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# Lancaster School District

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! We are so excited to be able to invite all students back for in-person instruction for the first time since March of 2020. While the pandemic continues to have its ups and downs throughout southern California, the Lancaster School District is prepared to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for your student.

Many of the safety features we had in place last spring are still in place: mask wearing for all while indoors, health screening of all students and staff prior to entry to the school, shields on student desks, HEPA filters in all classrooms, and improved air filtration throughout all buildings. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has granted additional flexibility to school districts, allowing classrooms to accommodate normal capacities because our district has taken a multi-layered approach to COVID safety.

Access to vaccinations is still limited to people aged 12 and over. If you have a middle school student who is age-eligible to get the vaccine, we encourage you to do just that, as the vaccine has been shown to be safe and incredibly effective at reducing susceptibility to contracting COVID and, in the rare instance where a “breakthrough” infection occurs, producing symptoms are far more mild than for those who have not been vaccinated.

Our District has adopted two plans that guide our daily routines: the COVID Prevention Program and the COVID Response Plan. Each of these documents is available on our [web site](#) and regularly updated as we receive new guidance from the Department of Public Health. We also have a Health and Safety Committee that meets intermittently to discuss issues surrounding COVID health hazards and potential solutions. The public is welcome to be part of this Committee and can get more information by calling (661) 948-4661 x 100.

We’d like to take a few minutes to share with you some processes, guided by the Department of Public Health, that address a couple of situations that may occur in your student’s classroom.

## Symptomatic Students

If a student shows COVID symptoms during the school day, a health clerk is dispatched to the classroom to assess the student’s symptoms. If the student indeed shows COVID symptoms, she or he is guided to our Wellness Room for isolation and care. A parent is contacted to retrieve the student and information is shared with the parent about quarantining and COVID test access. Symptomatic students may return after 10 days of home quarantine or by showing a negative COVID test. Rooms visited by symptomatic students are deeply disinfected during the evening by our night custodians.

## COVID Positive Students or Staff

If a student or staff member reports a positive COVID test or diagnosis, the District immediately begins a process called contact tracing. We are required to identify any individuals who were within 6 feet of the positive case for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period (defined as “exposed”). Those individuals are required to isolate for at least 10 days and be fever-free for 24 hours.

Should a student in your child's class or the teacher be identified as COVID positive, you will receive a communication from the school that addresses the situation and whether any additional quarantines were required because of exposure. By law, we cannot identify the individual who tested positive or those who were required to quarantine.

### Quarantine

At some point during the school year you may receive notification from the school that your student was exposed to a person who tested positive for COVID. The result of the notification is the need for your student to quarantine for 10 days, unless she or he can show proof of vaccination and is free of COVID symptoms. Specific instructions will be given about options to get a COVID test, how to properly quarantine your student, and how a negative COVID test on or after day 5 of quarantine can shorten the duration of the quarantine.

We know that having to quarantine your student can create disruptions in your family's normal routine. Should quarantining be required we strongly encourage you to seek short-term independent study for your student so that she or he will not fall behind in academics. Once your student has met the conditions to end quarantine she or he will be welcome to return to in-person instruction.

We ask that all families continue to use ParentLocker each day prior to sending their children to school. The best way to keep infection from spreading is to refrain from sending your child to school if she or he is ill. Symptoms of COVID-19 include a fever greater than 100.3, vomiting or diarrhea, new cough different than any other type of cough, shortness of breath, recent loss of taste or smell, or unusual aches and pains. Should your child show any of these symptoms while at school, you will be contacted and asked to retrieve him or her and then quarantine for at least 10 days.

We know that your student's in-person learning experience will be positive and productive this year. Our entire district staff is dedicated to your student's safety, well-being, and academic growth. We encourage you to visit the District's web site where you'll find additional information on COVID safety, mask wearing, hand washing, and frequently asked questions. We are committed to serving the families of Lancaster and the bright young minds who attend our schools daily.

Sincerely,

Larry M. Freise  
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services