



Covid-19 UPDATE for LPS Families

Good Afternoon LPS Families,

We wanted to provide you with a comprehensive update regarding recent changes in Covid-19 guidance and our district's response to the new recommendations from the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

While we are enduring an increase in positive cases throughout our community and state, Livonia Public Schools remains committed in our efforts to follow the guidance of the state and county agencies. Recently, in a communication sent from MDE and MDHHS, the following was shared: "The goal of implementing prevention measures is to protect students, teachers, and staff, and *maintain in-person learning*. Schools are an important part of communities. They provide safe and supportive learning environments for students that support social and emotional development, provide access to critical services, and improve life outcomes."

We have continued to follow the recommendations from the WCHD, MDE, MDHHS and the U.S. Department of Education throughout the pandemic in order to remain with our current in person model of instruction.

In addition to the [mitigation measures](#) put in place to begin the year, LPS is following guidance issued by the MDE on December 30 to implement the following layers of mitigation against Covid-19:

- Implement universal indoor masking for students, staff and visitors (age 2 and older). *LPS has implemented a stringent mask policy since the first day of the school year.*

- Take advantage of programs to receive tests from MDHHS and test regularly. *LPS has requested testing kits, but has not received a supply from the state at this time. The district has provided information to families on local testing sites, and links to resources to access tests.*
- Participate in the MI Backpack Program, which offers free at-home testing kits for students, staff and their families. *LPS requested to participate in the MI Backpack program the first day upon our return after break (Jan 3), and has put in an order for the at-home test kits for all students and staff. The district has not received confirmation or a timeline from the state on the arrival of test kits. We will keep you apprised when we receive information on this. NOTE: If we receive testing kits, they will not be distributed directly to students. They will be distributed to adults on a “pick up only” basis.=*
- Encourage vaccinations and boosters for all eligible staff and students. *LPS communications to families and staff have consistently encouraged taking advantage of the available vaccinations.*
- Host vaccine clinics to facilitate access. *LPS will host two Wayne County Health Department Vaccine Clinics at Frost Middle School from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, January 28 and again on Friday, February 18. See signup form [HERE](#) and this [registration form](#) if this is of interest to your family.*
- Limit gatherings, such as assemblies, concerts and sports, to less than 100 people, or offer them remotely. *Our guiding principle for these decisions is determining what is necessary for day-to-day operations in our schools. LPS is limiting many large gatherings at this time if it is not necessary or immediate for day-to-day operations, such as assemblies, concerts, activity nights, etc. In those cases, we have postponed many large-scale events, broken them up into smaller groupings or have moved the event to a remote/virtual setting.*

Additionally, on Monday, January 10, MDHHS updated their COVID protocol guidance for schools, as did the Wayne County Health Department. As we have consistently aligned with the guidance from these agencies throughout this pandemic, the district will continue to do so.

We have spent time over the past two days carefully reviewing this new information and preparing for the transition to these new protocols. ***Please read carefully through the attached graphic which includes the protocols recently established for schools by MDHHS and WCHD, which will be implemented by LPS.***

Since the start of the pandemic, our efforts have been focused on the well-being of our students and staff and our commitment to this is steadfast. We hope this information is helpful to you and greatly appreciate your continued partnership with us.

Sincere regards,
Andrea Oquist