



Lake Pleasant Central School

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***Adopted 7/29/2020**

Lake Pleasant Central School Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Reopening September 7, 2020

Due to small class sizes and our rural setting in the North Country Region, Lake Pleasant Central School will open for in person instruction while implementing plans and procedures for proper social distancing, PPE use, and clean and sanitized spaces, permitting the Region meets the stipulations set forth in the Governor's matrix.

All referenced information will be the result of collaboration with the NYS Department of Health (DOH), NYS Department of Education (NYSED), Local BOCES, and school stakeholders and department heads. Items in this plan are subject to change based on changes in rules and regulations set forth by the above agencies.

This plan will be communicated with students, families, staff, and visitors in a variety of measures, including the school website www.lpschool.com and the Lake Pleasant Central School Facebook page.

All staff and students will be thoroughly trained how to follow new COVID-19 protocols, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face covering wearing, social distancing and respiratory hygiene.

The District will encourage all students, faculty, staff, and visitors through verbal and/or written communication and signage to adhere to CDC, and DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE, specifically acceptable face coverings, when a social distance cannot be maintained. Communication will be provided in the languages spoken at home among families and throughout the school community. Written plans will be accessible to those with visual and/or hearing impairments.

The following sections will detail the protocols and procedures for each department as it pertains to LPCS reopening in September 2020.

Upon entering the building, ALL persons will enter the main entrance. Staff will take their own temperatures and sign the screening sheet in the foyer. The school nurse will take temperatures of students being dropped off by parents. All vendors must have their temperatures taken and sign the screening form. Anyone with a temperature of 100.0 or higher will be denied entry to the building. Outside visitors will not be permitted without prior approval from the Superintendent or the appropriate department head. Until further notice, there will be no public events in the school. Proper signage will direct all vendors to the office to take their temperatures or may drop packages outside the front door.

Provided approval is granted, students will resume in person for regular classes on Monday, September 14, 2020, after an intensive Professional Development training period for teachers and school staff the week prior.

The following reopening plan has been created with collaboration of stakeholders, including the District Board of Education, department heads, teachers, parents, and community members. Surveys have been conducted, and the plan will be communicated via the school website, www.lpschool.com, as well as in a public forum and staff meetings.

A link will be added to the school website for reopening plans from Wells Central School, Broadalbin-Perth Central School, HFM BOCES PTech, and HFM BOCES Special Education programming due to the fact that we send students to those locations as well.

Health and Safety

- Due to small class sizes, all grade levels are able to socially distance when in the classrooms. Face coverings will remain available for all staff and any students who may have forgotten their own.
- Staff will be trained by the school nurse to observe for signs of illness in students and staff and will require symptomatic persons to be sent to the school nurse as per specific procedures as defined by the nurse.

- The Superintendent will be the designated Covid-19 resource person to assist with the school building and the community. The school nurse will work closely with the Superintendent.
- The district plan will be translated into any languages spoken within the community.
- Screening tools will be available and translated into any languages spoken in the school community.
- Parents/guardians and staff members will be provided with resources to educate them of symptoms of Covid 19.
- Parents/ guardians and staff members will be educated on the importance and how to complete health screenings conducted prior to coming into school.
- The use of various communication tools will be used in order to provide individuals with information such as email, phone calls, use of the school website, and signage.
- Signage will be posted in high visibility areas such as the school entrance, bathrooms, cafeteria, and hallways.
- Parents/guardians and staff will be trained and instructed that any student or staff with a temperature of 100 degrees fahrenheit or greater and or showing symptoms of Covid 19 would not be in school and if suspected of having symptoms in school immediately sent to the school nurse, based on procedures set forth by the nurse.
- Students and staff should not return to the building after having a fever for at least 72 hours following with no fever reducer, based on recommendations from the Department of Health.
- Daily temperature checks will be completed for all students prior to the arrival at school.
- Students will complete screening questionnaires periodically.
- Staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors will complete daily temperature checks prior to entry into school.
- Staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors will complete screening questionnaires daily.
- School will ensure adequate supplies of PPE.
- CDC guidance and DOH guidelines will be followed when allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of Covid 19. Will coordinate with the local public health department as well.
- Will use CDC reopening guidance for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Drills will be conducted using proper social distancing with students instructed that in the event of an actual emergency, the main concern is safety and that maintaining social distancing would not be the first priority.

Facilities

- Any new construction, facility changes or leasing of a facility will be sent to the OFP for review.
- Installation of hand sanitizing stations, dividers, or new construction will comply with NYS building codes, fire codes, and energy conservation codes.
- LPCS will comply with any building condition survey that is scheduled for the 2020 -21 school year.
- LPCS will also conduct the lead in water testing as required by the NYS DOH regulation 67-4.

Child Nutrition – Mandatory Assurances

- The Lake Pleasant Central School District will provide all students enrolled access to school meals each day whether they are in attendance at the school or learning remotely. The Free and Reduced Lunch application was mailed home to all families and should be mailed back for approval. If you are not approved for free or reduced lunches, meals may not be available at no cost to all children.
- All Safety and Sanitation guidelines will be followed to assure student health and safety. In addition to our current procedures we will be installing plexi-glass in front of our serving counter.
- Our Cafeteria staff will wear disposable or washable aprons, rubber gloves and hats.
- Cafeteria staff will assure that food is heated to the proper temperature and that all refrigeration temperatures are monitored.
- Food allergies are indicated on the health records that we receive from the student's parents. These health records are submitted to our nurse who then reports food allergies to our cafeteria staff who maintain a list of food allergies so our students are not exposed to food allergens.
- Signs will be posted on the proper washing of hands and students will wash hands before and after meals.
- Custodial Staff will clean and disinfect the cafeteria prior to each new group arriving for meals.
- The District will continue to comply with the Child Nutrition program requirements as indicated.

- Student breakfast and lunch periods will be adjusted to ensure social distancing during meals.
- **Communication with families will continue through phone calls, emails, and our school website.*

Transportation

- All buses that are used every day will be cleaned and disinfected after every run, including special attention to all high contact spots.
- School buses shall NOT be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the driver or the District.
- No school bus drivers, monitors, and attendants may carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses.
- All school bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics must wear a face covering along with an optional face shield.
- All transportation staff (drivers, monitors, attendants, mechanics, cleaners) will be trained and provided with periodic refreshers on the use of PPE and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- To ensure consistency with screening practices, a substitute bus driver or other school staff will ride the bus and take student temperatures prior to them stepping on the bus.
- Students with a temperature over 100.0 will not be permitted on the bus or in the school building.
- All students must wear masks while riding on the bus. The exception to that rule is that students with a disability, or a student with a doctor's note indicating that their condition would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be denied access to the school bus for that reason.
- All students will be trained and provided with periodic reminders on the proper use of PPE and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while riding the bus.
- Students will be trained and provided periodic reminders on the proper use of social distancing.
- Transportation will be provided to any students whose Individualized Education Program have placed them out of district whole schools are meeting in conducting in-person session education even when/if LPCS is not. While there are no students in nonpublic, parochial, private or charter schools in the district, they would be provided with transportation if there were.
- Students who live near the school are encouraged to walk to school when weather permits, with safety as the highest priority.

Social Emotional Well-Being

- Lake Pleasant Central School will continuously review and update our Comprehensive School Counseling Program plans in order to best address the current social-emotional needs of our students.
- Lake Pleasant Central School will regularly consult with all school stakeholders in order to ensure we are meeting the social-emotional needs of our student population.
- Lake Pleasant Central School will provide full-time access to a school counselor/Licensed Mental Health Counselor to provide preventative and responsive support. The counselor and faculty will monitor the needs of the school population and will provide connections and referrals to outside agencies such as: The Home Run Program, Hamilton County Mental Health Services, Hamilton County Public Health, Hamilton County Department of Social services, or other agencies depending on the identified needs.
- Lake Pleasant Central School will make possible for faculty any professional development as it becomes available in order to be able to assist in providing support for the entirety of the school population.

School Schedules

- The school schedule will, for the most part, remain the same within the school day, and will run Monday-Friday unless we are forced to go remote (hybrid).
- To reduce the number of students sitting together on the buses, siblings will sit together, and others will sit one per seat.
- Parents are encouraged, but are not mandated to drive their children to school themselves.
- Specials teachers will travel to homerooms when social distancing is not attainable in their respective classrooms.
- Students desks have replaced tables in classrooms where necessary to enable social distancing.
- All students will enter the building single file, wearing masks, and social distancing. This will be monitored by the Superintendent or other designee.
- Students walking or being dropped off by parents must see the school nurse for health screening prior to entering the school building.

- Where necessary and possible, classes will be split for specials to enable social distancing in the classroom.
- The bell schedule will be as follows: Grades 7-8 will transition 3 minutes before each bell ringing. Grades 4-6 will transition at the bell, and grades Pre-k-3 will transition after the second bell to reduce the number of people in the hallways at once.
- There may be situations where an entire class may be forced to go remote, based on guidance from the DOH, while symptoms are being monitored. If this happens, classroom teachers must be prepared to teach remotely for the duration, permitting they are healthy enough to do so.
- In the event that we are no longer able to provide in person instruction, a clear and concise schedule will be made to ensure equity and online meetings in all grades and classes, to ensure that students have adequate access to teachers.
- Training will be provided to all teachers before school starts to ensure fluency in the use of online teaching platforms.
- Teachers will then train students accordingly, along with training them in proper hygiene and PPE use as recommended by the DOH, CDC, and any other agencies that are required.
- It is understood that additional transition time is expected, and therefore teacher lesson design should accommodate that and should focus mainly on priority standards within the NYS Learning Standards.

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

- While in a remote schedule, teachers will use Schoology or any other approved student management system to report student engagement and attendance. In addition, teachers can utilize Class DoJo and/or google classroom and any other District approved online platform.
- Teachers who have students who often do not engage or are absent will notify the main office at once so a phone call can be made to the parents/guardians to determine the reason for the absence.
- If parents can't be contacted, it is possible that the School Resource Officer may make a visit to the home of the student.
- The same attendance policy will be utilized whether we are in person or remote, and the District will involve outside agencies when the Law requires further action, like PINS petition or Department of Social Services if there is an academic neglect situation.

Technology and Connectivity

- The District will conduct a survey to determine the level of access to devices and high-speed ethernet for all students and teachers at their homes.
- Students and teachers who are in need of access to devices and internet access will be provided with District issued Chromebooks or other devices as needed.
- The District will provide multiple ways for students to access and participate in learning, as well as demonstrate mastery of Learning Standards in remote models, especially if all students do not have sufficient access to devices and/or high speed internet.
- Where necessary, the District will purchase additional chromebooks and other devices in the event that some classrooms go remote and others remain in school (hybrid model).

Teaching and Learning

- The District will ensure Continuity of Learning whether we provide in-person, hybrid, or remote instruction.
- Training will be provided for teachers and students to be able to easily adapt to any of the above models.
- All instruction will be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards regardless if instruction is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model of instruction.
- The school schedule will provide regular substantive interaction and equity between teachers and students whether it is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model of instruction.
- To ensure equity, opportunities will be provided for students to interact and seek feedback with teachers in routine scheduled times and are accessible to all students and are aligned with State Standards whether it is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model of instruction. Families will be able to contact teachers, staff with questions about their instruction and technology through the use of the telephone (518-548-7571), via email, and through the school website or Facebook pages.

- Teachers will connect with parents/guardians at least weekly whether it is delivered in-person, remotely, or through a hybrid model of instruction, to communicate about the students.
- Students will not have to wear face masks in the classroom when seated at their desks, unless social distancing is not possible.
- Students wearing masks will be given periodical breaks from wearing them as provided by the classroom teachers.
- Teachers should provide instruction outdoors as much as possible and weather permitting. Locations that can be used are the outdoor classroom, gazebos, benches out front, and anywhere on the fields.
- When possible, specials teachers should go to the students' classrooms to limit student time in the hallways.
- Teachers should give students movement breaks if they have been in one place for a long time.
- Teachers will use google classroom, Class Dojo, or any other approved format on a daily basis. This will enable them to transition to remote instruction seamlessly in the event that we are forced to do so.
- When possible, Physical Education classes will be conducted outdoors, even in winter, and will focus on individual activities such as golf, tennis (using the neighboring village tennis courts), snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and other appropriate physical activities.
- PE classes will be reduced in size to accommodate social distancing when possible.
- When not possible, students must wear masks when they are in the gym, and be provided with activities that are not highly aerobic.

Special Education - Mandatory Assurances

- Whether services are provided in-person or remote (or through a hybrid model) services on each identified student's, committee approved, Individualized Educational Program (IEP) document will be provided. All mandated services and programs listed and agreed upon services will be provided. This will ensure a free and appropriate education and be consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing education and services.
- Providers of services and educational provisions will keep electronic records of services provided daily in services logs in the program application: IEPDIRECT.

This program is approved for confidentiality and ensures progress monitoring over time.

- The CSE (Committee of Special Education) office will be open with a direct phone line 518-548-2765 for parents or providers to call with questions. The email address of the CSE/CPSE chairperson is jbraunius@lpschool.com. All communication is private and confidential to this email and phone line.
- Progress monitoring and quarterly progress notes will continue to be mailed directly to the parents/guardians and will continue to follow the provisions outlined in the student's current IEP.
- We will plan and ensure the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services and technology to meet the unique disability related to the specific needs of the students.

Certification, Incidental Teaching, and Substitute Teaching

- The District ensures that all teachers hold valid and appropriate certificates for their teaching assignments except where otherwise allowable under the Commissioner's regulations (ie: Incidental Teaching) or Education Law.

Additional Considerations

- Classrooms have been cleared out of unnecessary items to provide more space for social distancing, as well as to make cleaning and disinfecting more streamlined.
- Area rugs and most stuffed animals have been removed from classrooms.
- Stored items are kept neat and out of the way.
- Proper signage will be placed to follow DOH and CDC recommendations for social distancing, mask use, hand washing, and hygiene.
- Teachers will spend time teaching students proper safety and hygiene practices and will provide refreshers as necessary.
- Student schedules have been adjusted to limit the number of students in an area or hallways and to encourage social distancing.
- Deep sanitizing cleaning products and materials have been purchased to ensure the highest sanitization level possible.
- Working hours are being increased for cleaners and school nurse.

- Bus runs have been arranged so siblings sit together and others are able to sit one per seat.
- Additional PPE like face shields, gloves, and gowns are being purchased.
- Current projected enrollment*:
 - Pre-k 6
 - Kindergarten 6
 - Grade 1 10
 - Grade 2 8
 - Grade 3 6
 - Grade 4 12
 - Grade 5 4
 - Grade 6 9
 - Grade 7 5
 - Grade 8 9
- *enrollment is subject to change

References

- **Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools - July 16, 2020**
 - **School Reopening FAQ - Revised July 22, 2020**
- <https://www.schoolhealthny.com/coronavirus>
- https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/cleaning_guidance_schools.pdf
- <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-data-driven-guidance-reopening-schools>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>