



Lutheran Central School 2021 Return to School Guidance

This year Lutheran Central will once again be following the Three R's (Respectful, Responsible, and Reasonable) as we begin the 2021-2022 school year with new COVID-19 requirements. The safety of students, staff, and family members of LCS is of our utmost concern. We thank you ahead of time for being **RESPECTFUL** of the level of comfort of all families and staff, being **RESPONSIBLE** for the health of our students and staff, and respecting LCS as we attempt to consider what is **REASONABLE** within our setting.

Lutheran Central will continue to stay in contact with the Indiana State Department of Health, Jackson County Health Department, and Indiana Department of Education to stay informed on new guidelines and safety protocols.

General Guidance

- **All students will attend in person every school day.**
- **Face coverings are highly recommended, but not required at this time for students, staff, and visitors.**
- **Social distancing will be maintained when allowable. There will be some instances when social distancing will not be possible.**
- **Athletics, clubs, and other activities will operate in person and with spectators.**
- **Field trips will return, as possible based on venue/location.**
- **Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottle to school.**
- **Students and staff with proof of vaccination will NOT need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact from the Department of Health, as long as they remain symptom free.**
- **Unvaccinated students and staff who are direct contacts will be required to quarantine. Return to school will be determined based on guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health.**

Cleaning

- Lutheran Central will conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning.
- Lutheran Central will continue to use enhanced cleaning practices and provide extra handwashing materials and cleaning supplies.

Classroom Practices

- Student desks will be spaced to maximize the distance between individual student desks.

- Student seating may be arranged to have all students face in the same direction when possible.
- Middle school students will transition to different classrooms for instruction. Assigned seats and seating charts will be required.
- Middle school elective classes will NOT have mixed grade levels in the same class period.
- Lower grades students will have assigned seating and seating charts.
- Each student will be assigned a specific computer to use each day during school.
- Students will be asked to use their own school supplies when possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for students and staff in the classroom
- Disinfectant will be available in all classrooms for wiping down desks and shared items.

Chapel

- Chapel will take place at St. Peter's sanctuary .
- Students will sit by grade level while social distancing when possible.

Lunch Practices

- Safe food distribution practices and social distancing will be implemented in the cafeteria
- Lunch will be served in the gym as normal and students will eat in the gym. Students will be staggered at lunch tables to maintain social distancing. Lunch seating charts will be maintained.
- Hand washing will be strongly encouraged prior to eating. Hand sanitizer will be readily available for students and staff in the cafeteria.

Morning Arrival

- Parents are asked to self-assess their child for potential illness prior to arriving at school. (Please review the potential symptoms list included in this document)
- Students will not congregate in the gym prior to the start of school
- Preschool students will enter through the back entrance and go directly to their classroom. Students in grades K-8 will enter through the main entrance and proceed directly to their classrooms.

Transportation

- Lutheran Central School students will be able to ride the Brownstown Central Community School Corporation (BCCSC) buses to and from school
- BCCSC will be taking the following preventative measures regarding transportation.
- Social distancing as allowable.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected by drivers daily.
- Face coverings are REQUIRED for students and drivers.
- Buses will be aired out when not in use.
- Follow protocol for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children.

Student Attendance and Illness

- It is vital that a student remain home if he/she feels sick or if the parent suspects illness during their morning self-check of symptoms.
- To discourage attendance when ill, the school will not have recognitions for perfect school attendance.
- If a child claims sickness during the school day, he or she should come to the school office. An assessment will be made, temperature taken, and a parent called. Based upon an evaluation of symptoms, and a conversation with parents, concerning possible COVID-19 exposure, the student may be quarantined in the conference room until pick up.
- If your child is ill (or quarantined at home), teachers will provide missed school work per their classroom protocol distributed during open house.

Mitigation and Health Protocol

- State statute gives schools the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or are liable to transmit it after exposure (IC 20-34-3-9). In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine (IC 16-41-9-1.6) **DOES NOT APPLY IF PROOF OF VACCINATION IS AVAILABLE**
- Students and employees should remain home **if they have been in close contact** with someone in the household that has COVID-19 symptoms or that is being tested for COVID-19.
- Students or staff who live in a household with individuals who are required to regularly test for COVID-19 as a result of employment are not required to isolate or quarantine.
- The school administration will create a daily health report to track reasons for student and staff absence.
- Students and staff who are called in sick will be asked if they are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

Suspected COVID symptoms

- A fever of 100.4 ° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea

- If a student or staff member exhibits a potential COVID-19 symptom (other than a fever or loss of taste/smell), they must evaluate whether or not the symptom is typical based on their medical history and use good judgement regarding school attendance.
- If an individual exhibits a (1) fever, (2) loss of taste/smell, (3) a potential COVID symptom not typical for their medical history, or (4) more than one potential symptom, they may not attend school until one of the following have been met:
 1. Documentation of a negative COVID test + fever free for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a direct contact exposure.
 2. Isolate at home for a minimum of 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared + fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) + symptoms significantly improved/resolved + not identified as a close contact exposure.

**The Jackson County Health Department and/or Indiana State Department of Health may require additional documentation or impose additional medical restrictions on a case-by-case basis.*

Confirmed COVID

- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, they will not be able to return to school until all of the following conditions are met: (1) out of school for at least 10 days, (2) all symptoms are gone, (3) fever-free (without fever-reducing medicine) for 24 hours.
- Should a student or staff member receive a positive coronavirus test, it is the responsibility of the parents or individual to contact the school office as soon as possible. In coordination with the Jackson County Health Department decisions will be made concerning contact tracing and proper cleaning procedures.

Contact Tracing/Quarantines

- Contact tracing will be determined through consultation with the Jackson County Health Department.
- Close contacts are defined as an exposure within 6 feet to a COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period.
- Students and staff with proof of vaccination will NOT need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact, as long as they remain symptom free.
- Unvaccinated students and staff who are close contacts will be required to quarantine for 14 days, per CDC guidelines.
- While the CDC has made a 10-day quarantine option available, this option comes with isolation requirements we are not able to practically implement in a school setting.

**** Please note that this plan represents our approach to the current local conditions, with regards to COVID-19. If conditions were to worsen, certain aspects may be altered at the request of the state and local authorities.**