



LICKING R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT

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As a parent of children in the district, I recognize the importance of being informed of back-to-school planning for the 2020-2021 school year. While the health and safety of our students and staff is always our top priority, COVID-19 presents us with new challenges and requires additional health and safety precautions. Please be aware that this is the *first wave* of updates, and as more guidance becomes available from local, state, and federal resources, more details will be shared, and some procedures may be revised as necessary.

Health Care

Students and staff are reminded to stay home if sick and monitor themselves daily for common symptoms including fever, cough, and trouble breathing. Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before students leave for school. Anyone with a fever of 100.0 F or higher should not go to a school site.

Additional precautions:

- *Staff and students may utilize face masks, gloves, and other personal protective equipment.
- *Staff will follow CDC guidelines for cleaning classrooms, playgrounds, frequently used common areas, workspaces, buses, etc.
- *Nurses will provide instruction to staff and students regarding health precautions, proper hand washing techniques, and other health/safety reminders.
- *Nurses on duty will determine if parents need to be contacted due to student illness.
- *If a nurse determines a student is ill and needs to go home, the student will be asked to put on a mask (if he/she is not already wearing one) provided by the district. Parents will be contacted. The student will remain at school or be moved to the Missouri Ozark Health Clinic with a staff member until the parent picks up the student. The school district will not provide transportation home for an ill student to protect the safety of students who are utilizing district transportation.
- *The student will not be allowed to return to school until the student is fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- *Nurses on duty will wear a mask at all times when assisting an ill student.
- *Sanitizing supplies will be available in the nurse's office and used following each student visit.
- *Deep sanitation of the nurse's office will be completed daily.
- *If at any time the school district is notified that a student or employee has tested positive for COVID-19, the district will consult with local public health officials to determine what steps – including the possibility of closing the program – should be taken.
- *Staff will follow the CDC's recommendation not to use nebulizer treatments for asthma at school due to the possibility of aerosolizing droplets.

Transportation

Buses will be provided with the following precautions:

- *Children from the same household will be asked to sit together. All students will be given assigned seats.



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- *Buses will be sanitized after every route is completed – morning and afternoon.
- *Masks for drivers and students are highly encouraged.
- *While precautions for safety will be implemented, social distancing is not guaranteed; parents concerned about social distancing have the option to transport students to and from school.

Supplies

- *Students and staff are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home daily. Water fountains will be available as bottle fillers.
- *Elementary students' school supplies are being provided by Licking PTO. Sharing of supplies will be discouraged.
- *Parents should supply students with backpacks.

While in School

- *Social distancing is not guaranteed. Additional precautions will be in place:
 - *While in the classroom, every attempt will be made to ensure that all students face the same direction.
 - *Meal distribution will be designed to assist in practicing social distancing where possible.
 - *Dismissal times will be adjusted to avoid congestion.
 - *Large assemblies and special events will be limited.
 - *Face coverings are highly encouraged, especially when physical distancing is difficult, however, face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger children) to wear in all-day settings.
 - *Gloves are not recommended for use by students or staff except those conducting duties such as cleaning, first aid, or food service.

Drop off/Pick up

- *Parents/guardians are asked to use the main entrances for drop off and pick up.
- *To protect the health of students and staff, parents/guardians will *not* be allowed to enter buildings with students.
- *When dropping off students after school has started, parents/guardians should contact the building to notify the office that the student has arrived; a school employee will meet the student at the main entrance.
- *When arriving at school for pick-up prior to dismissal, the parent/guardian should call the building to notify he/she is there. After verifying the identity of the adult through proper documentation, the student will be escorted outside to the waiting parent/guardian.
 - *Elementary (573) 674-3211
 - *JH/HS (573) 674-2711

Returning to School Following Symptoms

- *Students and staff should not return to school until individuals have been fever free for 24 hours (without assistance of fever reducing medication) **and** symptoms such as cough, chills, muscle pains, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or



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smell have improved **and** it has been ten days since symptoms first appeared.
*Students and staff may return if given written approval to do so by their healthcare provider.

Students/Staff with Increased Risk

(Including but not limited to: chronic lung conditions or moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromising conditions such as cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of Corticosteroids and/or other immune weakening medications, diabetes, chronic conditions requiring dialysis, liver conditions, certain disabilities including limited mobility, difficulty understanding information, etc.)

*In cases where health concerns have been identified for your student, it is strongly recommended you consult with your primary care provider to determine whether it is safe for your student to participate in face-to-face instruction, or whether he/she is better suited to participate in virtual learning. Depending on potential health concerns regarding your student, the district may require a physician's note prior to allowing face-to-face instruction.

*Families with specific concerns about seated courses should contact the Superintendent's Office by 3 PM August 7, 2020 to discuss a virtual option.

Preparing for Possible Future Closure

*In the event the district is forced to close, teachers will send hard copies of instruction/assignments and utilize online programs when available.

*The district will utilize School Messenger (all call service), REMIND application, Class Dojo, the district Facebook page, school website, The Licking News and letters to families to send updates.

*Family surveys have been generated to determine household needs for support with devices and/or connectivity.

Extra-Curricular Activities

*Only those students participating in seated courses will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities including MSHSAA-sanctioned activities.

Further details specific to Elementary, Junior High, and High School buildings will be shared at Elementary Open House August 6, JH Orientation August 4, and at HS Registration August 4-7.

Thank you,

Cristina Wright, Superintendent