

# Frequently Asked Questions

## About Re-Opening at Lake Shore Central School District

Posted August 3, 2020

*Any new or revised information will be posted in red on this document.*

*These are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about re-opening of schools this Fall. Please note that planning is ongoing and additional information will be provided as it becomes available.*

*For example, the Board of Education will be reviewing the academic calendar and proposing that students start school on Sept. 8 to allow an additional four full days to prepare for the upcoming school year. Updates and notification of any calendar change will be posted on the District Website, Facebook and Twitter and announced to all families via Blackboard Connect notification.*

## RE-OPENING PLAN

### **Is the hybrid instruction model the final decision for re-opening?**

On Aug. 7, the governor will give direction regarding whether we are able to come back to school and under what restrictions. Meanwhile, current guidance requires social distancing as a protective measure. We do not have enough space to provide social distancing if all students attend at one time. That is the reason for the hybrid model.

As always, our situation under COVID-19 is fluid, and we are prepared to transition if circumstances change. We will transition to full in-person instruction or full remote instruction in the event that there is a loosening or tightening of restrictions from the NYSED, NYDOH, CDC or the Governor.

### **Do parents have the option of FULL remote learning?**

Our plan is for kids to be in school and we can accommodate kids who may need to stay home because of high risk. Please contact us at [reopening@lscsd.org](mailto:reopening@lscsd.org) to arrange a time to call you and discuss accommodations.

Full remote learning is not homeschooling. Curriculum support and resources will be provided. We will begin the year full paper-based for remote learning and transition to other modalities for learning as the we settle into September.

### **If children do not attend during hybrid instruction, can they return when school resumes five days a week? Will they be able to take the bus if they return when school resumes five days a week?**

Yes.

### **Will parents be able to tour the school to see what it looks like before deciding if it's safe for their child?**

We have discussed whether we can begin to open up the buildings once we hear the Governor's announcement on Aug. 7. If so, yes, we will conduct parent tours.

**How can I get information about specific details for re-opening at my child(ren)'s school?**

Our schools are preparing to send information to each family that includes:

- Scheduling information (You also can see this information under the Teaching and Learning section of the District's re-opening plan.)
- Classroom assignments
- Opportunities to learn more about our safety plan
- Information on building tours (if we are allowed to open buildings).

**Could my child be scheduled to attend on the same day as a cousin or close friend?**

Yes, we will make every effort to accommodate. Please email us at [reopening@lscsd.org](mailto:reopening@lscsd.org) with your request.

**Could my child be scheduled on a green day instead of a white day, due to my work schedule?**

Yes, we will make every effort to accommodate. Please email us at [reopening@lscsd.org](mailto:reopening@lscsd.org) with your request.

**Will the District provide computers, hotspots and paper resources?**

Yes, this will be mostly paper, but computers and hotspots will be distributed as needed. The District will be surveying parents about their technology and internet access.

## **WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DAY LOOK LIKE?**

**During remote learning will there be actual lessons? What will the days of distance learning look like?**

To start the year, each student will receive work from the teacher that is relevant to what was taught during the in-person instruction days. This may include some videos, paper-based work (not packets like in the past) and relevant to the direct instruction from the in-person class. As the year progresses, that will gradually add to more remote in-person activities via Google Meet. This process will evolve as the year progresses.

Students will do the work for each class and return the work to the teacher. There will be opportunities for students to get some support while in remote.

**What days of the week are teachers in school?**

Teachers will be on site, in the classroom, on all five days.

**If my children are in the group that reports Thursday and Friday, what happens on the Superintendent Conference Days or holidays when there's no school? What about possible Parent/Teacher Conference half days?**

All Superintendent Conference Days will be moved to the beginning of the school year except the one in January. The Board of Education will be reviewing the calendar to propose that students start school on September 8 which will allow all staff to have a full four days to prepare for the upcoming school year. Other days in November and December will be decided at a later date.

## **What will remote learning look like in the hybrid model? How it will look if we are full remote in the future?**

All of this is under discussion and there will be more details in the coming weeks.

### **IN-PERSON LEARNING DAYS:**

**How are the rooms set up?** Desks will be six feet apart for social distancing.

#### **Will gyms, cafeterias, etc. be converted to classrooms for social distancing?**

No. The hybrid model reduces the number of students in our buildings on a given day, so current classroom space is adequate and allows for social distancing.

#### **Will there be classroom changes or are students required to be stationary the entire day?**

K-5 no switching classes.

6-12 yes, with cleaning in between.

No shared supplies at any level.

At the elementary level, we will start the year with music, library and art coming to the classroom so there is less foot traffic in hallways.

At the secondary level, art and music instruction will take place in those respective classrooms and are set up for social distancing.

All K-12 classes will attend physical education and will social distance.

#### **Are these full days of instruction?**

Yes.

Student Schedules for arrival and dismissal are:

AJS – 8:35 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

JTW – 8:35 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

HLD – 8:35 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

Middle School – 7:25 a.m. - 2:26 p.m.

High School – The schedule is begin adjusted to accommodate the staggering of busses and will be released at a later date.

**Will student desks be separated by partitions?** Student desks are separated by six feet for social distancing, but clear shields are available upon parent request.

**Will there be mask breaks?** Because desks are six feet apart, masks are not required during class. Masks are required only when social distancing isn't an option: In hallways, on the bus, and in lavatories.

### **Career & Technical Education Programs:**

BOCES has proposed a schedule to the region and will have a final schedule soon.

There will be a combination of in-person and remote learning to begin the year.

### **Special Education Programs:**

**What's the plan for IEPs and 504s?** All IEPs and 504s will be addressed.

**What's the plan for students who need aides?** For in-person instruction, students will have a personal care aide.

**What's the plan for children with disabilities?** There will be accommodations for children with disabilities and IEPs will be followed.

### **After-Care Programs:**

**Will there be after-care for kids?**

There will be aftercare. We do not have a cost at this time.

### **ADDITIONAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS in the CLASSROOM:**

Many teachers have requested for items in their classrooms to keep themselves and others safe, including cleaning supplies and clear face shields (so kids can see their face). Some have requested a partition for when more one-on-one learning is needed.

Teachers have been given extra time to prepare and the custodial staff has shifted their typical day to more focused on cleaning inside.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

**What are you doing to keep students safe?**

We are engaging in all recommended cleaning and sanitizing protocols, social distancing, and use of face coverings when students can't socially distance. In addition, air filters in all of our buildings have been upgraded and air filters in all of our buses are routinely sanitized and replaced.

All students and staff will receive a cloth Eagle face covering at the start of school. Disposable face coverings are available if needed. Face shields are available where needed.

The District is encouraging frequent handwashing. Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom and throughout our buildings.

If possible, parents are encouraged to transport their children to and from school to help reduce the number of children on District operated school buses. Children on buses are required to wear a face and nose covering while on the bus.

The District is providing staff training on necessary precautions of appropriate social distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), hygiene and cleaning/disinfection protocols. Surfaces and instructional materials will be wiped down throughout the day.

**How will social distancing/wearing face coverings/hand washing/not sharing supplies be enforced?**

There is an expectation to follow all state guidelines.

**What are the restroom protocols and who makes sure that complete sanitizing has been done between each usage?**

All restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. All students and staff will be trained in proper handwashing protocols.

## **FACILITIES**

**What about visitors to the buildings?**

District buildings will utilize single point(s) of entry for visitors BY APPOINTMENT. Efforts will be made to minimize the number of visitors to all buildings. Everyone is subject to the District’s health screening procedures before they can enter. We are implementing the Raptor building visitor control program and will utilize the software to complete the health screening questionnaire for all visitors before issuing a visitor’s pass. In addition to screening for COVID-19 symptoms, this school security system also screens for sex offenders and alerts staff to custody violations. The system maintains accurate records of building visitors to assist in contact tracing if necessary.

**What are the cleaning protocols?**

The District’s Director of Facilities coordinates daily and weekly cleaning plans for all building spaces. All cleaning protocols follow CDC guidelines. Additional cleaning will be completed throughout the day in high traffic/high risk areas. These will include bathroom surfaces, and school nurse’s office surfaces, including cots, door handles, desks, tables, countertops, and chairs (including cafeteria seating areas), stairway railings, etc. Meeting areas will be disinfected after meeting with visitors before the area is used for another meeting.

Bathrooms, nurses’ offices and other frequently used spaces will have checklists documenting the frequency of cleaning, including date, time and name/initials of the person who performed the cleaning.

In addition to the above procedures, all rooms in each building will be “deep cleaned.” This involves spraying the room with an EPA-approved water-based disinfectant.

## **CHILD NUTRITION**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the District will provide meals to all students who need them. Free, reduced-price, and paid meals will operate as they have in the past. Annual applications for Free/Reduced Price Meals will be mailed to all families of students in the District prior to the opening of school in September.

**Will there be lunch every day for all students?**

If the District reopens with a hybrid instructional model where students attend school only certain days of the week, meals will be available in school cafeterias along with a “Grab-n-Go” option.

“Grab-n-Go” meals may be made available in an effort to help reduce the number of students eating in school cafeterias at one time, so that social distancing can be maintained. Students will be notified of locations to eat if not eating in the cafeteria.

Meals for students who are not in attendance at school will be available for parent pick-up at designated pick-up sites. Details TBD.

**What if my child has a food allergy?**

Students with food allergies will be provided with alternate meal choices as needed to maintain their safety. If meals are provided to be eaten in spaces other than the school cafeteria (i.e. “Grab-n-Go Meals”), teachers or other personnel who supervise the student(s) during the meal time will be informed of the student’s allergies and any necessary precautions necessary to maintain the health and safety of the student.

**Will students eat in the cafeteria?**

Yes.

Students in grades K-8 will use clear “cubicle-style” splash shields. These clear barriers allow kids to sit, eat and visit with their classmates safely. The splash shields are cleaned after every use.

Students in 9-12 will be able to sit socially distanced (areas will be marked) in the cafeteria due to the size of the cafeteria, the length of lunch and the expected density. They will be able to sit, eat and visit with their classmates. Shields are available upon request. There are options to eat in classrooms but at this point, we believe they will eat in the cafeteria.

**Will children be able to wash their hands before eating?**

Classroom teachers will instruct elementary students on proper handwashing procedures before and after meals and will stress the importance of not sharing food with others. Lake Shore will use the CDC materials as primary resources. All buildings have ample restrooms for students to wash their hands and there is sanitizer provided throughout the building.

***If you have questions about the meals or configuration of the lunch room, please email [reopening@lscsd.org](mailto:reopening@lscsd.org)***

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school and back home if they are able, however, the District will transport all children who need transportation to and from school, including students normally transported to private and parochial schools in accordance with the District’s Transportation Guidelines.

Due to reduced bus capacities, bus passes cannot be permitted.

**If my work schedule changes and I can no longer pick up or drop off my child, can I resume school bus transportation?**

Yes. Please contact the transportation office (926-2240) if that should occur.

**Currently we plan to drive our children to and from school. If we cannot do that on a particular day, will our children be able to take the bus?**

Routines are encouraged so that groups of students will be together on a bus. If the daily routine would normally be on the bus, we will accommodate that.

**Will children be allowed to take the bus from a babysitter's house?**

Routines are encouraged so that groups of students will be together on a bus. If the daily routine would normally be on the bus, we will accommodate that.

**How will I know the bus schedule for pick up and drop off?**

The Transportation Department will send pick-up details (bus numbers and times) at the end of August. These come right before the school year starts due to constant development and tweaking of routes. You can contact the Transportation Department at 926-2240 for an estimated pick up time.

**Will students wear a mask on the bus?**

Yes, students will be required to wear face coverings and to socially distance themselves from other riders to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with CDC, County Health and NYS guidelines. Siblings will sit together, since they would not be required to maintain social distancing between members of the same household.

Disposable masks will be provided to students who do not have their own mask. Students who cannot wear a face mask due to a health condition of physical disability will be permitted to ride the bus without a mask but must follow social distancing requirements.

Buses transporting students in wheelchairs will be configured to allow students the proper social distancing space.

**Are other safety precautions being taken on the bus?**

All Transportation Department personnel will wash their hands before and after every bus run and receive training in the use of personal protective equipment including face coverings, shields and gloves. They will also be trained in recognizing the symptoms of COVID-19.

Drivers and attendants must wear face-coverings at all times when on the bus. Clear face shields will be furnished to any employee who requests one for additional protection against COVID-19. Bus drivers and bus attendants who have direct physical contact with students will also wear disposable gloves. Bus drivers and bus attendants who do not have direct physical contact with students may also wear gloves, but they are not required to do so unless they are wiping down contact spaces with disinfecting wipes.

When weather permits, windows and/or roof hatches will be open to allow for fresh air exchange.

Employees and students are not allowed to eat or drink while on buses, as it would require them to remove their face masks.

Bus seats will be marked with yellow X's indicating where students may NOT sit, to allow for social distancing.

Students will board from the back to the front, and disembark from front to back, so there is no students are not passing other passengers on the bus.

In addition, during regularly scheduled preventive maintenance, mechanics will remove, clean and/or replace internal cabin air filters and disinfect using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

### **What is the cleaning protocol for buses?**

Each District-owned school bus is issued disinfecting wipes, disinfectant spray and a supply of disposable gloves. After each bus run, a.m. and p.m., bus drivers/bus attendants will wipe down touch points on the school bus (seats, handrails, door handles, etc.) starting at the back of the bus and working toward the front. Disposable gloves will be provided to employees due to the frequency of cleaning required. After the wipe down, the driver/attendant will spray the entire bus with an EPA-approved mist disinfectant.

***Please note: school buses will NOT be equipped with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, because of the flammable nature of such products. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided in the Transportation Office, in the Transportation Center hallway where the District's time clock is located, in bathrooms and in the Drivers' Room.***

### **Will transportation employees get screened each day?**

All school bus drivers, bus attendants, licensed practical nurses who accompany students on school buses, mechanics and transportation department office personnel will perform daily self-health assessments for symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving at work.

The District will monitor the body temperature of all transportation staff. If they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, they will notify the Director of Transportation immediately, preferably by telephone to maintain social distancing. They will then contact their medical provider for further instructions.

## **SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING**

### **What if my child is having difficulty readjusting to school?**

Please reach out to your child's teacher, or the school counselor or social worker in your building for assistance.



## **ATHLETICS & Extracurricular Activities**

The New York State Athletics Association has declared Sept. 21 as the start of the Fall season. This is ultimately a decision made by New York State and Lake Shore will adhere to all guidelines issued by the state.

There will be NO in-person afterschool activities at this time. Students will NOT be allowed to stay in the building once the school day ends.

## **COVID-19 & Other Illness Protocols**

### **What if someone tests positive for Covid-19?**

The District will contact the Department of Health (DOH) and follow all guidelines set forth.

### **If a student shows Covid-19 symptoms while in school, what happens?**

If a child says they aren't feeling well, they will have a temperature check in the nurse's office, as usual.

If there is reason to believe Covid-19 or other illness could be the issue, there are comfortable rooms set up in a designated area for the student to wait until a parent comes to pick them up. A staff member will wait with them so they are not alone.

### **What if a student comes to school with a general illness?**

Trust has been put in the community to keep their child home if they are not feeling well.

### **Are teachers required to test frequently?**

Each day, teachers simply get a temperature check and a quick form to fill out on how they are feeling each day, and asking if they exhibit symptoms or have been in contact recently with anyone who has tested positive.

### **Will our children going to be tested frequently?**

Each student and staff member will have a daily temperature check.

### **Who is responsible for health checks?**

There is a temperature check at the beginning of the day for all staff and students. Staff has to fill out a health survey every day. We have acquired a new temperature scan machine that students will walk through and have their temperature checked. It is fast and touch-free. Students won't even realize their temperature is being checked.

### **What about students who are high risk, or have high risk families?**

We will address whatever the student or their family needs to feel safe.

### **What are the options for employees who are high risk or come from high risk families?**

The district has an abundance of PPE and will equip students and staff with what they need.

***For additional questions, or if you need someone to contact you about your child's return to school, please email us at [reopening@lscsd.org](mailto:reopening@lscsd.org).***