

LACS COVID Recovery Plan



A Framework for Lowville Academy and Central School District

**Lowville Academy and Central School
July 20, 2021**

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INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT PRE-K TO GRADE 12 SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

INTRODUCTION

The information provided in the following document is based on findings from the most current research. It should be noted that any and all directives, guidance and Executive Orders from the Governor's office, CDC or DOH will supersede the recommendations contained within this document.

Underlying Principles

The Lowville Academy and Central School will continue to encourage and foster the development of positive behaviors on the part of each student and provide a culturally responsive, respectful, safe, and orderly school setting, despite the many COVID-related challenges faced by our school and community.

Responsible behavior by every person affiliated with our school community is essential to achieving this goal.

While it is possible that some elements of this COVID Recovery Plan may be temporarily modified as a result of forthcoming guidance or legal changes from NYSED or the NY Department of Health (ie dress code rules, social distancing, visitor expectations, etc.), the overall intent remains: LACS will actively promote equity, cultural competence, inclusion, and academic readiness in a safe, and secure environment.

Safety

As we prepare for the reopening of school, our priority is to safeguard the health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff. We recognize the merit and significance of in-person instruction and the opportunities that are afforded to students through the arts, extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics and its impact on the social-emotional well-being and the mental health needs of the students and staff.

Flexibility

As public health circumstances develop regionally and statewide, we understand that it is essential to monitor conditions and prepare to smoothly transition from one educational model to another as needed. All decisions made must be effectively communicated to staff, students, families and the community.

COMMUNICATION

Collaboration with the District and community partners is essential for a successful school year. Working in close relationships with other agencies enables us to make the best decisions possible. This plan reflects input from administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents/legal guardians, members of the Board of Education, the local health department, health care providers, and union representatives.

LACS has engaged stakeholders and community members (administrators, faculty, staff, union leaders, students, parents/legal guardians, alumni, public health and emergency management officials) in developing our reopening plans. Throughout this process, these stakeholders have included: BOCES Administration, Instructors, CSEA Representatives, Lewis County Public Health, Lewis County Administration, Lewis County Emergency Management, parents/guardians, community industry and partners.

Communication Plans

1. Students, Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff Communication
 - a. All stakeholders will be encouraged to review health protocols/procedures. This information will be made available to them by LACS.
 - b. All stakeholders will undergo required training in the classroom on proper protocols/procedures that will include the use of hand hygiene, proper face covering wearing, social distancing, and respiratory hygiene.
 - c. Proper signage will be placed in classrooms, hallways and in other areas. This signage will include information on proper health protocols and procedures.
 - d. All stakeholders will be encouraged to view the school district's website on a regular basis for new information as it becomes available. Official communication will no longer be disseminated on social media platforms.
 - e. Urgent communication to faculty/staff will be made available through emails, push notifications, and phone calls from the Superintendent or specific Administrators.

2. Visitors
 - a. All visitors will be allowed entrance through the building front office and will be required to check in with that front office. Each building may have specific nuances to their drop off and pick up procedures. Please be sure to check with the building office for specific protocol. Current protocols will be followed according to the latest guidelines from the CDC, New York State Department of Health, and Lewis County Public Health.
 - b. All visitors should follow the current guidelines and protocols consistent with the staff, students and visitors.
 - c. Signage is posted at each visitor entrance outlining the symptoms of COVID-19, current guidelines, protocols, and other relevant information.

- d. All visitors will be told that a mask is required to be worn to enter any building. Visitors will be kept to a minimum.

Closures/Positive Case

In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 within LACS, all stakeholders will be notified immediately using a text message and the school website. Information regarding the duration of existing closures, nature of precipitating events, and plans for re-entry will be shared immediately and widely. These methods will include:

1. Notifying local health officials, staff, students and parents/guardians immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with applicable federal and state privacy laws.
2. In the event of a positive case in the school community, LACS will follow all directives from Lewis County Public Health.
3. LACS will protect private information of staff and students while assisting and cooperating with any contact tracing efforts.
4. LACS will release specific information via an official statement to be shared on the district's website, and staff and parent/guardian communication tools.

Vaccinations:

Responsible parties will discuss and encourage opportunities to maximize vaccinations for all eligible stakeholders.

Designated Coordinator for Communication to Stakeholders

The following LACS staff members have been named designated coordinators to act as contacts upon identification of positive cases and will be responsible for subsequent communication:

District COVID-19 Safety Coordinator: Rebecca Dunckel-King

LACS Building Safety Leaders:

Elementary School: Philomena Goss

Middle School: Scott Exford

High School: Brian Finn

BOCES Lowville:

Lowville Elementary School: TBD

Lowville Middle School: TBD

EXPANSION OF IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

2021-2022 Instructional Model:

All grade levels will be in person during the 2021-2022 school year. There will be no remote option with the exception of a closure or a class-wide quarantine.

Cohorts:

In the upcoming school year, LACS is expanding the definition of cohort to include the following grade level bands:

- All students attending LACS High School
- All students attending LACS Middle School
- Various combinations of grade levels in LACS Elementary School

Remote Instruction:

In the event the district must move to remote instruction, all students in grades 1-12 will be provided with a chromebook in order to better access the online instructional platform. Teachers and other responsible parties will communicate with their specific class in order to prepare for such an event.

Capacity:

Quantity of students, faculty, and staff allowed to return in-person was determined by factors such as ability to maintain appropriate physical distance, personal protective equipment (PPE) availability, local medical capacity, and availability of safe transportation.

In accordance with the June 7th, 2021, Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency document, Lowville will safely return all students to in-person learning using current guidelines for CDC, NYSDOH and Lewis County Public Health.

To reduce density, Lowville Academy will configure and repurpose spaces to meet physical distancing guidelines when needed.

Students will be cohorted to the extent practicable, to limit potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Cohorts, particularly for younger students, are self-contained, pre-assigned groups of students with reasonable group size limits set forth in collaboration with the Public Health Department and New York State Guidance.

Physical Distancing:

Social distancing also called “physical distancing” means keeping the recommended space between yourself and others. LACS will implement, and enforce physical distancing recommendations in all

school facilities and on school grounds, including transportation. Furthermore, LACS will ensure that student groupings are static by having the same group/cohort of students stay together when possible.

- The district will measure each classroom and establish the maximum capacity according to the current physical distancing guidelines.
- The district will use signage in the halls and common areas directing individuals to follow all physical distancing guidelines.
- Lowville will adhere to physical distancing guidelines according to CDC, NYSDOH and Lewis County Public Health.
 - Indoors
 - Outdoors
 - Between adults and students
 - Eating meals, snacks, drinking, or other times where masks must be removed when indoors.
 - Participating in activities that require projecting the voice or playing a wind instrument.
 - Common areas outside the classroom, such as lobbies, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and hallways.

PPE and Masks:

Protocol for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings

- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms and common areas.
- Responsible parties will adhere to and promote hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection guidance set forth by the CDC, NYSDOH and Lewis County Public Health.
- Students, faculty, and staff will be trained on proper hand and respiratory hygiene.
- District will assign responsibility to appropriate staff as needed to determine the scope of cleaning and disinfection, and disinfection frequency for each facility and area type and assign responsibility to staff.
- The district will post appropriate instructional signage regarding hand and respiratory hygiene in the following areas:
 - Bathrooms
 - Locker Rooms
 - Common Areas
 - Cafeterias
 - Nurses Office
 - Faculty Rooms
 - Hallways
- Students *may* be required to wear a mask even while physically distanced due to types of activities being performed in the class or medical conditions of others in the classroom.
- Effective June 7, 2021, face masks are not required to be worn outdoors on school grounds, including during outdoor school sports. However, responsible parties may choose to require face masks outdoors on school grounds, subject to the parameters of interim guidance and public health. No student, teacher, staff member or visitor may be prevented from wearing an acceptable face mask voluntarily on school grounds.
- The district will allow students to remove their facemasks in accordance with the most current CDC, NYSDOH and Lewis County Public Health guidelines.
- The district will allow students to remove their facemasks while physically distanced, and eating and drinking during their assigned lunch period.

- When a student, staff member, or visitor forgets their face mask, the district will provide one. This includes all indoor facilities, when entering the school, buses, and other indoor spaces owned or administered by the school or school district.
- The district will supply extra disposable masks in offices and entry areas.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection:

Protocol for Cleaning and Disinfecting the School District:

- The district will clean and disinfect all areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas.
- Cleaning removes dirt and most germs and is most effectively done with soap and water.
- Disinfecting kills most germs, depending on the type of chemical, and only when the chemical product is used as directed on the label. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, sanitizing kills slightly fewer viruses and germs (99.9 percent) than disinfection (99.999 percent). Using either product is acceptable, but the first step must always be cleaning; surface dirt will inhibit the sanitizing and disinfection process.

Healthy Hygiene Practices (hand, respiratory, social distancing):

Healthy hygiene practices should be taught and re-taught in school settings for both students and staff. LACS will provide instruction to the school community in hand and respiratory hygiene, along with providing adequate supplies and time to allow for frequent hand hygiene. Additionally, LACS will post signs throughout the school and should regularly share messages with the school community. Signage should be used to remind individuals to:

- Stay home if they feel sick.
- Cover their nose and mouth with an acceptable face covering when unable to maintain social distance from others or in accordance with any stricter policy implemented by the school.
- Properly store and, when necessary, discard PPE.
- Adhere to social distancing instructions.
- Report symptoms of, or exposure to, COVID-19.
- Follow hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
- Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULARS

Extracurricular:

- Clubs may hold virtual or in person gatherings.
- In person gatherings will follow the rules and regulations set by Lowville Academy and Central School

Athletics:

- Athletes, coaches and spectators will stay home if they do not feel well or presenting COVID symptoms.
- Face masks and social distancing must be utilized upon entering and exiting the facility.
 - a. Face Masks do not have to be worn while outside
 - b. Face Masks should be worn inside, unless otherwise advised
- Each individual must supply their own water bottle and not share.
- During conditioning workouts, social distance when possible, and use hand sanitizer when applicable.
- Rules may change depending on guidance from Lewis County Department of Health.

Vulnerable Populations:

Protocol detailing how the district/school will provide accommodations to all students and staff who are at high risk or live with a person at high risk.

- The district will follow state and health guidelines, including, for staff, the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, to create policies regarding vulnerable populations, including students, faculty and staff who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness, to allow them to safely participate in educational activities and, where appropriate, accommodate their specific circumstances.

TRANSPORTATION

The school bus is an extension of the classroom; therefore, many of the recommendations that apply to school buildings (like social distancing and frequent cleaning) are also applied to the school bus, as well.

Parents will be surveyed during the summer of 2021 to ask if they need school transportation (if eligible) or can transport their child to and from school to reduce the number of students on a bus.

BUS:

Students are required to wear masks and social distance on the bus

All buses (conforming and non-conforming to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Standards, as well as type A, C or D) which are used every day by districts and contract carriers must be cleaned/disinfected once a day. High contact spots must be wiped down after the am and pm run depending upon the disinfection schedule. (For example, some buses might be cleaned between the am and pm runs while other buses may be cleaned/disinfected after the pm run);

- Drivers will clean and disinfect high traffic areas (such as stepwell handrail) in-between runs as needed. Disinfectant Supplies will be provided at needed locations to perform this procedure.
- Buses returning to the Transportation Department at the conclusion of its last run will undergo a complete cleaning. In addition to normal DOT (Department of Transportation) cleaning requirements, each bus will be sanitized with an electrostatic disinfectant sprayer to ensure complete coverage. The cleaner will be left on surfaces to air dry overnight per recommendations to ensure the best success for germ and virus control.

Daily Cleaning

- All trash removed
 - Floors swept and dust mopped
 - Walls and windows cleaned
 - Bus seats and seat backs
 - Seat belts
 - Door handles, handrails
 - Driver operator area
 - Sneeze guards if applicable and approved by DOT
 - Use only cleaning and disinfecting products that are approved by the EPA. Read all labels and follow instructions. Wear appropriate PPE (disposable gloves or any other required PPE) to clean and disinfect.
 - Ensure proper ventilation during cleaning. Open windows, roof hatches, and turn fans on during route operation.
 - Prohibit eating and drinking on the bus.
 - Follow up with frequent inspections to be sure cleaning/disinfecting protocols are followed on district owned and contracted buses.
-
- LACS school buses are equipped with hand sanitizers for students to use when they board the bus
 - Wheelchair school buses will configure wheelchair placement to ensure social distancing of 3 feet.

TRANSPORTATION - STAFF

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics shall perform a self-health assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving at work. If personnel are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 they should notify their employer and seek medical attention;

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics must wear a face covering along with an OPTIONAL face shield

Bus drivers and monitors will be required to wear a mask or face shield at all times. Monitors who come into physical contact with students will be required to wear gloves in addition to the mask/shield.

Transportation staff (drivers, monitors, attendants, mechanics and cleaners) will be trained and provided periodic refreshers on the proper use of personal protective equipment and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19;

Formal training will be conducted on **Monday August 30th 10 am – 12 pm** at the Carthage CSD Auditorium during the mandatory two-hour Refresher Course required to be attended by all Transportation Staff. The training session will be based on all the latest safety information provided by NYSED (New York State Education Department) and CDC (Center for Disease Control) as well as NYS and local Department of Health.

If information changes throughout the reopening process, the current updates on health protocols will be passed onto Transportation Staff and additional training provided if needed.

Transportation departments/carriers will need to provide Personal Protective Equipment such as masks and gloves for drivers, monitors and attendants in buses as well as hand sanitizer for all staff in their transportation locations such as dispatch offices, employee lunch/break rooms and/or bus garages.

Drivers, monitors and attendants who must have direct physical contact with a child must wear gloves, face coverings and screenings

TRANSPORTATION - STUDENTS

As was outlined in the Health and Safety section of this guidance, all parents/guardians will be required to ensure their child/children are not experiencing any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and do not have a fever of 100 degrees or more prior to them boarding their method of transportation to school;

Students must social distance (three feet separation) on the bus;

Students will be required to wear a mask or face shield at all times while on the bus. They will also be required to sit in a designated seat to give as much social distancing as possible from other students.

Students will sit 2 per seat, every seat

Students who do not have a mask can NOT be denied transportation and must be provided one by the district;

Students will be given a washable or a disposable mask if they have forgotten theirs.

Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be forced to do so or denied transportation.

Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering, including students where such covering would impair their physical health or mental health are not subject to the required use of a face covering.

Loading/Unloading; Pickup/Drop-off

- Students shall be loaded in sequential route order. (Examples: First student on the bus will sit in the back on the way to school. On take home trips, the last off will sit in the back.)
- Contact Tracing sheets will be filled out by the bus driver.
- Adjustments shall be made to allow buses to unload immediately upon arrival to minimize riding time as much as possible.
 - Route timing will be affected by delayed loading/unloading processes.
 - Arrival and departure activities shall be supervised to ensure social distancing.

** Students are allowed ONE pickup / drop off location; the only exception is if the alternate stop is on the same bus. This allows us to keep Cohorts together.

FOOD SERVICE

At Lowville Academy, we believe that a successful nutrition program is a key component to a successful educational environment. Children cannot focus on learning when they are hungry. School meals boost learning, and studies show that students perform best academically when they are well nourished.

LACS will continue to ensure that students receive nutritious meals throughout the school year for students who require food assistance. LACS ensures compliance with Child Nutrition Program requirements.

LACS will provide all students enrolled in the SFA with access to school meals each school day, follow all applicable health and safety guidelines and include measures to protect students with food allergies if providing meals in spaces outside the cafeteria.

District/School Plan must include protocols and procedures for how students will perform hand hygiene before and after eating, how appropriate hand hygiene will be promoted, and how sharing of food and beverages will be discouraged.

All elementary students may have to eat lunch within their own classrooms. They will be required to thoroughly wash their hands before and after eating.

District/School Plan must include protocols and procedures that require cleaning and disinfection prior to the next group of students arriving for meals, if served in the same common area. Students disinfect hands and can self-serve.

- Monitors will disinfect tables after students have eaten either in the cafeteria or the classroom.
- Students will remain 3 feet apart from one another with the aid of markings on the floor and walls.
- Students will not touch the keypad to enter their ID. Student barcode cards will be scanned.

MENTAL HEALTH, BEHAVIORAL, AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Communities and schools face unprecedented challenges as WE respond to the compounded difficulties of a global pandemic, an economic recession, and civic unrest in response to structural racism. But these challenges also offer unprecedented opportunities to re-envision and renew the capacity of our schools and communities to be welcoming, supportive, inclusive and equitable environments.

To meet these challenges, individuals must start with the inner work of healing their own hearts and minds, finding the capacity within themselves to support healing for students, families, peers, and communities. While district and school personnel cannot solve every problem, collectively, they are a powerful force in improving the well-being of themselves and those around them.

It is unrealistic to expect students to return to an instructional environment that looks the same as previous years. Many students continued to face extremely stressful experiences during the 2020-2021 school year.

Some students have had positive experiences during school closures, learning, growing, and discovering new identities as activists, caregivers, and leaders in their communities. Schools should support and nurture new skills and mindsets.

Students who are known to be vulnerable, as well as those not previously on district and school radars, may return to instruction anxious, fearful, withdrawn, grieving, and/or unprepared to self-manage new or exacerbated negative behaviors. And some students have thrived in an online environment, as school anxiety has lessened. Should additional periods of remote learning be required, students who had an adult available to assist them previously may now be home alone as adults return to work. Older students may be tasked with the care of younger family members. Schools and districts must be prepared to meet students where they are, regardless of the circumstances in which they find themselves.

Our goal is to create a welcoming and caring school community that ensures its members are met with compassion and the support they need to achieve and thrive. Academic learning cannot be effective until the basic human needs for physical and emotional safety are met. This is an embodied practice. Breathe, notice, feel, and be present.

*Except where otherwise noted, the considerations outlined below are relevant regardless of whether the instruction is in-person, remote, or hybrid. (*Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing)*

Address how the school/district will provide resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support services and programs.

Lowville Academy and Central School will provide resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional support services and programs. These methods are as follows:

1. Weekly Support Team meetings.
2. Revised staff communications to include Google sheets that comply with confidentiality guidelines.
3. Support Team referrals managed through Google forms.
4. Videos created and available to students/staff regarding social, emotional, and trauma support (short videos on various social and emotional strategies and topics).
5. Videos created and available to students/staff regarding exercise in the classroom (movement/mindfulness activities). Teachers will be encouraged to use these resources regularly.
6. Every child will have a trusted LACS staff contact. A streamlined process will be developed for staff to check in regularly with students. Students and staff will have input on these contact assignments.
7. Regular academic review and providing additional support for students in need.
8. Teleconferencing for remote students.
9. Regular newsletters to include updated information, activities, and support.
10. Utilize local agencies to include, but not limited to, Behavioral Health and Wellness (BHCW), Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL), Mountain View Prevention Services (MVPS), Credo, Transitional Living Services Community Based, SPOA, and ARC Oneida Lewis Employment/Solutions, Rubenzahl, Knudsen & Associates, North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council (NCPPC), The Q Center.
11. Utilize student organizations.
12. Online resources will be available for Social, Emotional, and Trauma support for students, parents, and staff.
13. Improved communications (flyers, checklists) that address common stressors, including technology, virtual classroom, and instructional issues.
14. Periodic surveys will be sent to staff, students, parents, community members to provide feedback.
15. Encourage staff, especially school counselors and school psychologists, to engage in self-care practices.
16. Creation of a new K-12 school counselor position for the 2021-2022 school year to provide enhanced direct support of the most at-risk students and their families to re-engage them in school.
17. Expand the Social Emotional Learning Curriculum into middle and high school.

Address professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on how to talk with and support students during and after the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, as

well as provide supports for developing coping and resilience skills for students, faculty, and staff

Lowville Academy and Central School addresses professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on how to talk with and support students during and after the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as provide support for developing coping and resilience skills for students, faculty, and staff.

1. Continued/as-needed professional development training will be provided in the following areas as updated by NY State/CDC/ and Public Health:
 - a. Wearing face masks.
 - b. Cleaning the building.
 - c. Safe hygiene practices.
 - d. Social distancing.
 - e. Updated school policies and procedures.
 - f. Activities in the classroom.
 - g. Coping strategies and resilience skills.
 - h. Signs and symptoms of social, emotional, and trauma concerns.
 - i. Streamline communication to report concerns.
 - j. Continued follow-up on the March 2021 Workshop focusing on Social-Emotional Best Practices.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of the children and adults at Lowville Academy and Central School is paramount. Health and safety considerations must always come first in every decision made and every action taken by our district. Whether instruction is provided in-person, remotely, or through some combination of the two, we have an important role to play in educating and communicating with our community about the everyday preventive actions we can all take to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Prevention is accomplished by following the recommendations of health authorities in the following areas:

- Health Checks (screening);
- Healthy Hygiene Practices;
- Social Distancing;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Cloth Face Coverings;
- Management of Ill Persons; and
- Cleaning and Disinfection.

Lowville Academy’s reopening plan is based on best practice or recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). We will continually monitor the CDC and DOH websites to keep current with the latest COVID information and guidance.

Protocol for staff, parent/guardian training on how to identify the signs of illness in students and staff of a symptomatic person and how to take action.

- The healthcare providers will provide district employees with regular ongoing training on identifying students and staff who appear to have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Training frequency will be determined by updates from the medical field to include the CDC, Department of Health and Lewis County Public Health.
- The district will provide written materials to all families in identifying observable signs associated with the COVID-19 virus.

The signs and symptoms include:

Fever / chills (100°F or greater)	Cough	Shortness of breath
Fatigue	Muscle or body aches	Headache
New loss of taste or smell	Sore throat	Congestion or runny nose
Nausea or vomiting	Diarrhea	

Staff will be educated to observe students or other staff members for signs of any type of illness such as:

- Flushed cheeks;
- Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity);
- Fatigue, and/or irritability; and
- Frequent use of the bathroom.

Students and staff exhibiting these signs with no other explanation for them will be sent to the school health office for an assessment by the school nurse. If the school nurse is not available, the school will contact the parent/guardian to come pick up their ill child or send the staff member home.

Anyone who has a temperature of 100.0°F or greater or has a positive response on the screening questionnaire must be isolated from others and sent home immediately. Students will be supervised in the isolated area while awaiting transport home.

Schools should refer such persons to a healthcare provider and provide resources on COVID-19 testing. Students and staff are required to notify the school when they develop symptoms or if their answers to the questionnaire change during or outside school hours.

SCREENING

Protocol for daily temperature screenings that address all students, staff, visitors, guests, contractors, and vendors.

- The district will use an electronic platform for employees to conduct self screening on a daily basis through a questionnaire.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen their child before sending them to school. Screening by the parent/guardian prior to school is preferred in lieu of temperature checks and symptom screening being performed after arrival to school. Screening of students includes a daily temperature check and periodic completion of a screening questionnaire.
- All students and staff will have their temperatures checked on a daily basis before the start of the day. A scanning device will be placed at the entrance of Trinity Avenue, Middle School Entrance, High School Entrance, and Elementary Entrance. These scanning devices will automatically take the temperature of individuals entering the building. The software has facial recognition capabilities and will notify a health official via sms message when someone's temperature is above 100.0° F

TESTING PROTOCOLS AND RESPONSIBILITY

All testing will be completed off campus. LACS will not conduct testing on campus unless directed by our state and/or local health agencies.

Containment includes protocols and procedures for how to respond to positive or presumed-positive cases, as well as preventative practices. At a minimum, plans must incorporate the following:

Protocol for management and containment of individuals who exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19: Schools should follow Education Law § 906, which provides [w]henver...a student in the public schools shows symptoms of any communicable or infectious disease reportable under the public health law that imposes a significant risk of infection of others in the school, he or she shall be excluded from the school and sent home immediately, in a safe and proper conveyance. The director of school health services shall immediately notify a local public health agency of any disease reportable under the public health law7 . The director of school health services, or other health professionals acting upon direction or referral of such director, may make such evaluations of teachers and any other school employees, school buildings

and premises as, in their discretion, they may deem necessary to protect the health of the students and staff.

The district will follow DOH guidelines when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

- District will report the confirmed case to Lewis County Public Health and provide information required for contact tracing.
- Return to school will follow this protocol:
 - It has been at least ten days since individual first had symptoms;
 - It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine);
 - It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath
- Building measures:
 - Closing off areas used by sick person and not using these areas until after cleaning and disinfection has occurred
 - When possible, opening outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - The district will follow DOH guidelines when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Isolation:

- The district will maintain two separate locations for assessing students. One location will be deemed a Wellness Center. The second location will be an isolation/containment room for students who fail the COVID-19 screening questionnaire or develop a temperature/COVID-19 symptoms before or during the school day.
- The health office staff will wear appropriate PPE when interacting with the student.
- Those in the isolation/containment room will be supervised until they are picked up or sent home.

Collection:

- The school nurse will escort the student from the isolation room to his/her parent at pick-up outside.
- Parents will be provided with documentation on where to get their child tested and the requirements for the student to return to school.

Exposed Individuals:

- Requirements that individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning (exceptions for vaccinated individuals and those with prior COVID-19 infection detailed below). Discharge from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Vaccination:

- The district will encourage teachers, staff, and families, including extended family members that have frequent contact with students to get vaccinated as soon as they can.

- The district will consider partnering with state or local public health authorities to serve as COVID-19 [vaccination sites](#), and work with local healthcare providers and organizations. Offering vaccines on-site before, during, and after the school day and during summer months can potentially decrease barriers to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19.

Previous COVID-19 Infection:

- Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection during the previous 3 months do not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19.

Contact Tracing:

- The district will support local health departments in contact tracing efforts using the protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program.

School Protocol for Symptomatic or Positive COVID-19 Student or Staff

