

Louisiana Believes

Resources for School Reopening 2020-21

June 2020

ATTENTION: Instructions for participants

During this meeting, participants may submit questions **via the online chat feature** throughout the presentation. Submitting questions via the chat allows LDOE the opportunity to not only answer your question while on the call but to also add your question and the answer to our publicly disseminated FAQ document(s).

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Resource Development Process
3. Reopening Resources
4. Review of Public Health Guidelines
5. Other Resources
6. Question and Answer Session

Resource Development Process

Resource Development Process

The Louisiana Departments of Education (LDE) and Health (LDH) have worked collaboratively over the past month to develop public health guidelines and best practices to support school reopening in 2020-2021. This included:

- Participation the **SREB Reopening Task Force** (Ms. Sandy Holloway and Mr. Ken Bradford).
- Consultation with a **superintendent advisory group**, which met several times to discuss health and feasibility concerns.
- Extensive deliberation with and direction from a 20-member **public health response team**, culminating in final approval by the LDH State Health Officer and Assistant Secretary.
 - The team includes epidemiologists, public health officials, and representatives from the LDE and BOR.
- Review by the **Resilient Louisiana Commission's** K-12 Subgroup.
- Adoption by the **RLC's Education and Workforce Development Task Force** and the full **Resilient Louisiana Commission**.

Reopening Resources

Resource Documents

Guidelines -- LDH's baseline public health requirements for school systems to follow when reopening school facilities to students in fall 2020

Best Practices -- Supportive guidance and resources for implementing LDH guidelines

Planning Template and Checklist -- A template with questions to guide school systems in planning for reopening, with an accompanying checklist for reopening

FAQ Document-- LDOE will release and maintain a dynamic FAQ document for implementation support

Supports from Key Partners

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Hotline for School Wellness and Virtual Care (504-837-7760) offers guidance to school nurses and school administrators for medical questions pertaining to students or team members and facilitates virtual care visits or enrollment in home monitoring for those in quarantine. Hotline is operated Mon. to Fri. 7am to 11pm and Sat. and Sun. 8am to 8pm.

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Town Hall Series for Schools will be conducted every two weeks through July and August and will provide update information on COVID-19, targeted training on topics like sports and janitorial, and answer questions collected from schools in between sessions.

Regional Public Health Officers are able to provide one-on-one consultation to school system leaders with public health / operational questions.

The background of the slide is a watercolor-style illustration. It features soft, blended washes of light blue and white, creating a textured, ethereal effect. The colors are more saturated in some areas and lighter in others, giving it a painterly quality. The overall composition is centered and balanced.

Public Health Guidelines

Three Key Principles

THREE KEY PRINCIPLES



1 Wash Hands Often

+



2 Wear a Face Covering

+



3 Practice Social Distancing

LDH Guidelines: Group Sizes

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Maximum group size	10, including adults	25, including adults	50, including adults
Younger students	Maintain static groups, understanding individuals may come into close contact and may not be wearing face coverings		
Older students	If students are able to maintain physical distance, the group's composition may change. Students maintain physical distance of six feet in classroom/indoor settings to the maximum extent possible.		

LDH Guidelines: Physical and Environmental Standards

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Physical standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups convene indoors in rooms enclosed by walls or partitions • High-touch surfaces (e.g., desks, doorknobs) are cleaned before and after each group's use • Groups are separated outdoors but do not require a physical barrier • Limit crowding at entry and exit points: maintain maximum group sizes and physical distance recommendations to the maximum extent possible 		
Athletics	Refrain from contact and high-risk sports		Contact/high-risk sports allowable within defined groups
Symptom monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess students on arrival and throughout the day, including conducting an initial temperature check • Establish an area that can be used to isolate sick students • Clean and disinfect surfaces in the isolation area after the sick student has gone home 		
Environmental Cleaning and Personal Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-touch surfaces are cleaned multiple times throughout the day, including bathrooms • Handwashing at arrival, at least every two hours, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment and at exit • Adults and students (3rd grade and up) should wear face coverings, as able, to the maximum extent possible. Any child over age two may wear a face covering. Face coverings should be worn in all areas of the school. This includes classrooms. Most importantly, face coverings should be worn during arrival, dismissal, and any other transition within the school building. Individuals with severe breathing difficulties should not wear face coverings. 		

LDH Guidelines: Transportation

	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Transportation	Maximum school bus capacity, including adults		
	25 percent	50 percent	75 percent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School bus passengers ride one per seat with every other seat empty• Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats, with an empty seat between household groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take the number of seats and multiply by the % of the manufacturer's capacity. This is the maximum number of people allowed on the bus at any given time.• Space and disburse passengers to the maximum extent possible	



Other Resources

Best Practices: Highlights

The LDE's best practices includes supportive guidance and resources for implementing LDH guidelines, including:

- Specific strategies for **physical distancing** and facility use, including entry and exit procedures
- How to safely **monitor symptoms** among students and staff, and how to respond to symptomatic individuals
- **Personal hygiene** and cleaning protocols, including the **use of face coverings**
- **Food preparation and meal service** guidance
- **Transportation** safety, hygiene, and cleaning guidance and references

Reopening Planning Template and Survey

As part of a broader effort to guide school system planning in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, and at the request of the K-12 subgroup, the LDE will release a planning template and survey.

Questions relative to school reopening will include:

- What is the school system's **plan for instructional delivery**? (In-person, distance education, hybrid)
 - What is the school system's plan for alternate scheduling?
 - If using alternate scheduling, what will be the basis for the schedule?
 - If the school system is providing virtual learning, what will be the platform used?
- How will the school system provide **transportation**?
- How will the school system provide **student meals**?
- Who is responsible for developing and overseeing the system's **environmental services plan**?
- How will the school system **communicate with families and school system employees**?

Responding to Positive Cases

WHAT ARE THE STEPS WHEN A STUDENT IN SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

- 1** If a school becomes aware of a presumptive positive or positive case of COVID-19, the child should not attend school until determined to be non-infectious by their doctor.
- 2** Parents may be notified by the Office of Public Health if their child may have been exposed to the case of COVID-19, along with any next steps.
- 3** If it is determined that a school was the focus of infection for COVID-19, the school superintendent, in consultation with the Office of Public Health, will determine if the school should remain open or close for a period of time. A positive case of COVID-19 does not necessarily warrant classroom or school closure.

[Example of an assurance](#) school systems can use to ensure parents are aware of their obligation to immediately pick up sick students.

Question and Answer Session