

# LUESD Fall 2020 Return to School Reopening Plan



The Lemoore Union Elementary School District plans to reopen our schools for face-to-face student instruction on August 11, 2020. We have worked diligently with the Kings County Department of Public Health and Kings County Office of Education to ensure our planning meets expected mitigation efforts and have used parent and staff surveys to help guide our understanding of community needs. Our plan and timeline to reopen aligns with districts in our region and has been reviewed by the Kings County Department of Public Health to meet recommended safety measures and protocols to help slow and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Our county and state have progressed through our Governor's Resilience Roadmap which has adopted four stages for reopening. Kings County is currently in stage 3 which includes the reopening of schools. Although we know that we will have students and staff that test positive for COVID-19 throughout the 2020-2021 school year, we are confident that our safety measures and our identification, isolation, and tracking procedures will slow the spread while our students have access to quality education and services. The objective of the following pages is to communicate clearly and transparently with our community, parents/guardians, staff, and students how LUESD plans to approach this coming school year. Our return to school will look a little different, but our commitment to serving EACH ONE of our students remains the same. It is also important to note, this is a dynamic situation and ever changing. Our plan will be flexible as we receive updates from our local public health officials as well as new directives from the state as the pandemic environment and knowledge changes.

*This plan has been updated to reflect new guidance documents through September 30, 2020.*

Safety

Campus

Health

Education

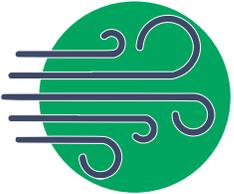
Employees

FAQ

# Safety



- Students and staff will do a self check daily before coming to school.
- Do not come to school if you are feeling any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Call the school to find out when it is appropriate for you to return.
- Student's temperatures will be taken at each school site before school starts.
- If students or staff have any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent home.
- Education and training will be given to students, families, and staff regarding signs and symptoms of COVID-19.



- Open doors and windows to increase fresh air into a room if temperature, air quality, and safety conditions permit.
- When opening doors and windows is not possible, use the HVAC system fan to circulate air from outside.
- Maintenance staff will continue to maintain our HVAC systems as recommended by the manufacturer.



- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer at any transition to a new area or when soiled.
- Hand hygiene will be available at all transition points with wash or hand sanitizer stations in all buildings, classrooms, entry to campus, cafeteria, playground, etc.
- Shared items or the need to touch objects will be minimized if possible.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Education and training will be given to students and staff on proper hand washing and sanitizing techniques.



- Cleaning and disinfection schedules to meet current recommendations have been achieved.
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect classrooms and other appropriate buildings daily.
- Other areas, locations, and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned many times daily between groups like the cafeteria, resource classes, playground, small group instruction, and front office by various employees.
- Education and training will be given to staff regarding proper cleaning and disinfecting.



- Face coverings will be utilized in alignment with current CDPH guidelines with recommended exemptions followed.
- Cloth face coverings will be provided to students and staff and face shields will be provided to appropriate staff for the proper visualization of word formation during teaching.
- Face coverings will be required when sent to the office due to symptoms and while waiting to be taken home.
- Face coverings are required to be worn by any visitor coming to the school office or on campus.
- Face coverings are required at all times on the school bus by driver and student.
- Education and training will be given to students and staff regarding proper use of face coverings.
- Any student who does not meet the exemption criteria that refuses to wear a face covering will be excluded from coming onto campus.



- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.
- Dispose of used tissues in the trash and wash or sanitize your hands.
- If you are wearing a face covering when you cough or sneeze, continue to cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Education and training will be given to students on proper coughing and sneezing etiquette.



- As much distance as practicable will be maintained.
- Desks in classrooms will be arranged in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
- Meal time seating will be in a checkered pattern to avoid direct face-to-face contact.
- Movement around campus for instruction, meal time, and recreation will be limited to a designated group size to reduce the spread of the virus.

# Campus

All plans have been made in collaboration with KCDPH with specificity to our unique resources, staffing, and building layouts at LUESD. Our plan will be flexible as we receive updates from our local public health officials as well as new directives from the state as the pandemic environment and knowledge changes.

## **School Office**

The office will be open for student/parent needs; however, parents/guardians are required to wear a face covering upon entering the office and are strongly encouraged to utilize email or calling the office to handle office communication and attendance reporting. There will be no volunteers or chaperones allowed on campus unless they have met training expectations.

## **Class Movement**

Once class starts for the day, movement of that class outside of classroom time will be kept to within their grade level with the exception of some Special Services. It is expected that there will be multi grade level mingling before school starts, after school, potentially in areas like the restroom, but the goal is to limit this type of multi-grade level sustained interaction.

## **Meals**

Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria and outdoors if weather allows. Lunch schedules will be staggered so grade level groups do not overlap with other grade level groups for more than 15 minutes. Seating at dining tables will be with the student's individual class as much as possible and in a checkered fashion to increase distance between students and avoid face to face contact. All food items will only be handled by food service staff. Other means will be used to enter student numbers into the system for meal service. Meals will be available for those students who are on some option of distance learning.

## **Outside Recreation**

Playground and outside recreation is encouraged. If multiple grade levels are outside for recess at the same time, specific areas will be designated to grade levels so that there is no mixing of grade levels. Playground equipment will be available for student use.

## **Physical Education**

PE will be limited to grade level groups. All strenuous activity must take place outside with 6 feet of distance between students. If PE must move indoors due to inclement weather, activities that require physical exertion or heavy breathing will be avoided.

## **Library**

The librarian will schedule physical use of the library to only one classroom at a time and one grade level group per day. Students will be allowed to check out books through an online platform and the librarian will arrange delivery to classes on non-scheduled days.

## **Band/Music**

Band and choir will be suspended until the CDPH allows for it to resume. Music Theory instruction can continue, but no playing of instruments or singing.

## **Special Services**

SDC will continue to integrate with their grade level group. Resource, ELD, Speech, and other Special Services will aim to serve one grade level group at a time. If not feasible, extra distancing measures will be utilized.

## **Transportation**

Lemoore Area Schools Transportation will follow guidance in relation to social distancing, ventilation, hand hygiene, and disinfecting. Face coverings are required to be worn by drivers and students. Ridership will be reduced in order to provide adequate distancing between students. Although we are not required to provide bussing, we know that is in the best interest of our families to do so. Therefore, the boundaries for bus service will be reduced initially to only outlying areas in our community.

## **After School Program**

The After School Program will continue and follow the same practices as those of the regular school day.

## **Miscellaneous During Initial ReOpening**

It is our hope to return all programs, but realize some may be postponed as we develop the resources and protocols for them to be able to be re-instated. Students will be encouraged to bring a personal water bottle to school daily and safety measures regarding the use of school water fountains will be in place. There will be no volunteers or chaperones allowed on campus. Athletics will be paused until further guidance is received.

# Health

## What will happen when a student or staff member has symptoms of COVID-19 while at school?

- The individual will be sent to the office to be evaluated by a trained staff member.
- The individual will be required to wear a face covering unless the symptoms or illness requires an exception.
- The student will be held in an area with other symptomatic individuals until someone on their contact list comes to take them home. **It is critical that contact information is verified in Aeries Parent Portal and that parents/guardians check communications from the school in a timely manner.**
- Symptomatic individuals will be asked to stay home until all the following criteria has been met:
  1. it has been at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms
  2. symptoms are improving
  3. has been fever free for 24 hours
- The above timeline for staying home could possibly be shortened (depending on current community transmission) if the individual is tested after the symptoms start, receives a negative test result, and there has been no recent exposure events.

One of our strongest defenses for slowing the spread of the virus in our schools is **staying home if you are sick.**

## What will happen when a student or staff member has a close contact that tests positive for COVID-19?

A close contact is someone who lives in the same home, someone you had direct contact with secretions (like being coughed on), or someone you were within 6 feet of for more than 15 minutes.

- The individual will need to stay home for 14 days since the last time they were with that close contact.
- Notify the school so you can be given further instructions on when it is appropriate for you to return.

## What will happen when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

- The individual should follow all guidance from the Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH).
- The individual may return to school when they have submitted clearance from their healthcare provider or the KCDPH and it has been at least 10 days since tested.
- Any close contacts of the individual (like siblings) should follow the above close contact guidance for quarantining.
- LUESD will immediately consult with KCDPH to determine who else on campus needs to quarantine. This may be the class, the whole grade level or grade level group, or the whole school.
- Parents/guardians at that school site will be notified immediately when there is a student who tests positive for COVID-19 and whether or not they are advised to quarantine their child or continue to attend due to lack of contact.

Please note that confidentiality policies restrict the amount of details that can be shared. The communication parents/guardians will receive is the full extent of what we are allowed to share with you. **It is critical that contact information is verified in Aeries Parent Portal and that parents/guardians check communications from the school in a timely manner.**

LUESD Health Services Department has been collaborating with Lemoore Area Schools, a local health care partner, and KCDPH regarding COVID-19 testing for students and staff. More information to come.

# Education

Although we believe that classroom-based instruction is still the best option for students from an educational and social emotional standpoint and that our campuses will provide a safe learning environment for our students, we are aware and prepared for students and parents who may not feel ready to physically return to school daily. We also want to ensure that we have options for students who may be medically fragile or have compromised immune systems as well as when a grade level or school closure is necessary. LUESD has some options to meet the needs of these families. Based on the new rules recently set by the state of California regarding school funding and our ability to support teachers and school operations, we will be offering families the following choices for the 2020-2021 school year:

## **Traditional Classroom Setting:**

- Students will attend school in-person, full-day, five days a week, with early out days on Mondays.
- Students will be kept in grade-level cohort groups throughout the school day.
- Students in all grade levels will be assigned a chromebook that they take to/from school every day to use for instructional purposes only.
- Students will receive daily in-person instruction where all persons are expected to adhere to the safety and public health guidelines set by our local, state and national public health agencies which include face coverings, minimizing large gatherings, personal hygiene, contact-tracing, health screenings and facility sanitation.

## **Distance Learning:**

- Includes instruction in which the pupil and instructor are in different locations and pupils are under the general supervision of a certificated employee of the district.
- For students who are: 1) medically fragile, 2) "would be put at risk" or 3) self-quarantining.
- Will require that the student have access to internet connectivity and a device to participate in the online educational program and complete assigned work.
- Students will participate in daily live interaction with their teacher(s) and peers for purposes of instruction, progress monitoring and maintaining school connectedness.
- Daily attendance will be documented based on evidence of student participation in online activities (including completing assignments and assessments) and contact between the teacher and the student.
- Students will be assigned to an LUESD teacher and will receive live instruction from the teacher Monday through Friday with attendance taken daily.
- Students will be required to complete/submit assignments and their work will be graded.
- Students will continue to receive trimester report cards with the first virtual parent conferences taking place September 28- October 2.
- Students will be issued an electronic device (i.e. chromebook or iPad) to use for instructional purposes only.
- Students will be issued hard copy materials/textbooks and/or library books.
- Students not regularly participating in distance learning may be required to transition to full-time in-person instruction.
- Distance learning will require a commitment **for the entire school year.** (Students returning to regular school are not guaranteed placement at their home school.)

**Parents have the choice of returning their child to a Traditional School setting or selecting a Distance Learning option. To make this selection, please complete [this questionnaire](#).**

# FAQ

## **Why are we being asked by our public health officials to wear face coverings?**

This virus is spread through infectious droplets that exit our mouth through sneezing, coughing, singing, talking, and even breathing. In general, we as a population mostly wear masks to protect ourselves like when farm workers wear masks for certain harvests or applying pesticides. However, this pandemic is an instance when the face covering is actually being worn by you to protect others by blocking those potentially infectious droplets. Although we are not primarily wearing a face covering for our protection, some face coverings (even homemade cloth masks) do provide a small percentage of filtration to our benefit.

## **Will my child be able to attend school without a face covering?**

On June 18th, the California Department of Public Health released a mandate to wear face coverings. However, LUESD is aware that wearing a face covering is a new skill that will take time to learn like any new skill we teach. This new skill might cause a person to touch their face more than usual which is more harmful than good. Also, wearing a cloth face covering is uncomfortable and will take time to build up to wearing for a full school day. Some individuals might have a health condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering. Our educators are experts in teaching new skills and behaviors to students appropriate to their developmental level, cultural background, and potential barriers to learning. This skill will be revisited frequently upon initial return to school by our teachers to help facilitate building this new skill. We appreciate our families supporting the development of this new skill at home before school starts by practicing and reinforcing the importance of this effort to limit the exposure of this virus to others. Any student (who does not meet the face covering exemption criteria of the current mandate or Industry Guidance for Schools) that refuses to wear a face covering will be excluded from coming onto campus.

## **Will there be replacement masks available if my child has something happen to the cloth masks that the school provided?**

At this time, there will not be replacement cloth masks provided by the school after the first cloth masks are given to each student and employee. Students and staff may also wear their own cloth face coverings and not use the ones provided by the school. Care and laundering of the cloth face masks provided by the school are the responsibility of the students and staff. The school will have a supply of disposable masks to be used for individuals who forgot their own masks.

## **What documentation do I need to provide to be exempt from wearing a mask?**

A letter from your child's healthcare provider stating that they are unable to wear a mask is sufficient documentation. For employees that are exempt by their healthcare provider from wearing a mask, a face shield is recommended. Please note that some job tasks on our campuses require a specific type of face covering and other protective equipment to be worn by the employee for which there is no exemption.

## **Should a student or employee who is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 due to age or a health condition physically come to school?**

Each individual's situation is unique and the decision to return physically to school should be made between that individual and their healthcare provider. Not all individuals with the same condition like asthma are alike. The school is implementing an extensive amount of safety efforts to slow the spread of the virus at school.

## **If a student's parent or household member has symptoms of COVID-19 should the student still go to school?**

As long as that household member has not tested positive for COVID-19, the student should still attend school. If the student develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should stay home and follow those protocols on page 4. It is recommended that anyone who has a close contact with symptoms of COVID-19 wear a face covering when they are away from home.

# FAQ continued

## **Can a school disclose information about a student related to COVID-19 to the local health department without parent/guardian consent?**

Yes. Certain criteria under the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) as well as [California Code of Regulations](#) allows or requires the school to report certain information to public health officials. These same laws also restrict what can be shared with other families at the school or with the media.

## **What if I choose not to tell the school about my family's exposure to COVID-19?**

[Health and Safety Code 120290](#) states that it is a misdemeanor offense if an individual knows they have a communicable or infectious disease and do not follow a health officer's instructions.

## **Isn't it my right to not answer private medical information about myself or my child to the school or local county health department?**

Please see the above two questions and answers. In addition, during a pandemic, an [employer may ask](#) why an employee was absent, require them to do a symptom check, and other additional items.

## **I know a family that has been exposed to COVID-19 and has not reported it to the school, who should I tell?**

The school district can mitigate efforts at school, but cannot and will not control what families choose to do outside of school that may be perceived by others as high risk behavior. If you suspect or know that a family has COVID-19 and has not reported it to the school, please call our local health department at 559-584-1401 to report the situation and if it is verifiable, the health department will report it to the school. The only admissible disclosure of personally identifiable information under FERPA is between the health department and the school. The school will not take this information from another parent or family.

## **Some of LUESDs decisions regarding which things are temporarily postponed and which things are not postponed seem inconsistent?**

Each district across Kings County will have different resources that were already built prior to this pandemic. For instance, some districts already had a well staffed online charter school option prior to this pandemic. Other districts, like ours, have a robustly developed music and band program. As all of the Kings County School Districts have been working and meeting regularly with the Kings County Department of Public Health, each district's re-opening may look slightly different based on those unique resources that district already had in its toolbelt. With our current LUESD resources, building layouts, staffing, supplies, and time to develop and maintain these new protocols with excellence, certain programs remained while others will have to be delayed. Sometimes those decisions were because it was a simple execution like continuing to meet for IEPs via teleconference and sometimes other decisions like delaying athletics were a Kings County-wide decision.

## **I am feeling overwhelmed by the amount of information regarding COVID-19 that I am seeing daily?**

We are too. We have a responsibility to you to make sure we have assimilated all of the guidance documents from the professional organizations that have spent a significant amount of research and resources to make sure our students and employees can return safely. We also follow published research articles regarding the new knowledge that is being revealed about the virus. There is a significant amount of headlines that are meant to grab your attention, and with the amount of information coming at us at such a rapid pace, often all we do is read the headline. We encourage you to go deeper than just the headline and to use your critical thinking about the content of the article. Often, if you look up the research report that is cited in the attention grabbing news or social media article, you will see that the research article is much less dramatic. Currently, there are lots of unpublished, non-peer reviewed research being cited in the news or social media. We encourage you to be mindful that these references can be posted by anyone and there is a reason why the medical community does not change policy or knowledge until research has been reviewed by peers and duplicated in a similar study. Our tips are to take in news and social media about COVID-19 in moderation. If you feel like you are getting anxious, fearful, overwhelmed, or depressed from the constant information, take a break from the information and do something that grounds you. Grounding exercises can be connecting with a loved one, going on a walk, participating in your faith community, doing an activity as a family that does not involve electronics, and laughing.