



Opening Health and Safety Protocols for 2021-2022

Approved by Little Flower UFSD

Board of Education on August 24, 2021



A Brief Timeline

March 16, 2020 – All schools closed under executive order; LFUFSD instruction pivots to packet based and virtual/online via MS Teams

Summer 2020 – LFUFSD successfully operates a hybrid ESY program of half day in-person, half-day virtual learning under NYSED guidelines

September 2020 – LFUFSD opens fully for elementary and middle levels, hybrid for high school and LIVESS with modified schedules

February 2021 – LFUFSD returns high school students and most LIVESS to in-person instruction full time with modified schedules

Summer 2021 – LFUFSD ESY program runs in-person at full capacity under NYSED guidelines

September 2021 – School districts prepare opening plans under sets of guidance from CDC, AAP, Suffolk DHS, NYSED, and NYS DOH

Goals of Our Protocols

- Maintain the health, safety, and physical and mental wellbeing of all students, staff, community members, visitors, and all stakeholders
- Return all students to in-person instruction for the full year under pre-COVID schedules
- Maintain a high-quality instructional program and educational climate through a safe, secure learning environment
- Respond to local, regional, county, state, and national trends and data through a fluid plan which aligns to all current recommended guidance

Guidance Updates

- CDC published [updated guidance](#) for K-12 schools
- American Academy of Pediatrics [published guidance](#) for safe schools
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services worked with SCSSA to [offer local guidance](#) aligned to CDC and AAP
- NYSED published its own [guidance document](#) for school health and safety
- Governor / NYSDOH [issues mask mandate](#) for all K-12 schools

Protocol Areas

- Masking Policies
- Physical Distancing
- Screening / Testing
- Quarantines and Contact Tracing
- Vaccinations
- Reporting Requirements
- Instructional Model
- General Cleaning and Disinfection

Masking Policies

As per CDC/AAP and Suffolk DHS recommendation:

- All students, staff, and visitors/contractors shall be masked while indoors, regardless of vaccination status
- Masks may be removed while eating and during mask breaks, so long as appropriate distancing is maintained
- Masks are not required while outdoors for any activity
- Masks can be provided as needed, but it is recommended for each person to acquire a mask(s) they find comfortable, snug, and within CDC mask appropriateness

Physical Distancing

As per CDC/AAP and Suffolk DHS recommendation:

- Distancing of three (3) feet is a priority while indoors between students and six (6) feet between students to adults and adults to adults
- Distancing of six (6) feet when eating or, in music, singing or playing a wind instrument
- In physical education, any contact due to activities shall be quick and not for extended periods of time
- Indoor and outdoor classroom activities should be planned and carried out with distancing in mind

Screening / Testing

- As per 10 NYCRR 2.62, all unvaccinated school employees and contractors/consultants shall be required to provide proof of negative COVID surveillance testing (PCR or rapid) weekly, with no test to exceed seven days from a prior test; fully vaccinated staff may provide proof of vaccination to opt out of weekly testing.
- Temperature screening will not be required upon entry into the building
- Daily screening forms will not be required upon entry into the building
- Visitor logs will be amended to collect contact information
- Diagnostic testing will only be required for persons who display or report related illness prior to return to work/school unless completing a full quarantine
- Persons who feel ill or display symptoms associated with any communicable illness should NOT enter the building and seek medical diagnoses
- Should the need arise, temperature checks and screening forms may be reimplemented and a testing program may be implemented in coordination with Suffolk DHS

Quarantines and Contact Tracing

Positive cases will result in a close contact tracing – identifying individuals who were within 3 to 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or more within any 24-hour period – to determine need for quarantining

Quarantines are not required for:

- Fully-vaccinated individuals (but should be tested 3-5 days post-exposure)
- Students who were fully-masked and distanced in the classroom setting

Quarantines are required for:

- The positive case
- Unvaccinated close contacts
- Any vaccinated person who is symptomatic

Quarantine is 10 days from date of exposure, date of symptom onset, or positive test date if asymptomatic

Vaccinations

Vaccinations continue to be the medically-referenced best measure to protect against the spread and severity of Covid-19

While medically recommended, vaccinations are not required at this time – subject to change for employees under Governor Hochul

Vaccinated persons will not be subject to the same quarantining requirements as unvaccinated persons

Vaccination information and appointment sites may be accessed for [NYS](#), [Nassau](#), [Suffolk](#), or [NYC](#)

Reporting Requirements

All positive cases shall be reported to the SCDHS online portal

All close contacts who are required to quarantine shall be reported to the SCDHS online portal

Visitor log forms shall be revised to collect contact information in the event contact tracing includes visitor(s)

Employees and parents/guardians must report a confirmed case to the district immediately

Instructional Model

All instruction will be in-person following a normal, pre-Covid classroom schedule

Classroom seating arrangements will allow for all recommended distancing between students and staff

Remote instruction is no longer an option – documented medical needs must be assessed by CSE in order for a remote exception be made on an IEP – requests through building principal

Students under mandatory quarantine will be provided with home materials or virtual access to instruction based on the duration of quarantine and number of days of school missed

Classroom and PPS staff will utilize benchmark assessments to determine learning loss, remediation programming, and social-emotional needs on a case-by-case basis

Lunch will be held in classrooms to reduce gathering sizes and will follow six (6) foot distancing

General Cleaning and Disinfection

The district will follow cleaning and disinfection protocols established under the former [reopening plan](#), which includes:

- Emphasis on hand and respiratory hygiene (bathrooms, sanitizers)
- Use of industry-recommended PPE
- Use of industry-recommended cleaning products
- Frequent disinfection of high-traffic areas and high-touch spots
- Use of electrostatic sprayers for additional disinfection
- MERV-13 rated filters in all applicable HVAC systems
- Air-conditioning and windows/fans for increased ventilation

Things to Remember...

- This is a fluid situation and our protocols are subject to change based on new data, additional or revised recommendations and guidance, and potential mandates at the local or state level
- If local trends show things are improving or worsening, we may adjust protocols to reflect these changes
- Additional updates to these protocols shall be posted on the [district website](#) and letter home in a timely manner
- Contact the building principal with any questions at 631-929-4300