliminate self-serve counters and social distancing as feasible for traditional serving lines
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink
- Condiments and pre-wrapped silverware to be included with all meals
- “Grab and go” meals for breakfast may be utilized to lower numbers in the cafeterias
- Where possible, cohorts will be grouped together to eat lunch
- Meals in disposable packaging to greatest extent possible

- All purchases for cafeteria snacks are encouraged to be made through Lunch Money Now to limit cash exchange
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches
- Students will report to their homeroom classroom or 1<sup>st</sup> period class after receiving their grab-n-go breakfast to maintain social distancing as much as possible
- Students will wear their mask at all times, but will remove it once seated to eat
- High School/Middle School students will be served traditional meals in to-go containers

## Transportation

- Ridership will remain at typical district capacity
- Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to school daily as it is the safest means of transportation due to COVID-19; parents will remain in vehicles at all times; no parent walk-ups permitted
- All buses will have hand sanitizer available for use when loading/unloading
- All buses will be disinfected and wiped down daily
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation
- To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver.
- Students and the driver will wear coverings while on the bus at all times
- Students from the same household will be seated together on the bus

## Visitors

- Campuses will limit campus visitors
- Parents will not be able to eat lunch at school until further notice
- All visitors who enter the building are required to wear a face covering
- Any visitor who needs to go beyond the front office will be subject to health screening
- Visitors required to complete health screening to determine if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or have come into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 upon entry into the building
- Any visitor who has had COVID-19 or symptoms or have into close contact with an individual who is test-confirmed with COVID-19 must remain off campus until the 14 day incubation period has passed
- Social distancing is encouraged during all meetings that cannot meet virtually
- No non-emergency drop-offs such as snacks, lunch, instruments, fast food items, athletic equipment etc. will be allowed
- Guest visits on campuses will be limited to those required for educational purposes such as ARD meetings, 504 meetings, and parent/teacher conferences

## Isolation Procedures Related to COVID-19 (Updated March 1, 2021)

- If a student or staff member have displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student/staff needs to be sent home
  - If a student or staff member is assessed and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, the cohort will be located to an alternate area while the room is being disinfected
- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
  - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
  - at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- **New – 3-1-2021** – If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or **[(b) receive a negative COVID test at an approved COVID – 19 testing location.]**
- **[New – 10-1-2020** – (Region 7 Texas Department of State Health Services updated guidance to La Grange ISD) -- If a student or staff member reports that they are a test-confirmed positive, contact tracing will begin by the La Grange ISD Health Services Department for anyone in close contact 48 hours prior to the day of symptom onset.

If the positive student or staff wore their mask correctly covering their mouth and nose at all times, any student who sat within 6’ of space of the positive person and were not wearing the mask appropriately will be sent home on a mandated 7-10 day quarantine. Students or staff who were wearing their mask correctly will be allowed to remain in school.

**NEW 12-4-2020** If the student or staff member who is positive does not wear a mask or does not wear their mask appropriately covering their mouth and nose at all times when in close contact with others, all close contacts will be sent home for a 7-10 day quarantine.

Additional tracing and quarantining will be required if there are more than 2 students in the same class test positive at or around the same time or within a few days of each other. The Texas Department of State Health Services will assist with guidance for these situations.]

- Students in athletics will be under a La Grange ISD and Department of State Health Services Region 7 investigation to determine who needs to be sent home on a 7-10 day quarantine as many factors contribute to the need to quarantine. The case will be reported by Health Services either by phone or using the online form to Region 7 TDSHS for investigation. Region 7 will then determine if any additional people need to be quarantined.
- District communication will be provided to the staff and students who came in contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- La Grange ISD will immediately sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive. In the event that this cannot be done before the start of the next school day, La Grange ISD may need to close for a day to complete this process.
- Any student requiring quarantine will transition to Remote Learning for the period of self-isolation.
- Staff needing to self-isolate for exposure to COVID-19 will be based on whether the exposure was on-duty (at school or a school-related duty) or off-duty (did not occur at school or a school-related duty). Staff asked to self-isolate due to on-duty exposure will be asked to work remotely and leave will not be impacted. Staff needing to self-isolate due to off-duty exposure (home/personal) will need to access leave during self-isolation. A positive diagnosis of COVID-19 will qualify staff for Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL), available through December 2020 which will give access to two weeks of additional leave for employees.

### **Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19 (Updated 8-7-20)**

- Students or staff who are present with symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse in the ill clinic
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present: staff member will be sent home, a student will be isolated from other students until parent arrives within 45 minutes of the phone call
  - Nurse will notify campus administrator to move the student's class so that the space can be disinfected
- Student will be escorted to vehicle upon parent arrival
- Nurse will provide parent/staff with written Return to School Criteria
- Contact tracing for test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted in collaboration with Region 7 Texas Department of State Health Services and local health officials
- All clinic visits for medications and minor first aid will be conducted at an alternate location away from sick students

## COVID-19 Exposure Procedures; Close Contact – Per TEA (Updated 12-4-20)

- Close Contact definition with an individual who is test-confirmed to have COVID-19—is evolving with our understanding of COVID-19, and individual scenarios should be determined by an appropriate public health agency. In general, close contact is defined as:
  - a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on) or
  - b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes; however additional factors like case/contact masking (i.e. both the infectious individual and the potential close contact have been consistently and properly masked), ventilation, presence of dividers, and case symptomology may affect this determination.

Either (a) or (b) defines close contact if it occurred during the infectious period of the case, defined as two days prior to symptom onset to 10 days after symptom onset. In the case of asymptomatic individuals who are test-confirmed with COVID-19, the infectious period is defined as two days prior to the confirming lab test and continuing for 10 days following the lab test.

- **NEW 12-4-2020** Stay-at-home period for those who are determined close contact will be the following:
  - 10 days after the last close contact, so long as they continue to do twice daily symptom monitoring through health services at school through days 11-14.
  - 7 days after the last close contact, after receiving a negative test result (administered at least 5 days after the last close contact), so long as they continue to do twice daily symptom monitoring through health services at school through days 8-14. PCR testing is recommended but not required.
  - Staff who are necessary to preserve school operations (Administrators, Teachers, Nurses, SRO) will not require stay-at-home periods, so long as they take all necessary precautions and do twice daily symptom monitoring through health services at school through day 14. Rapid test will be offered on day 5-7 of quarantine. A rapid test will be offered starting on day 5 of the 14 days. LGISD will provide N95 masks for these individuals.

## Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate on any on campus activities. If you were determined to have had close contact you will be individually contacted.

- Contact tracing for test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be conducted to determine who came into close contact with whom.
- Example: A La Grange Elementary student tests positive in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade; all parents of all students on the elementary campus are notified that a student has tested positive at the campus. With the use of contact tracing, LGISD determines who has been in “close contact” and campus personnel will contact those families to determine next steps (which may or may not include self-isolation depending on if face coverings were worn and the degree of contact.)

### **Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms (Updated 8-7-20)**

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

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

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to a 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

### **Return to School Criteria**

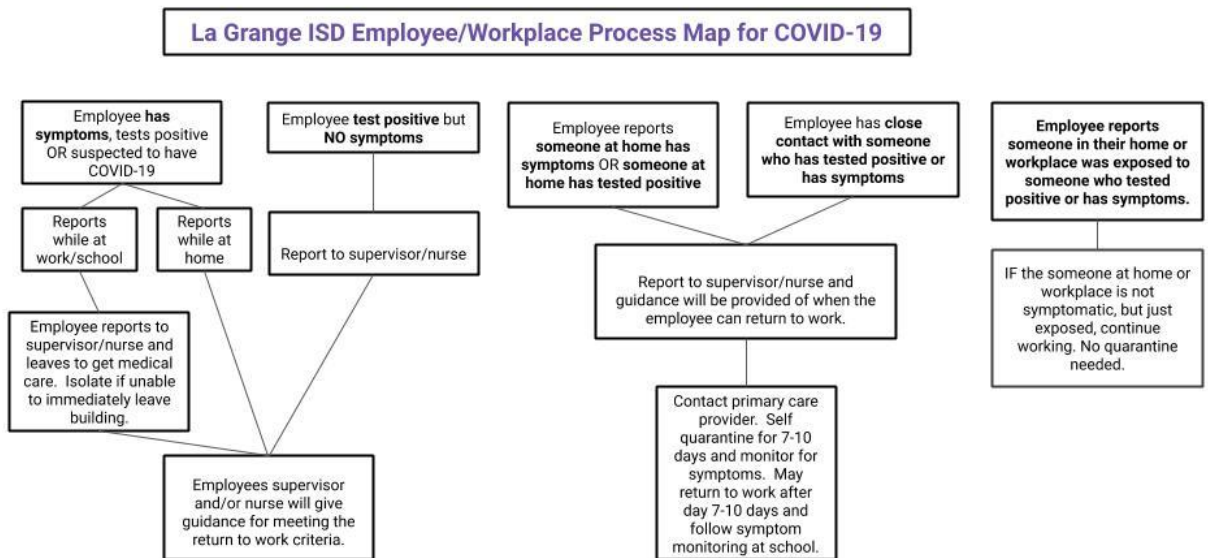
Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home throughout the infection period and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the conditions below for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria have been met:

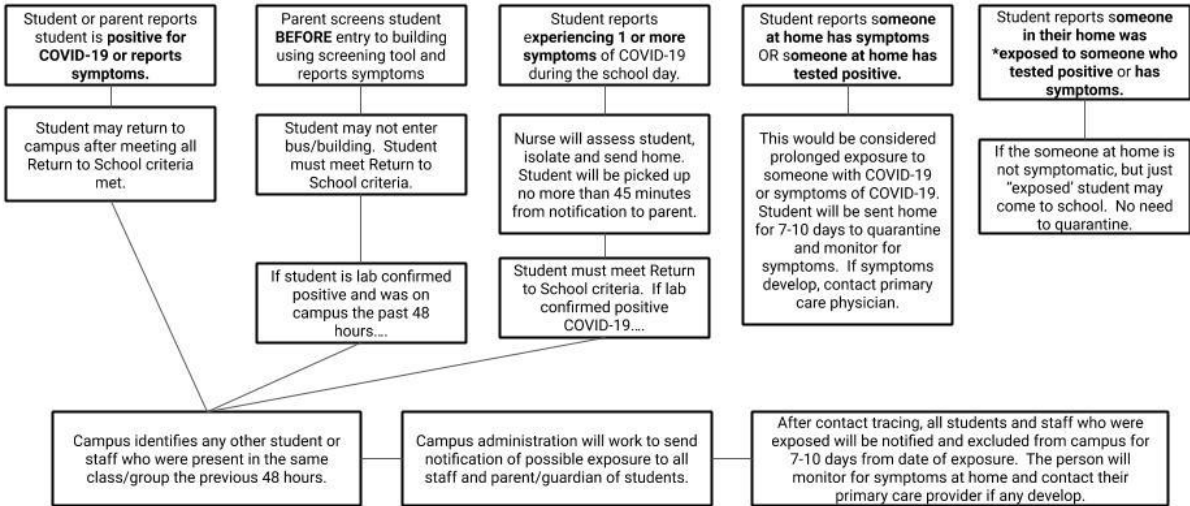


- 2) At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery with no use of fever reducing medications
  - 3) The individual has improvements in symptoms
  - 4) At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step program set of criteria listed above.
  - If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay home period, the individual must either obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location.



*\*To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household and not in strict quarantine protocol, caring for a sick person with the virus depending of level of exposure, being within 6 feet of a sick person with the virus for at least 15 cumulative minutes without both parties wearing a face covering, or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person.*

## La Grange ISD Student Process Map for COVID-19



*\*To be considered exposed to COVID-19, you need to have prolonged close contact with a person who has the virus. Close contact includes living in the same household and not in strict quarantine protocol, caring for a sick person with the virus, being within 6 feet of a sick person with the virus for at least 15 cumulative minutes without both parties wearing a face covering, or being in direct contact with secretions from the sick person.*

# La Grange Independent School District COVID-19 Self-Screening (Updated 8-7-20)

COVID-19 symptoms self-screening should be done daily by all students and staff before arriving at school. This document consists of the symptoms to screen for each day. It is recommended that each person take their temperature each day as part of the self-screening. Staff will be required to take temperatures daily at home before coming to work.

## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS FOR SCREENING:

- Feeling feverish or measured temperature of 100.0 or greater
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Fatigue, muscle pain, or ache
- Congestion or runny nose
- New onset of severe headache
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Chills, shaking, or exaggerated shivering

If you are experiencing any of the above symptoms, it is considered a positive screen for COVID-19. Please contact your primary care provider for further instructions.

If you have any questions regarding the screening process or symptoms, please contact the campus nurse.

Elementary - 968-7017

Middle School – 968-4747

High School - 968-4800

## Instructional Delivery Models

Providing a high-quality education through two instructional delivery models:

- In-Person Learning (Traditional Classroom Experience)
- At-Home Learning (Remote Online Learning Experience)
- Students will have to be in attendance 90% of the days instruction is offered in order to receive credit with each instructional delivery method
- Parents will be asked to commit to one of these two learning environments. If At-Home Learning is chosen, the student cannot switch to In-Person Learning until the end of the 6 weeks grading period. If In-Person learning is chosen, a student can switch to At-Home Learning at any point in the 6 weeks period, but cannot return to In-Person until a new 6 weeks grading period

### In-Person Learning

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to-face learning on campus all day, every day
- Students will follow their class schedules by transitioning to different classrooms for course instruction as needed
- Classroom instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the academic standards of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content area
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning will be the same
- Student participation will be required 5 full days per week
- Instruction provided by La Grange ISD teachers
- Instruction in core content and elective areas
- District curriculum, unit sequencing and pacing of instruction
- Accommodations and support services provided
- Implementation of preventive safety measures
- Many CTE classes will require in-person learning (ex. - Cosmetology, Welding, Construction, Culinary Arts, some Computer Classes)
- Some core courses may require remote learners to travel to campus with their own transportation to complete certain skills (e.g. science lab skills)
- Allows for participation in UIL extra-curricular activities

## At-Home Learning

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12
- Students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities on our Remote Learning Platform/Learning Management System
- Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required (each day students will have to show “engagement” in order to be marked present in the form of submitting work, interacting with teachers on progress of content or in engagement on our online learning platform)
- The schedule will reflect periods of synchronous learning scheduled throughout the day followed by time for independent, learning activities. The schedule will also include breaks and lunch
- Students will have to demonstrate engagement all 5 days each week (via synchronous meetings with the teacher, progress in online activities and/or submission of work)
- A caregiver will need to be available to support younger students in navigating the daily schedule and providing assistance with the learning as needed
- For secondary students, the At-Home Learning schedule will follow the same bell schedule for courses as In-Person Learning; 50 minute class periods
- Students learning remotely will be required to complete the same assignments as students learning on-site
- Remote At-Home instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content area
- Expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning will be the same; GPA calculations and rank will be the same for a student attending In-Person Learning or At-Home Learning
- Instruction provided by La Grange ISD teachers
- Instruction in core content and elective areas
- Students will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities with At-Home Learning
- Accommodations and support services provided will be provided to all remote learners
- Sufficient internet connection is required and devices are required for assigned class times
- Major assessments can be administered on campus after regular school hours with safety protocols in place; student must have transportation provided

## Online Learning Management System

- PK-1: Each grade level will have daily learning materials and activities. Students will submit work primarily through SeeSaw.
- Grades 2-12: LGISD will continue to use Google Classroom and Zoom platforms to house its learning content and activities
- All at-home learners will use Zoom to connect with their teacher and other students

- Teachers will provide instruction to students on how to use digital tools
  - Resources will also be available for parents to learn how to support students in navigating learning through these digital tools
  - In the event that students participating in In-Person Learning are required to quarantine, the education of these students will continue through At-Home Learning for the duration of the quarantine period
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## **Social Emotional and Mental Health Support Systems**

La Grange ISD is committed to ensuring the needs of all students are met whether learning occurs in-person or remotely. There has been growing recognition in the promoting and supporting of the social and emotional well-being of students.

La Grange ISD will strive to connect with our students and build skills to identify emotions and feelings of stress and implement positive strategies to build relationships, cope with workloads, and examine ways to be successful in the midst of any challenges students may face in the coming year.

La Grange ISD will help address the mental health and social-emotional development of all students and staff and by following best practices in the areas of:

- School-based mental health services
- Behavioral support systems
- Family engagement and support practices
- Staff supports

## **Social Emotional Learning**

- Social Emotional Learning lessons and activities to support students related to COVID-19 experiences, trauma, and school closure will be developed for all campuses as possible
- Counseling support will be accessible to both In-Person and At-Home learners

## **Family Support**

- Families will be provided information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness
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## **Parent Communication**

Providing families with clear and concise communication through the following outbound channels:

- Email / Text Messages
- Website
- Phone calls
- Parents are encouraged to make sure that all contact information is up to date at the child's campus – parent contact names, phone numbers, email addresses

### Communication Tools and Channels

- Parents will receive texts from La Grange ISD to inform them of communications through letters or information posted to the District Website
- Information about Back to School 2020 will be posted on the La Grange ISD website. The website will include:
  - Health and safety protocols
  - Information on both in-person and at-home learning
  - A list of frequently asked questions
- Campuses will share campus-specific information with parents via email, newsletters, student school email addresses and other campus communication tools.
- At-Home learning support offered to parents through consistent communication

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Please note: Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the school year and La Grange ISD will keep everyone informed if conditions change that require notification.

If you have a question about our District Plan for the Return to School, please contact the Administration Office at 979-968-7000 or email your question to [info@lgisd.net](mailto:info@lgisd.net).

Frequently Asked Questions below.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Health & Safety

#### **Will health and safety training be provided for all staff and students?**

Yes. All staff members will receive COVID-19 prevention training prior to the opening of school. All students will receive instruction on health protocols related to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

#### **How will social distancing be promoted in cafeterias, gyms, restrooms, and other commons areas?**

Signage reminding students and staff about social distancing, handwashing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout the school.

Elementary classrooms will be assigned specific bathrooms, breakfast, lunch, and gym access times to reduce the number of students in any given area as much as possible.

Secondary students will be encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines.

#### **What precautions will be in place for athletics, fine arts, and other extracurricular activities?**

Safety guidelines are being developed for conducting all on-campus workouts, rehearsals, and practices. The district will continue to follow all guidelines provided by UIL, TEA, and the state. These safety guidelines will be published as soon as they become available.

#### **What happens if a student or a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire classroom have to quarantine? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted? Will students be able to participate in At-Home Learning during the quarantine?**

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent home to recover. When notification of a possible exposure occurs, in coordination with local health authorities, the campus/district will investigate who may have had “close contact” with the student. Based on the results, a determination will be made as to whether an entire classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine. In the event students are required to temporarily quarantine, the education of these students will continue through At-Home Learning for the duration of the quarantine period.

#### **What if my child has been diagnosed with a condition other than COVID-19, such as strep throat?**

The District will follow district clinic procedures for all other illnesses. The student would have to be fever free for 24 hours without any medications and a note from the family physician that it is safe for the student to return to school.

### School Operations

#### **Will cafeterias be open and will school lunches be served?**

Cafeterias will be open to serve Grab-N-Go breakfasts and lunch daily. The physical setup for the cafeteria and the schedule will be adjusted to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria at one time. Each campus cafeteria space will be evaluated to ensure social distancing as much as possible. Some students will be eating in the cafeteria and other students may eat in a classroom if necessary. All school meals will be served by employees, meaning student self-serve tables will not be used. Safety



and health measures will be adjusted based on current guidelines and conditions. There will be no visitors to the campuses during the serving of breakfast or lunch periods.

**Will bus transportation be provided for qualified students?**

Yes, transportation will continue to be provided for all who qualify. For the safest transportation method, parents are encouraged to provide their student's own transportation if possible.

**How will seating arrangements be determined on school buses?**

Ridership will remain at typical district capacity. To support contact tracing, students will be assigned seats, and a seating chart will be maintained by the bus driver. The bus driver and students will be required to wear face coverings and hand sanitizer will be provided when boarding and exiting the bus. La Grange ISD will comply with all health and safety recommendations established by the Governor, the health department, and the Texas Education Agency. School buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Safety and health measures may be adjusted based on current guidelines and conditions.

## **In-Person Learning**

**How many students will be assigned to each classroom?**

La Grange ISD will follow TEA guidelines for class size. At this time, the class size requirements are the same as a regular school year. The maximum number of students per class varies by grade level and also varies by class at the secondary level. Student desks will be distanced to the greatest extent possible within the classroom setting.

**My child is enrolled in dual credit classes for fall 2020. What should I know as a parent/student?**

Blinn College will provide guidelines for La Grange ISD students who are enrolled in dual credit courses for fall 2020. For any questions about dual credit, contact Blinn College.

**Will students have recess or the ability to play and socialize with other students?**

Elementary campuses will limit the number of students at recess at one time and may create different play areas for activities to further reduce student interactions. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer and wash their hands before and after recess.

**What happens if my child's campus is temporarily closed during the school year?**

During the period of the school closure, students will remain at home and will engage in learning activities that are primarily delivered through an online learning management system. Live, teacher-led instruction and peer collaboration will be scheduled throughout the day to expand students' opportunities to engage with content and interact with teachers and classmates. Daily student participation in the learning activities will be required. Instructional time will also be dedicated for independent learning activities. A structured schedule will be provided to students indicating required times for participation in live instruction. Per TEA rules, campuses may be closed from 1 to 5 days.

**Will After-School Care services be offered?**

Yes, After-School Care will be available to families who are participating in In-Person Learning.

**Will students in grades 7-12 be able to participate in clubs and organization meetings and/or activities?**

Yes, students who select In-Person Learning may participate in clubs and/or organizations. Students must have their own transportation to and from campus.

**At-Home Learning**

**How will At-Home Learning be different from the instruction provided during the school closure last spring?**

Students who select At-Home Learning will be required to virtually attend and participate in class daily to meet attendance requirements. In the spring of last year, students' assignments were provided at a reduced amount of instructional minutes as compared to a traditional school day. At-Home learning this year will be a full course load of instruction and assignments that is comparable to what students who are attending school in-person will be required to complete. In addition, grading procedures will be the same as In-Person learning.

**Will there be attendance requirements for At-Home students?**

Yes, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will require daily attendance and participation in At-Home Learning. Students will be required to participate in online classes daily and traditional attendance rules will be enforced. A student will be considered absent if the student does not engage in the designated live-instruction and/or independent learning activities each day.

**Will students in At-Home Learning have access to instructional materials, such as guided reading books or other classroom resources?**

Students will be provided with some instructional materials that will vary based on the grade level and coursework of the student. Some resources may be provided digitally. The design of classroom instruction will account for student's access to specific instructional materials in the home.

**Will students participating in At-Home Learning need to purchase school supplies for the new school year?**

Yes. Families will need to purchase typical school supplies. Students who are participating in the At-Home Learning will need to purchase the necessary listed supplies from the grade level supply list in order to complete their assignments.

**Will courses taken in At-Home Learning be included in GPA calculations and class rank for high school students?**

Courses taken by students participating in At-Home Learning will be included in calculating GPA and class rank in accordance with EIC (Local) policy.

**Will all courses be offered in At-Home Learning for students in Grades 9 - 12?**

No. Based on the course requirements, there are some specialized courses that will not be available in At-Home Learning such as CTE courses. For these courses, the student will have the option to attend the classes on-campus or choose to have their schedule changed in order to remain in a fully remote environment. Campus staff will work with students choosing to have their schedule changed to identify a suitable replacement course and adjust their schedule.

In addition, there are some specialized courses (such as science classes) that are offered in At-Home Learning, but may require in-person laboratory learning experiences based on specific course learning outcomes regarding equipment, software, and technology. Transportation would have to be provided by the parent in these instances.

**Are immunizations required for students enrolled in At-Home Learning?**

Yes, at this time the Texas Department of State Health Services has not waived the vaccine requirements for students.

**Will my child have access to their campus nurse during the school day for At-Home Learning?**

Yes, parents and students may contact the school nurse by phone or e-mail during school hours.

**Will resources be available for parents to support and monitor their child's At-Home Learning?**

Yes. Online training will be available for parents to learn how to support students in navigating learning through these digital tools.

## **Instruction & Assessment**

**How will teachers address any potential learning needs from the school closure last spring?**

To support all students, the district curriculum will highlight academic standards that teachers will consider as they plan to address the potential learning impacts resulting from the school closure. Teachers will use formative assessments and supplemental resources to personalize student learning to address areas of need. Students will be assessed with the TEA Beginning of Year Assessments in grades 3-8 and in the high school courses of English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology I, and US History.

**How will student progress be reported?**

Overall progress on learning outcomes will be communicated in a “traditional” format using numeric grades. Assignments and grades will be entered into our grading system. The expectations for coursework and guidelines for grading for In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning will be the same.

**Will STAAR/EOC be administered in 2020-2021?**

Yes. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has indicated that STAAR testing will still occur during the 2020-2021 school year, in compliance with state and federal legislation.

**How do parents commit to an instructional model of choice for their child?**

For current students, parents will complete the commitment form no later than July 31 at 3:00 p.m. Upon enrollment, new students will be provided the opportunity to select their instructional model.

**Can students change their commitment from In-Person Learning to At-Home Learning after the start of the school year?**

Due to the scheduling complexities inherent in these two options, parents will be asked to make a commitment for at least one full six-week grading period. Please note that if a student switches between In-Person Learning and At-Home Learning, then that student could possibly not have the same teacher(s) or course schedule.

## **Special Services**

**Will students identified as English Learners, Dyslexic and/or Gifted and Talented receive services during At-Home Learning?**

Yes. More information will be available at a later date.

**Will students receiving services from Special Education or 504 be eligible for At-Home Learning?**

Yes, all students in La Grange ISD will have the opportunity to choose In-Person Learning or At-Home Learning.

**Will an ARD/504 meeting be required if At-Home Learning is chosen?**

ARD and 504 meetings will be scheduled on a case by case basis. For students served in special education, the schedule of instructional and related services should be accurately documented in the ARD/IEP to reflect the supports and services the student requires for FAPE. A parent/guardian may request an ARD or 504 meeting at any time.

**What if my student does not currently receive 504 or special education services but I am concerned he/she might have a disability?**

Contact your campus to request a meeting to discuss your concerns.

**I have chosen At-Home Learning for my student, but he/she requires an evaluation for 504 or special education this school year. Will the evaluation also take place via virtual methods?**

If your student requires an initial or re-evaluation, the parent/guardian will be contacted to discuss the evaluation and determine components that can be completed virtually versus those components that require face-to-face interaction. Appointments with evaluation staff will be scheduled at the campus to complete face-to-face components.