



## LAKE OF THE WOODS

# Lake of the Woods Public School District Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan September 27th, 2021

The following information is guidance on how Lake of the Woods Public School District plans to respond to a safe return to in-person learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2021-22 School Year. Reopening school buildings for in-person instruction is what we want for our students and the main priority must continue to be the health, safety, and wellness of our students, staff, and community.

### Plan Goals:

1. Safety of students and staff
2. Prioritize in-person learning
3. Respond to learning loss due to the pandemic

Communications to families will go out via our electronic messaging system using a combination of District Website, Social Media, Text Message and Voice call. It is critical that the school has an active working phone number at all times for every student. Parents/Guardians, please provide your school with a working phone number for emergency contacting. Website: <https://lakeofthewoodsschool.org/>

The Lake of the Woods School Board will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month during the school year to review and revise this plan as necessary. Local COVID-19 data, significant changes to CDC, MDH, and MDE guidance, and local public health recommendations will be taken into consideration when making decisions within this plan. The District encourages input from the public on provisions in this plan and any considerations or revisions. Comments can be submitted by phone at 218-634-2510, extension 1506 or email at: [jeff\\_n@lakeofthewoodsschool.org](mailto:jeff_n@lakeofthewoodsschool.org)

Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, the District will provide this plan in an alternate format accessible to that parent.

### COVID Levels

The district will use a tiered approach when implementing mitigation strategies based on local COVID-19 data. The levels in the chart below are based on the Thresholds for Learning Model Selection Based on 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County that was used during the 2020-2021 school year.



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This chart is only intended to be used as a reference point. It is not intended to be used as an absolute threshold for increasing or decreasing mitigation strategies.

Total new cases in Lake of the Woods County per 10,000 in the past 7 days	Low 0-19.99	Moderate 20-39.99	High 40-50 plus
Actual number of cases in Lake of the Woods county in the past 7 days	0 to 7 cases	8 to 15 cases	More than 15 cases

School administration will be working closely with local public health on a weekly basis to review local COVID-19 data. There will be a number of metrics that will be taken into account. Primary metrics will include weekly positive COVID-19 count for Lake of the Woods County, age and location of county positives. School district specific data; such as positive COVID-19 counts among staff and students, counts by location (elementary, high school athletics, student groups, etc.) and staff outages. Decisions to move into more or less restrictive procedures will be done to ensure that we can meet the plan goals.

## Tiered Health & Safety Procedures

### Face Coverings

Low	Moderate	High
All students, teachers, staff, and visitors are highly encouraged to wear masks when indoors regardless of vaccination status.	All students, teachers, staff, and visitors are highly encouraged to wear masks when indoors regardless of vaccination status.	All students, teachers, staff, and visitors in school buildings may be required to wear masks indoors for a limited time by action of the School Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age limitations and health waivers will be consistent with CDC and MDH guidelines.</li> <li>Mandated masking would be imposed on a limited time basis while COVID cases are high.</li> </ul>

### Social Distancing

Low	Moderate	High
At least 3 feet of physical distance between students	More than 3 feet of physical distance between students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase to 6 feet of physical distance between students</li> </ul>



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within classrooms whenever possible	within classrooms whenever possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned lunchroom seating for elementary students</li> </ul>	within classrooms whenever possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assigned lunchroom seating</li> </ul>
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## COVID-19 Testing

### Testing recommendations

- All unvaccinated school-age children, youth, and staff returning to school should get tested for COVID-19 as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) throughout the school year.
- Unvaccinated children, youth, and staff involved in any extracurricular activities or sports should be tested more frequently, as recommended by CDC.
- Unvaccinated children, youth, and staff should be tested before and after travel, or after taking part in activities that put them at higher risk of COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed (e.g., large social or mass gatherings).
- All people, regardless of vaccination status, should stay home and get tested if they are experiencing symptoms or were exposed to someone who has COVID-19

Lake of the Woods School District will be choosing from the following tests as part of our testing program.

- The **Cue test** is an individual, diagnostic, rapid molecular COVID-19 test that uses a nasal swab. Results are available within 20 minutes of processing. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has received a limited supply of Cue tests through a grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These tests will be made available to schools at no cost.
  - This type of test should be considered when rapid results are needed.
  - Cue may be used for people who are either symptomatic or asymptomatic.
  - Trained adult staff should test children 2 years of age and older:
  - When there is a positive test result, schools should follow MDH and CDC quarantine guidance.
  - If a student or staff member develops symptoms during the school day, a Cue rapid test is a way to find out if COVID-19 is present. Schools interested in this option should keep a supply of tests available for quick deployment as needed. Even if the test result is negative, students and staff with symptoms of illness should be sent home until symptoms improve and they have been fever free for 24 hours. If symptoms persist, families are encouraged to connect with health care provider or seek another testing opportunity.
  - Minnesota has a limited supply of free Cue tests available for schools.
- **Vault saliva test kits** were provided by the State, in partnership with Vault, during the 2020-2021 school year. Vault tests are individual, diagnostic, saliva PCR tests. Unused Vault saliva test kits at schools from the 2020-2021 school year will be converted and available for



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use as Zoom-enabled test kits allowing them to be used at home or school. These test kits are administered over Zoom by a Vault test supervisor and are available for schools at no cost.

- Additional technology is needed to log into the Zoom meeting to complete the test (phone, tablet). Schools can offer a space at school to complete the test which is proctored by a Vault staff person (through Zoom).
- Students and staff need to create a Vault account with a username and password and provide consent to Vault to participate in testing.
- Students who are 18 years of age or older may create an account and provide consent without a parent or guardian.
- Students who are under 18 years old will need a parent or legal guardian present at the time of the test to provide consent on the student's behalf.
- Vault may be used for people who are both symptomatic and asymptomatic.
- Users of the Vault test kits should not eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum in the 30 minutes prior to taking the test.
- When there is a positive test result, families should notify the school and schools should follow MDH and CDC quarantine guidance.
- If students and staff develop symptoms during the school day, a Vault test may be an option for sending home with students so they can take the test in their home. Schools interested in this option should keep a supply of tests available for quick deployment as needed.
- Recommended for ages 4 and older.
- **Battelle: pooled molecular nasal swab test.** is a type of test that should be considered when prevalence of COVID-19 in a school is expected to be low. The test may be used with higher prevalence of COVID-19, but it will take additional time to receive confirmed individual test results due to the need to reswab individuals for determining an individual lab result. Battelle is looking to move to individual testing.
  - Pool testing may be used for people who are both symptomatic and asymptomatic.
  - Recommended for use in people age 2 and older. Children as young as 5 are able to self-swab.
- **Hot Spot Testing:** Schools can work with their local public health or MDH to request a temporary testing location in response to local outbreaks.

Low	Moderate	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do not need to screen students.</li> <li>● Offer screening testing to teachers and staff who are not fully</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Offer screening testing to students, teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week</li> <li>● Offer screening testing for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Offer screening testing to students, teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week</li> <li>● Offer screening testing for high</li> </ul>



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<p>vaccinated at least once per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer screening testing for high risk sports and extracurricular activities at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated</li> <li>• Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports</li> </ul>	<p>high risk sports and extracurricular activities at least twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer screening testing for students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports and activities least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated</li> </ul>	<p>risk sports and extracurricular activities at least twice per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer screening testing for students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports and activities least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated</li> </ul>
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**\*\*Written or verbal permission from a parent/guardian is required for all students under age 18\*\***

## Vaccinations

Low	Moderate	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people ages 12 years and older are encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19</li> <li>• Not required to attend school/work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people ages 12 years and older are encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Not required to attend school/work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All people ages 12 years and older are encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19.</li> <li>• Not required to attend school/work</li> </ul>

**\*\*Written permission form with parent/guardian signature is required for all students under age 18\*\***

## Health Screening/Monitoring

Low	Moderate	High
<p>All students and staff are asked to conduct a daily self-screening and stay home if they have any symptoms. The School Health office will follow normal health screening practices.</p>	<p>Health monitoring will continue to be encouraged at home and conducted by the school nurse/health aid as needed.</p>	<p>Health screening of all persons entering the building - either self-reported or conducted by school staff..</p>



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## Handling suspected and/or confirmed positive case and close contact

Low	Moderate	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow MDH Covid-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs (updated guidance expected in the coming weeks).</li> <li>● Exception in national guidance that excludes students in an indoor classroom from quarantine when both the case and close contact were wearing a mask</li> <li>● Shortened 7-day quarantine               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Negative COVID-19 test at least 5 days after last close contact</li> <li>○ No symptoms</li> <li>○ No one in household has COVID-19</li> <li>○ Close contact had a beginning and end - such as school, sports event, social gathering</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Close contacts within a household must quarantine for 7 days and may return on day 8 with a negative COVID-19 test <u>as long as the person can isolate away from the positive in the household</u>. A follow-up COVID test will be given on day 10.</li> <li>● Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have had a lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do NOT need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow MDH Covid-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs (updated guidance expected in the coming weeks).</li> <li>● Exception in national guidance that excludes students in an indoor classroom from quarantine when both the case and close contact were wearing a mask</li> <li>● Shortened 10-day quarantine               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Negative COVID-19 test at least 5 days after last close contact</li> <li>○ No symptoms</li> <li>○ No one in household has COVID-19</li> <li>○ Close contact had a beginning and end - such as school, sports event, social gathering</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Close contacts within a household must quarantine for 10 days and may return on day 12 with a negative COVID-19 test on day 11.</li> <li>● Close contacts within a household must quarantine for 7 days and may return on day 8 with a negative COVID-19 test <u>as long as the person can isolate away from the positive in the household</u>. A follow-up COVID test will be given on day 10.</li> <li>● Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have had a lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow MDH Covid-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs (updated guidance expected in the coming weeks).</li> <li>● Exception in national guidance that excludes students in an indoor classroom if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.</li> <li>● Shortened 10-day quarantine               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Negative COVID-19 test at least 5 days after last close contact</li> <li>○ No symptoms</li> <li>○ No one in household has COVID-19</li> <li>○ Close contact had a beginning and end - such as school, sports event, social gathering</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Close contacts within a household must quarantine for 10 days and may return on day 12 with a negative COVID-19 <u>as long as the person can isolate away from the positive in the household</u>. A follow-up COVID test will be given on day 11.</li> <li>● Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have had a lab confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do NOT need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms</li> </ul>



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	NOT need to quarantine but should monitor for symptoms	
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**Facility Disinfecting:** Following CDC guidance for sanitation is the expected procedures to be followed by staff relating to facility safety management while attending In-Person throughout the school year regardless of COVID-19 levels.

- Extra disinfecting in bathrooms and communal areas will occur during the day.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html> • Guidelines for classroom sanitation procedures by teachers and staff.
  - Desk tops, door & sink handles and other frequently used surfaces are to be sanitized frequently throughout the day and/or between new student groups.
  - After evening cleaning rooms will be disinfected by fogging each evening. Facility Sanitation, Cleaning and Materials Handling

**Facility Alterations:** Physical changes to facilities to provide safety mitigation.

- In-Door Air Quality - Increased volume of fresh air exchange to the maximum level.
- Additional health room off of main office for student in isolation
- Added safety shield barriers for offices as needed.
- Signage related to health & safety has been posted.
  - Symptoms of illness, social distance & hand washing signage is prevalent throughout the building.

**Bus Transportation:** Following guidance is the expected procedures to be followed by students and staff relating to school transportation by School Bus or Type 3 vehicle.

- Federal masking mandate is currently in place for all public transportation, including school buses.
  - Masks will be made available to all students entering the bus.
  - Bus drivers will not be expected to enforce mask wearing while operating school buses.
- No eating or drinking while on the bus.
- Students are restricted to their assigned route only.
  - Parents/Guardians will be responsible for alternative transportation arrangements.
- Buses will be sanitized daily.

Low	Moderate	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration will work with students and parents to promote masking compliance.</li> <li>• Progressive disciplinary actions will be imposed as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration will work with students and parents to promote masking compliance.</li> <li>• Progressive disciplinary actions will be imposed as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All buses will have assigned seating.</li> <li>• Capacity limits and social distancing whenever possible.</li> <li>• Progressive disciplinary actions will be imposed as needed.</li> <li>• Loss of riding privileges for</li> </ul>



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		refusal to comply.
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## Hygiene Practices

Low	Moderate	High
Follow CDC/MDH guidance for hygiene practices.	Follow CDC/MDH guidance for hygiene practices.	Follow CDC/MDH guidance for hygiene practices.

## Visitors during the school day

Low	Moderate	High
Follow “pre-covid” practices and procedures.	Follow “pre-covid” practices and procedures with the addition of self-health screening before entering the building.	Restrict building access to students, staff, and parents as needed. Restricted to essential persons only.

## Food Service:

- Students attending in-person may choose to receive breakfast and lunch daily.
- Scheduling for meals will be rotational to reduce the number of students in line and eating at the same time.
- Lunch schedules and seating will be changed to meet CDC guidelines.
- Breakfast and lunch will be available for pickup for students who are doing remote learning

**Classroom Safety:** Following guidance is the expected procedures to be followed by students and staff relating to classroom safety management while attending In-Person.

- Desks will be spaced apart as much as possible to reduce close contact. Students will have assigned seats, facing the same direction.
- Use hand sanitizer upon entry into the room.
- Wash hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap & water.
- Teachers will sanitize frequently touched surfaces (desks, chairs, knobs).
- Rooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own labeled water bottle as drinking fountains will only be used in the bottle filling mode.
- Physical education will take place outside whenever possible.

## Activities/Athletics

Low	Moderate	High
All students, coaches, and fans are highly encouraged to follow MSHSL guidance	All students, coaches, and fans are highly encouraged to follow MSHSL guidance	All students, coaches, and fans are highly encouraged to follow MSHSL guidance for practices and contests.



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<p>for practices and contests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per federal and state mandate, masks will be mandated while on transportation to and from practices or contests.</li> </ul>	<p>for practices and contests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As per federal and state mandate, masks will be mandated while on transportation to and from practices or contests.</li> </ul>	<p>Activities will follow all school protocols when in High transmission status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandated masking would be imposed at all times when the player is <b>not</b> in active competition - this includes between drills, on the bench, in the locker room, etc. Players may remove masks while participating in active competition.</li> <li>Players and Coaches should maintain a distance of at least 6ft whenever possible.</li> <li>As per federal and state mandate, masks will be mandated while on transportation to and from practices or contests.</li> <li>Protocols during interscholastic contests will follow the host school's protocols, with the oversight of both schools' Activities Directors.</li> </ul>
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## Learning Options:

- Distance Learning through synchronous instruction (classroom teacher providing in-person classroom instruction and remote learning to distance learners is not an option at this time.
- Families who do not want to send their student to in-person learning for an extended time do have the option to enroll in a certified online school. School staff will assist in the process as needed. Duration of attending an online school would be for a minimum of a quarter and would need to correspond with the school grading periods.
- Homebound instruction will be provided to students who are unable to attend school for an extended period of time due to quarantine, isolation, or an extended illness.
  - A designated homebound teacher will be the liaison between classroom teachers.
  - Homebound teachers will ensure access to materials and will provide direct instruction and support as needed.
  - Depending on the circumstance, homebound instruction may be provided one-on-one in-person or remotely.
  - Homebound instruction is limited to 30 school days cumulative for each school year.

**Special Education:** Programming and services are based on the individual student's needs as determined by the individual education program (IEP) team and as documented in the IEP or 504 Plan. Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will have a Contingency Learning Plan (CLP) to address and individualize their IEP with considerations to: goals and objectives, special education and related services, service delivery methods, accommodations, modifications, and least restrictive



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environment. Due to the individual nature of special education, this is not an exhaustive list of considerations for every student.