



# LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FALL 2021 MASK & MITIGATION MEASURES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How does the district determine the mitigation measures?**

Our district created and implemented a robust set of layered mitigation measures to safely bring the majority of our students back to face-to-face instruction during last school year. Those detailed measures proved to be successful and we are proud of the teamwork and cooperation shown by our students, staff and families.

This year, we are again considering all of those measures and deciding how we can balance bringing some aspects of the in-person school experience back to a somewhat “normal” state while keeping our students and staff safe. It is our hope that this school year will be a “bridge year” back to pre-pandemic school years. Therefore, some safety measures will remain in place, while others that are no longer necessary will be set aside. Please see the attached mitigation document for details.

## **Will the mitigation measures for the fall remain in place throughout the school year?**

Our district administration is committed to the daily monitoring of local case data and weekly monitoring of regional and statewide case data. If conditions in our immediate area change, our safety mitigations could also change. If mandates are issued by county, state or federal health authorities, the district will follow those mandates.

## **What factors are considered in these decisions?**

The district follows five sets of metrics when tracking the COVID-19 pandemic and setting or revising safety mitigation measures:

- **Local Case Data**

Daily review of the following: Livonia number of daily cases; Livonia 7-day cumulative; Livonia per 100K average; trend lines of data collected

Data sources: City of Livonia website [COVID-19 INFORMATION](#); Wayne County HD website [Wayne County Covid Data](#); MDHHS website [Coronavirus - Michigan Data](#); CDC website [CDC COVID INFO](#)

- **School-specific or Level-specific Case Data**

This will include identifying any “clusters” of cases in a particular program or activity, school or level; monitor for “signs of spread”

- **Age of Students**

Take into consideration access to vaccinations for each age group

Source: [CDC Website](#) for updates on vaccine eligibility; information on vaccine rates within our community

- **Wayne County Case Data**

Monitor trends of cases and positivity rate by week within our region, including neighboring counties.

Data sources: City of Livonia website [COVID-19 INFORMATION](#); Wayne County HD website [Wayne County Covid Data](#); MDHHS website [Coronavirus - Michigan Data](#); CDC website [CDC COVID INFO](#)

- **Local CDC Transmission Levels**

Although we will not be tying our recommendation directly to these levels, review of local transmission levels will serve as one data point in our decision-making and allow us to see clear trend lines.

## **SCREENER**

### **I see on the safety plan that a daily screener is required. What does this mean?**

As we did throughout last school year, we ask that every family self-monitor their childrens' health by [reviewing the health screener that is posted on the front of all school websites](#). This screener serves as a daily reminder that children who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 need to stay home from school and parents need to seek medical attention. This is an important measure that will help prevent or reduce the spread of the virus in our schools. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in using this screener each school day.

## MASKING BY LEVEL

### What is the rationale for requiring masks for students in preschool through sixth grade, but not for grades 7-12 and post secondary?

Vaccinations are available for students age 12 and up, and provides protection to students in that age group along with reducing the necessity for self-quarantines. Because the younger age group under 12 cannot yet receive the vaccine, the masking requirement provides a level of protection for students and staff in our preschool programs and elementary schools.

**To note, mask wearing is strongly recommended for students in grades 7-12 and post secondary.** as we know from health professionals that masking is an effective way to reduce transmission while in indoor settings. It is recognized that students may choose to wear masks in addition to being vaccinated, as it provides an additional layer of protection for themselves and others. This is welcomed and will be fully supported.

\*Regardless of age, grade level, or vaccination status, all students and staff are required to wear a mask while riding a school bus.

## MASKS ON BUS

### My child rides the bus to and from school. Will masks be mandatory while riding the bus?

Yes. Per federal mandate, masks are required by any student, adult or volunteer while riding on public transportation, including school buses. Masks will be available for students who may need one.

## RECESS

### Will elementary recess still be with their classmates only, or will classes be able to play together?

This school year, comingling will be allowed between classes. If schools choose to set recess schedules for multiple classrooms at one time, they will be able to do so.

### Will masks be required for elementary students while they are on outdoor recess?

No. As we did last school year, students will be allowed to remove their masks during outdoor recess and other outdoor activities.

## BREAKFAST

### Will my student eat breakfast in the classroom or cafeteria?

Breakfast will continue to be available for all students as we know it is an important service for our families. As is always the case, decisions on where students eat breakfast will be school-based and determined by building use of classroom and cafeteria space, and will be communicated by the principal.

## LUNCH

### Will my student eat lunch in the classroom or the cafeteria?

Students eat in the lunchroom, with 3-foot distancing. For elementary, when that spacing isn't possible, remaining classes will eat in their classrooms. This process will vary by school due to variables of lunchroom size and enrollment. For secondary, students will be as distanced as possible while seated in the cafeteria during lunch. Eating in other large common areas near the cafeteria will be allowed, similar to last school year. Lunch room staff will wear gloves and wear facial coverings.

## GROUP WORK

### Will there be any group work in the classroom?

Group work will be allowed in classrooms and every attempt will be made to create as much physical distance between students as possible. Our intent is to generally return to instructional practices for classrooms that are age-appropriate and instructionally impactful while simultaneously being aware of physical spacing of students.

## VISITORS

### I am a parent who enjoys helping out in the classroom and with the PTA. Will I be allowed to visit the schools this year?

Yes, we are happy to welcome our parent volunteers back into our schools, but we do need to require that masks be worn, regardless of vaccination status. [We also ask that all visitors fill out the Visitor Screener.](#)

## GATHERINGS

### Will assemblies and other large gatherings be allowed at the schools this year?

Assemblies and large-scale gatherings will be permitted. Masks are required for all participants in such events. Individual large-scale events may have additional layered mitigation measures based on the following factors: density of the number of people in the space; indoor/outdoor; length of event; nature of activity.

## HALLWAYS

### I understand that certain mitigation measures will be set aside for the start of this school year. Will there still be one-way hallways, no use of lockers at the secondary schools and no use of drinking fountains?

For this school year, we will not require one-way hallway traffic; a school may still utilize these procedures for crowd management purposes, if it is helpful. Locker use will be allowed. Crowd monitoring in the hallways will remain a priority. Drinking fountains will be uncapped and ready for use, in addition to the bottle filling stations.

**FIELD TRIPS**

**Will field trips be allowed?**

Field trips will be approved on a case-by-case basis, while following all safety measures that are in place at the destination site. Masks, per federal mandate, are required by all bus riders.

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

**Will the middle and high schools operate on a “block” schedule again this year?**

No. The daily schedules will return to pre-pandemic school year times.  
 Middle schools: 8:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.  
 High schools: 7:25 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.  
 Western Wayne Skill Center: 7:34 a.m. - 2:26 p.m.

**Will the elementary school day be shortened again this year?**

No. The daily time schedule will return to pre-pandemic school year times.  
 K-4 schools: 8:55 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Upper Elementary: 8:25 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 Webster Elementary: 8:00 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.  
 Niji-Iro Elementary: 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

**CHROMEBOOKS**

**Will Chromebooks be issued to students to take home?**

Chromebooks will be available in all schools for student use. The district is not planning to distribute Chromebooks to every individual student to begin this year, but students are welcome to bring their own device to school for in-class use. If a student is in need of a device for home use, to complete online assignments, one will be issued by the school.

**NOTIFICATION**

**How will I know if my child’s school has a COVID-19 case?**

Per our procedures from last year, parents and guardians will be notified if there is a case or cases within your child’s school. That notification will be emailed within 24 hours and will be posted on the dashboard that will be housed on the front of the school website and on the district-wide dashboard on the LPS homepage. Any close contacts will be personally notified by the district nurse or a member of our Student Services team. Student and staff privacy will always be protected during notification procedures.

**CLOSE CONTACT**

**Have the close contact rules changed for this school year?**

Yes. Based on Wayne County Health Department and CDC guidance for self quarantines and close contact tracing the following applies: an individual who has been identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, and thus is potentially exposed to the virus, must self-quarantine for ten (10) days. If the individual is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms after ten (10) days they must continue to quarantine until they are completely free of COVID-19 symptoms.

*Note:* Close contact is defined as someone who has been less than 3 ft of an infected person for more than 15 consecutive minutes.

However, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives per the CDC guidelines:

- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
- Quarantine can end after Day 7 when the following conditions have been met: Negative PCR Test & no symptoms during daily monitoring.

*Details: When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available then quarantine can end after Day 7 if the individual chooses to independently get a PCR test and the result is negative. (PCR only, not rapid antigen test) and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 24 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.*

**QUARANTINE**

**How can my child avoid being quarantined? I am concerned about missing instruction.**

Self-quarantine is not necessary if the student is and remains asymptomatic AND one of the following applies:

- The individual is fully vaccinated (defined as fourteen (14) days have passed since the close contact was vaccinated with the second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or one dose of a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine); OR
- The potential exposure to COVID-19 occurred in a classroom while both the positive COVID-19 case and the other individual were masked, and they had at least three (3) feet of physical distance between them.
- Within the past five (5) months the close contact had a positive, confirmatory COVID (PCR) test.

OTHER QUESTIONS MAY ARISE OR BE SCHOOL-SPECIFIC, SO PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ UPDATES SENT TO YOU BY OUR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP.

