



**NATCHITOCHE PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD**
TOGETHER WE CAN

NPSB Ready to Achieve

2021-2022

School Operational Guidelines

(Updated 8/27/21)

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- **FACE COVERINGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:** While inside the school facility, per the Governor’s mandate, face coverings will be worn at all times by all staff and students ages 5 and above. If a child is 4 and turns 5 they must begin wearing a mask. While outside, masks do not need to be worn, however students and faculty need to maintain social distancing – 6ft. Neck gaiters are allowed but must be “doubled up.”
- Facial Covering Mandate – Executive Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021
- Exceptions: Please visit Governor Edwards’ Letter to Dr. Brumley concerning [exceptions to the mask mandate](#).
 - If an individual has a medical condition and is unable to wear a mask they must have a signed physician letter designating their medical inability to wear a mask. The medical conditions are limited and specific. Please see above link for additional information.

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- **TRANSPORTATION:** Buses are allowed to operate at 100% capacity and as required by Presidential Executive Order No. 13998 on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, all passengers on the school bus must wear a facial covering while using transportation, regardless of capacity.
- Windows should be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard. Seating charts should be created and consistently enforced. Buses will be sanitized daily. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available on each bus.

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- **GROUP SIZES/PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Maximum group size (indoors) should be determined by physical distancing requirements.
- 4 year old students who are unable to wear face coverings or maintain a physical distance from others should be assigned static groups.
- Adults will work to maintain distance to the greatest extent possible when working with students within the context of effective instructional practices. Schools will be able to utilize large spaces such as cafeterias and gyms without the necessity of barriers or dividers between individual groups.
- **PHYSICAL STANDARDS:** Schools will continue to establish controlled routines for entrance, exit, and class exchanges.

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- **PERSONAL HYGIENE:** Students and employees will continue to have access to hand washing stations and hand sanitizer throughout the day. Students and employees will be encouraged to utilize hand sanitation resources when entering the school, exchanging classes, before and after eating, and other times throughout the day as needed.

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- **MONITORING AND SCREENING FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:** Schools will continue to screen students/staff (temperature checks) at the beginning of each school day. It is also important that all students and staff properly monitor their own symptoms and conduct proper screenings prior to attending school or work for the safety of themselves and others. *No student or staff member should attend school or work when experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or experiencing a fever even without having other symptoms.*
- NPSB allows for “covid leave.” This applies if a staff member is positive, under quarantine, or caring for a household member who is positive. Employees who wish to use “covid leave” must apply through our website at onlinetools.npsb.la/covid19. They must apply within 30 days of their quarantine.

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- **COVID TESTING:** Through a partnership with LSUHS all students and staff may participate in weekly Covid testing. This is **NOT** mandatory; it is 100% voluntary. Weekly testing will occur at every school location. This is not for symptomatic individuals. **This program is free and requires parental consent.**
- If you test positive or have any questions, contact your school and our NPSB nurse at covidnurse@npsb.la.

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- **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING:** Natchitoches Parish Schools will continue its efforts toward daily cleaning and disinfecting. High-touch surfaces should be cleaned at least twice per day, including bathrooms. Students should wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at the school, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, after bathroom usage, and before exiting the school facility.
- Traditional drinking fountains will remain closed. Schools have water filling stations available. Students and employees are **encouraged to bring personal water bottles** for refilling.

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- **VISITORS:** Schools will continue to limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible.
- School visitors must wear a face covering and submit to temperature screening upon arrival.

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- **LARGE GATHERINGS:** Per the Governor's August 2nd mask mandate, all spectators at indoor events will be required to wear masks.
- Assemblies and other large gatherings are limited to the maximum group size allowed by social distancing. Those younger students unable to mask, must maintain static groupings.
- Field trips are currently not allowed.

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- **BAND, VOCAL and MUSIC:**

- Due to the Governor's indoor mask mandate (Proclamation 137), music and band classes should not occur indoors at this time, as participants in these classes must adhere to the indoor mask mandate. Band and music classes may occur outdoors until further notice. Even outside students will need to maintain social distancing of 6ft and the use of bell covers are encouraged.
- Choir may sing/practice indoors but must be masked and continue to be at least 3 ft apart.

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Cafeteria and outside guidelines:

Students and teachers – since are not masked during these times needs to maintain 6ft social distancing if all possible. When quarantining due to exposure we have to quarantine anyone within a 6ft radius while mask are off.

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- **REASONS FOR QUARANTINE:**

- Positive cases -10 days from test date (see slide for details)
- Covid-19 Symptomatic persons (see slide for details)
- Persons living in the same household as someone with a positive case (unless they have been positive themselves within the past 90 days or are vaccinated).
 - Length of quarantine will be determined by ability to isolate away from positive individual or not.
- Persons exposed to a positive case/symptomatic person (see slide for details)
- Those employees who are on quarantine or caring for a quarantined family member need to supply documentation verifying the diagnosis. (onlinetools.npsb.la/covid19).
- Employee Quarantines who do not apply online will not be covered and/or qualify for covid leave.

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Symptomatic Individual (per guidance of LDOH)

- Symptoms can include:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Or at least two of these symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell or both
- Isolate individual in the school and inform parents to pick them up to have them go home. Staff should inform their direct supervisor and isolate and go home.
- Have individual get tested and/or see physician to assess if symptomatic due to alternate diagnosis
 - Positive covid test - see positive quarantine criteria
 - Negative covid test - **(must be PCR test, not antigen or antibody)** must submit negative test result and remain home until symptoms improve and no fever for at least 24h with no fever aiding agents like tylenol and motrin
 - Saw physician and received alternate diagnosis for symptoms - must remain out of school until symptoms subside and is fever free for at least 24h with no fever reducing agents like Tylenol and motrin (will need to submit note from physician for return to school with alternate dx)

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- **CONFIRMED COVID POSITIVE CASE RESPONSE:** Natchitoches Parish Schools will continue to work to identify close contacts to any confirmed positive case so that close contacts can be properly notified and provided information for the appropriate response.
 - Parents/Staff should inform administration of positive cases in order for contact tracing to occur.
- **Confirmed + Covid Case**
 - Individual in the school - will quarantine for 10 days from date of the positive test. They must show an improvement in symptoms and be fever free for 24h with no fever aiding agents (ie. tylenol/motrin). Test results need to be submitted to the school.
 - Individuals living in the same household as a positive case will quarantine.
 - If individual living with the positive case is symptomatic or test positive themselves will quarantine as positive case guidelines
 - If individual living with positive case is fully vaccinated or has had covid themselves in the last 90 days does not have to quarantine (proof of positive test required to be turned in to school if claiming + in last 90 days.
 - If individual living with positive case is asymptomatic and remains as such, their quarantine cannot start until the last day of contact with the positive individual. The positive individual is considered infectious the entire 10d of their quarantine. If an asymptomatic individual has been in contact with them every day of the 10d quarantine then their quarantine cannot start until the end of quarantine for the positive individual. If they are able to adequately isolate away from the positive individual their quarantine can start the day after their last contact.

****Per the department of health – the infectious period includes the 48h before the day the person became sick/symptomatic or the 48h before the specimen collection if the person is asymptomatic or unable to determine when they were sick/symptomatic through the end of their designated quarantine****

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Exposed to + case or suspected +

- Properly masked student – **BOTH** students masked properly and at least 3 ft apart- no need to quarantine
- Properly masked teacher/staff – **BOTH** individuals masked properly and at least 6 ft apart – no quarantine needed
- Vaccinated – individual exposed is fully vaccinated- fully vaccinated meaning has been at least 2 weeks since final vaccination for that series - no need to quarantine as long as asymptomatic
- Has had COVID themselves in last 3 mo (90d) – individual exposed has had COVID - no need to quarantine as long as asymptomatic – must provide proof of positive test in last 3 mo

Mask medically exempt student exposed but the +/-presumed + individual was masked and they were 6 feet apart at all times – medically exempt student does not have to quarantine

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Exposed to + case or suspected +

- **Not properly masked AND/OR**
 - **Student** – BOTH individuals masked **but** w/in 3 feet of exposure for 15min or more – individual will quarantine
 - **Adult** – BOTH individuals masked **but** w/in 6ft of exposure for 15min or more – individual will quarantine
 - Recommend get tested.
 - If positive follow positive guideline.
 - If test immediately and negative repeat test between day 5-7 of last known exposure. If negative (and still asymptomatic) may return to school on day 8. If positive follow positive guideline
 - If declines to test immediately, may quarantine and wait until day 5 from last exposure and test then. If negative at this time (and still asymptomatic) may return to school on day 8 from last exposure
 - If declines to test **at all** after exposure will be out 14 days from last known exposure
 - If presents with symptoms any time during quarantine needs to be tested at that time and follow guideline from there.
 - **Exposed individual/close contact that is asymptomatic and/or that test negative and lives in home with other individual - only the directly exposed individual has to quarantine (as directed above). Secondary exposures to an exposure do not have to quarantine. This would change if the directly exposed individual tests positive and/or becomes symptomatic.**

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- **QUARANTINE GUIDELINES**

- Quarantines due to exposure will be asked to stay home for 14 days from last known exposure. Options to shorten quarantine if asymptomatic include:
 - No symptoms develop during quarantine AND they have a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than day 5 after their last known exposure: they may quarantine for 7 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case and return on day 8.
 - Close contacts who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. **(documentation required)**.
 - Close contacts who are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single-dose vaccine) at the time of exposure and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine.
 - If a person tests positive they will quarantine for 10 days after the positive test.
 - If individuals are initially asymptomatic but later develop symptoms, they should inform their NPSB contact.

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****If no masks are in use, then 6ft social distancing should be maintained****

****If masks are in use, STUDENTS are to maintain 3ft distancing
ADULTS/TEACHERS are to maintain 6ft distancing****

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- **ATHLETICS:**

- Athletics in high school and middle school will follow the [Louisiana High School Athletic Association](#) (LHSAA). Any changes LHSAA makes throughout the year will be followed.
- Per the Governors proclamation, Executive Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021, masks are not required of athletes during sporting events.