What You Need to Know

About Lake Shore Central School District's Plan In Response to Revised New York State Department of Health Guidelines

What NYS's Revised Guidance Allows Us to Do

New York State's new COVID-19 guidance for schools allows increased capacity for in-person instruction by reducing social distancing <u>under certain conditions</u>.

At the Elementary Level ...

- Distancing requirements have been reduced to 3 feet.
- This means that all K-5 hybrid students can return to 5 days of in-person instruction on MONDAY, APRIL 26.
- ► K-5 students on remote instruction will remain on remote instruction unless the parent contacts the building principal to request otherwise.

In order for the Middle School & High School to Return to More In-Person Instruction

- New COVID-19 cases must be below 100/100,000 residents over a weeklong period.
- Under current transmission rates, the CDC criteria does not allow 3 feet distancing at the Middle and High School level.
- In higher transmission areas, 3 feet is permissible only in schools that cohort (keep one group of students together all day), which is not possible at the secondary level due to the variety of courses students take.

At the Middle School level ...

- Distancing requirements remain at six feet at the secondary level because Erie County is currently a high transmission area based on CDC criteria. Therefore, Grades 6-8 Green Eagle and White Eagle Teams will remain on hybrid.
- The CDC criteria designates a county as having high levels of community transmission if 10 or more cases per 100,000 people are logged per day over a weeklong period. In Erie County, over the week of April 12, there were 459 new cases logged (50/100,000 people) – nearly five times the CDC threshold.
- On days Middle School students are not physically present in school, they will participate in live instruction remotely (synchronous instruction) and follow a full bell schedule.
- Full remote students stay on full remote (unless the parent contacts the building principal to request otherwise), following a full bell schedule Monday through Friday, also on synchronous instruction.

At the High School ...

- Distancing requirements remain at six feet at the secondary level because Erie County is currently a high transmission area based on CDC criteria. Therefore, Grades 9-12 Green Eagle and White Eagle Teams will remain on hybrid.
- The CDC criteria designates a county as having high levels of community transmission if 10 or more cases per 100,000 people are logged per day over a weeklong period. In Erie County, over the week of April 12, there were 459 new cases logged (50/100,000 people) – nearly five times the CDC threshold.
- On days High School students are not physically present in school, they will participate in live instruction remotely (synchronous instruction) and follow a full bell schedule.
- Full remote students stay on full remote (unless the parent contacts the building principal to request otherwise), following a full bell schedule Monday through Friday, also on synchronous instruction.

Technology

If your child needs a computer for remote learning days grades 6-12, please contact the building principal's office.

STAYING OPEN & EXPANDING to Middle School and High School

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

- Keep your children at home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, or if they have possible exposure to a person with COVID-19.
- The CDC advises that COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic.
- Avoid co-mingling students and adults outside of the school day.
- Follow guidance on social distancing, masking, sanitizing and gatherings.
- Please do everything you can to keep our COVID numbers from rising.

STAYING OPEN & EXPANDING to Middle School and High School

WHAT THE DISTRICT CAN DO TO HELP

- The District will follow strict safety measures and cleaning protocols and will advocate to the NYS Education Department and the NYS Department of Health the importance of keeping kids in school.
- Please see the full <u>What You Need to Know About Lake Shore Central School District's Plan in Response to Revised NYS Department of Health Guidelines summary document for further details about our extensive mitigation measures.</u>

In all schools, K-12 ...

- There will be seating charts to assure social distancing.
- There will be more open windows and doors. Please dress accordingly.
- Six feet distancing is REQUIRED in ALL cafeterias, All music classes and ALL physical education classes.
- ALWAYS wear a mask on the bus and in school.
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Follow distancing guidelines.

MEAL PICK-UP

Middle School Sculpture Garden 3:30-6 p.m. on Mondays

- Families with full remote students will pick up meals for the week.
- Families with students attending five days will pick up meals for the weekend.
- Families of hybrid students will pick up meals for five days.
- All children newborn to 18 years old are included in the meal pick up.
- If you have questions, please email deborah.becker@lscsd.org.

Transportation

- The District will transport all children who need transportation to and from school, including students normally transported to non-public schools in accordance with the District's Transportation Guidelines. We are prepared and can transport any student who needs a ride to and from school, however, parents are encouraged to transport their children if they can.
- Households, siblings and grouped bus stops will sit together and "distance when practical." If this seating arrangement reaches capacity, individual students may sit in seats that are blocked out as long as mouth and nose coverings are in use.
- Students are required to wear mouth and nose coverings and to socially distance from other riders when practical, in accordance with CDC, ECDOH and NYS guidelines.

Safety & Cleaning Protocols

- There are daily and weekly cleaning plans for all building spaces. Additional cleaning is completed throughout the day in high traffic/high risk areas, including bathroom surfaces, school nurse's office surfaces and surfaces throughout the buildings: door handles, desks, tables, countertops, and chairs (including cafeteria seating areas), stairway railings, etc.
- The District has invested in personal protection gear and cleaning supplies, including masks, face shields, gloves, wipes, sanitizers, shields, thermometers and disinfectant solutions, for all of its buildings and buses
- The District purchased merv13 air filters, a premium filter, for our roof top air handler units. Our univents surpass the recommended air flow per minute. There are four air changes every hour in classrooms throughout the District.

Visitor Protocols

- Efforts continue to minimize the number of visitors in our buildings. District buildings will continue to use single points of entry for visitors BY APPOINTMENT.
- Everyone is subject to the District's health screening procedures before they can enter. Visitors are required to complete a health and temperature screening questionnaire before receiving a visitor pass. This ensures accurate records of building visitors if contact tracing is necessary.

Contact Tracing

- If contact tracing determines COVID spread within a classroom or building, there may be an immediate pivot to remote education for that affected area. If COVID positivity spikes in our region, the District may need to immediately return to remote education or the two-day hybrid model.
- "Contact" is considered to be within six feet of a COVID-positive person for 10 minutes or more.
- ► FAMILIES ARE URGED TO HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN IN PLACE IN THE EVENT OF AN IMMEDIATE PIVOT BACK TO REMOTE OR THE TWO-DAY HYBRID MODEL.

School Preparedness Issues

- If your child is having difficulty readjusting to five days of in-person instruction, please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school counselor or social worker in your building, for assistance.
- ► Lake Shore prioritizes social/emotional well-being in order to ensure the mental, social and emotional space environment for learning to occur.
- Within the District, K-12, are school social workers, counselors and psychologists who provide direct services addressing anxiety, depression, calming techniques, and restorative practices. Referrals also are made to community-based service providers for mental health, behavioral and emotional support services. Please reach out if you need assistance.

Resources

- What You Need to Know About LSCSD's Plan in Response to Revised NYS Department of Health Guidelines (April 15, 2021)
- CDC Operational Strategies for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention
- NYSDOH Interim Guidance for Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
- CDC's Community Mitigation Strategies Report