

LPCSC

2020/2021 School Year

“Getting Back on Track”

July 2020

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Introduction

The following plan has been developed to position LPCSC for a safe transition back to school for our students and staff. The elements of this plan reflect the work of a representative committee of corporation employees that are responsible for the safety of children and fellow employees. The plan reflects guidance by the Indiana Department of Education, County and State Departments of Health, as well as state and local school superintendent meetings.

We embrace the challenge of educating our students, staff and community during these unprecedented times. We believe that from this point forward, the new normal will involve Americans regularly making critical risk/reward decisions in their personal lives that affect their health and the health of others. As citizens we have an obligation to think of the collective well being of all as we make decisions regarding Covid 19 precautions. We encourage our students, staff, and parents to support this plan for the safety of all.

Lastly, it is important to note that LPCSC Administration has Board approval to revise/update this plan throughout the 20/21 school year in order to reflect updates in Health Department guidance and statewide mandates by the Governor. Updates will be posted on school and corporation web sites.

Overview of the Plan

Student and staff routines and programming will be presented in this plan. Departments, schools, employees, students, and parents are asked to operate within the guidelines outlined in this plan in order for us to collectively implement the plan during the 2020/2021 school year.

Student daily schedules and educational programming delivery options for the upcoming school year will be directly related to the state of the county with regard to Covid-19 threat levels. The corporation will be responsible for identifying the educational programming delivery that will be used to begin the school year and revise as needed according to the level of Covid threat in La Porte County.

Parent Community Engagement

Throughout the course of the school year we will update parents and community members regarding key information via our LPCSC web site: <http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/>

We anticipate this to be an unconventional year with the potential for a number of changes, adjustments and responses necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic. When we update our website with critical information, we will use social media to draw attention to the postings.

Last year, we implemented our Family Resource Services program and are now able to provide resources and information for parents with questions or needs. Please take advantage of this department as the staff are excited to serve you.

Family Resource Services Website:
<https://www.facebook.com/LPCSC.FRS/>

Coronavirus Threat Levels

La Porte County Covid-19 data will be monitored throughout the 2020/2021 school year.

Cases that surface in schools may result in specific schools being closed for 2-5 days for cleaning and contact tracing by the La Porte County Health Department.

Programming, student classes, and daily schedules will be selected according to cases in our schools and levels of threat that exist in the county at any one given time.

We are not in a position at this time to assess what the threat level in the county will be in early August, therefore, any one of the following scenarios could apply in August or at any given time throughout the school year.

Low Threat level

- **Decreased to stable data of current hospital cases**
- **Decreased to stable data regarding positive cases**
- **Decreased to stable data regarding the number of symptomatic cases**
- **Few to no new cases of Coronavirus deaths over a period of time**

Moderate Threat level

- ❑ **Increases in trend data of current hospital cases**
- ❑ **Increases in positive cases over a sustained period of time**
- ❑ **Increases in data regarding the number of symptomatic cases**
- ❑ **Increases in the number of Coronavirus deaths over a period of time**

Substantial Threat Level

- **Substantial increases in trend data of current hospital cases**
- **Substantial increases in positive cases over a period of time**
- **Substantial increases in data regarding the number of symptomatic cases**
- **Substantial increases in the number of Coronavirus deaths over a period of time**

The next three slides are a snapshot of the County Covid-19 Data that we will be monitoring to make decisions regarding threat levels and programming.

Determinations on threat levels will be made in conjunction with county Health Department officials as well as surrounding school district leaders.

Confirmed COVID-19 Counts ⁱ

La Porte County As of 7-12-2020

New Positive Cases

Y0

6

between 07/12/2020 and 07/12/2020

New Deaths

Y0

between 07/12/2020 and 07/12/2020

New Tests

Y0

72

between 07/07/2020 and 07/12/2020

Total Positive Cases

Y0

629

Total Deaths

Y0

28

Total Tested

Y0

8,842

7.1% Positive

Metrics by Day

Positive Cases

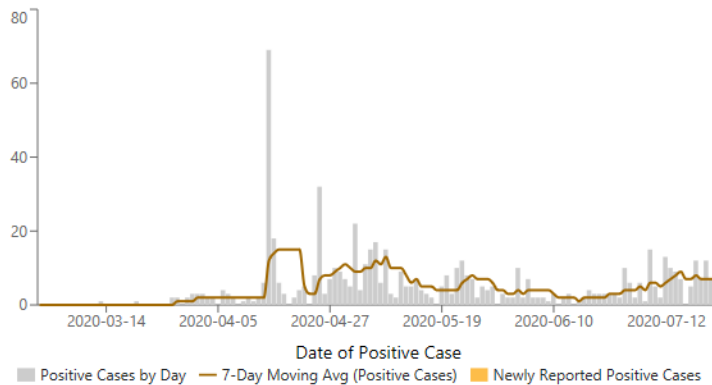
Deaths

Tested

LaPorte County Positive Cases by Day ⓘ



Showing: All



Metrics by Day

Positive Cases

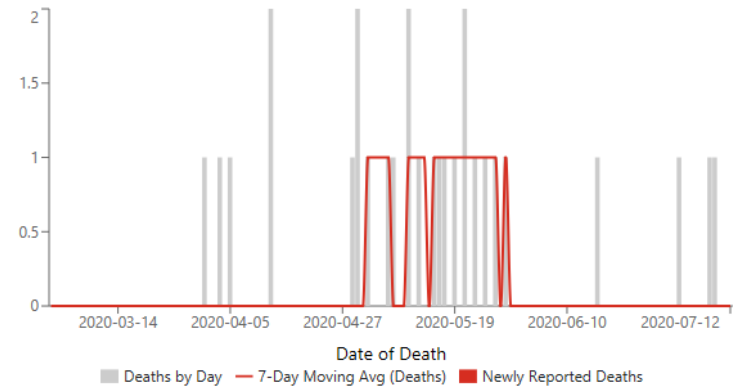
Deaths

Tested

LaPorte County Deaths by Day ⓘ



Showing: All



County Distributions



Positive Cases Deaths Tested

Select a county below by tap or click

ISDH District Statewide



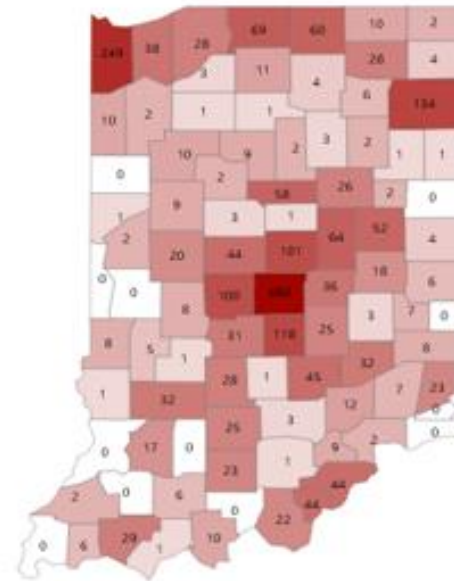
County Distributions



Positive Cases Deaths Tested

Select a county below by tap or click

ISDH District Statewide



Programming Delivery Schedules

The following programming delivery schedules are being considered for each threat level.

Low Threat Level

Students will attend classes on our traditional programming schedule and previously adopted school year calendar. Variations in programming will exist for students identified as fragile who are at high risk of contracting the Coronavirus because of their health status. In addition, a process will be available for any parent to apply for online learning programming. Department and school plans for Prevention, Response, and Intervention practices will be put into place to minimize staff and student exposure to the virus. Response procedures will be initiated when cases of exposure are reported. Extracurricular activities will take place as normal with Covid-19 Intervention plans approved for each activity.

Moderate Threat Level

Students will attend classes 1 to 4 days a week with the balance of the week being online learning. School and department plans for Prevention, Response, and Intervention practices will be put into place to minimize staff and student exposure to the virus on days students are in attendance. Depending upon trending county Covid-19 data, the number of days per week for classes on campus could start at a low number and increase during this level of programming.

The logic behind reducing the days that students are physically in school is to reduce the number of contacts thus reducing risks. Response procedures will be initiated when cases of exposure are reported. Extracurricular activities will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine if they will be held as normal or with further precautions.

The online programming in place for specific students will continue.

Severe Threat Level

Students will participate in learning activities 100% of the time via online learning. School grounds and properties will be closed to the public and opened only for essential functions and staff. All extracurricular activities will be cancelled until further notice. Transition back to programming at the moderate threat level is possible and contingent upon the county Covid-19 threat level data.

School Year Start

The 2020/2021 school year is scheduled to start on August 10, 2020 for teachers and August 12th for students.

LPCSC will start the school year with the programming identified to best fit the Covid-19 threat in the county. If the threat is low, we intend to start the school year with our traditional programming schedule(Green) along with the interventions and precautions that follow in order to assure a safe environment.

School Year Start

Surveys

Staff and parent surveys will be sent out after the LPCSC “Getting Back on Track” plan is communicated and approved by the School Board. The surveys will provide feedback for administration as they work to meet individual needs and identify interventions and programming identified in the survey.

Online Programming

Variations in programming will exist for students identified as fragile who are at high risk of contracting the Coronavirus because of their health status. In addition, a process will be available for any parent to apply for online learning programming.

Parents and staff will be asked in the survey to provide input regarding online programming. Survey input will guide final decisions regarding online programming.

LPCSC Covid-19 Intervention Plan

The following information outlines various interventions and procedures that will be implemented to address Covid-19 related matters ranging from prevention and response strategies to staff and student attendance. Each building and department will have a similar plan which addresses unique situations.

Prevention Measures

Personal Protection Equipment

- Staff will be encouraged to wear protective masks as much as reasonably possible throughout the day.
- Students will be encouraged to wear protective masks as much as reasonably possible throughout the day.
- Guests will be asked to wear masks when entering any LPCSCS building where students and staff are located.
- Masks will be available for students and staff.
- Latex gloves will be worn by serving and custodial staff
- Staff in certain departments may wear face shields and/or masks.
- Plexiglass will be used where feasible, to create barriers between staff and guests, staff and students.

Prevention Measures

Social Distancing:

- When feasible, staff will stay six feet apart during breaks, lunches, meetings.
- Student classroom desks and seats will face the same direction in the classroom.
- Student classroom desks and seats will be spaced six feet apart or as far apart as possible to accommodate all students.
- Seating charts for busses and classrooms will be created to assist contact tracing efforts.
- Staff and student gatherings will be kept to a minimum and distancing will be planned.
- Classes will go outside when feasible.
- Parents and potential visitors will be asked to consider using e-mail or telephone to communicate rather than in person.
- Parents will be asked to consider transporting their children, or allowing them to walk if those are viable options for them.

Prevention Measures

Social Distancing:

- Daily schedules will be revised to reduce student movement.
- Staff and student gatherings will be minimized.
- Online classes will be available for specific students.
- Primary grades will reduce movement where possible.
- Directional hallway and stair travel will be implemented where possible.
- Locker use/visits will be minimized.
- Modified seating in Cafeterias will be arranged to distance students as much as possible

Prevention Measures

COVID-19 Screening

- Staff will take a personal survey before reporting to work each day.
- Students/parents will be asked to report if family or friends have been exposed to the virus and/or, have had symptoms of the virus.
- Students who are in a “high risk” category will be provided alternative programming opportunities.
- Students and staff will be formally excluded where applicable.
- Visitors to schools will be screened for Covid-19 symptoms/exposure and those entering will be asked to wear a mask.

Prevention Measures

Cleaning/Disinfecting/Air Quality

- Facilities will be cleaned daily by trained staff.
- Staff will use approved Covid-19 cleaning supplies to disinfect.
- When possible, students will not share equipment or supplies.
- Equipment will be wiped down after each use.
- Heating and cooling systems will be operating continuously to improve air flow.
- Water fountains will be out of service and off limits.
- Staff will be identifying practices that reduce student touching of common surfaces.
- Students will be educated on Covid-19 hygiene practices to reduce risk to themselves and others.
- Classrooms and departments will be supplied with hand sanitizer and wipes for use on desks/equipment
- Facility use by outside groups will be limited.
- Lunches and snacks will consist of prepackaged food.
- Students will be provided opportunities to wash hands regularly and use wipes provided to classrooms.
- Covid-19 Hygiene posters will be prominently displayed in all buildings

Prevention Measures

Professional Development/Training

- Staff will be trained on attendance procedures for calling off.
- Staff will be trained on screening themselves and students for Coronavirus symptoms/exposure.
- Staff will reinforce accepted personal hygiene practices developed by the CDC and Health Department.
- Posters reinforcing Covid-19 hygiene practices will be displayed in prominent areas for students and staff.
- Families First Coronavirus Response Act posters will be displayed in staff workrooms.
- Staff will be advised on how to reduce student touching of common surfaces in their assigned areas.
- Parents will have access to resources on hygiene suggestions, Covid-19 exposure and positive case reporting.
- Students will receive instruction on hygiene tips and practices.
- Covid-19 testing site details from the Health department will be made available to parents and staff.

Prevention Measures

Visitor Entry Procedures:

- Visitors will read postings on the front doors before requesting to be admitted. Postings will outline personal screening questions for the guest to read.
- Guests will be asked to sign-in upon entering as long as one or more of the following conditions do not apply to them.
 - Have or have had a fever within the last 24 hours (100.4° or greater) or acute onset of cough, difficulty breathing, or any other symptoms that may suggest you are ill (fever with headache, sore throat, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of taste/smell, etc.)
 - Have had unprotected contact with laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 person within the last 14 days.
 - Have been tested for Covid-19 and are awaiting results, or have tested positive.
 - History of travel to affected geographic areas (domestic or abroad), including cruises, as defined by CDC or your state Department of Health within the last 14 days.
- Guests will be asked to wear mask if they are entering the school.
- Tables will be placed in front of reception desks to create separation between guests and employees. Plexiglass will be installed to create barriers where feasible.
- Guests will be asked to spray their hands with supplied disinfectant at the sign in table.

Student/Staff Exclusion Positive Covid-19 Results

Parents/guardians will be expected to report to the building principal if their child tested positive for Covid-19. Staff will be expected to report to their immediate supervisor if they tested positive for Covid-19.

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

Students and employees will be educated to recognize the following Covid-19 related symptoms:

- A fever of 100.4° F or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained.

Student/Staff Exclusion- Positive Covid-19 Results

Return to School After Exclusion:

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

Untested

Persons who have not received a test proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but experience symptoms may return if the following four conditions are met:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
- The state website has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location, and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently. <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>

Student/Staff Exclusion- Positive Covid-19 Results

Return to School After Exclusion:

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are:

Tested Positive- Symptomatic

Persons who experienced symptoms and have been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following conditions are met:

- The individual no longer has a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers); and
- Other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved); and
- At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- The individual has received two negative tests at least 24 hours apart.

Tested Positive- Asymptomatic

Persons who have not had symptoms but test positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 10 calendar days past their test without symptoms and have been released by a healthcare provider. Students may also return if they are approved to do so in writing by the student's healthcare provider.

Response Interventions

Response to Positive Cases

In the event of a positive Covid-19 case among our students and staff, Indiana State Department of Health Officials will conduct contact tracing to determine which, if any, students or staff members were “exposed” to Covid-19.

Tracing results will assist school officials in determining the length of time necessary to close the school, disinfect, and communicate with the community as well as those that will be excluded from school/work.

In making their determinations regarding direct exposure, Department of Health officials will determine the amount/type of contact that occurred and determine if individuals have been exposed and are at risk. Department of Health officials will then advise individuals regarding quarantine details.

Exposure is a term used to apply to cases where individuals have been in close contact to a positive case. For reference as to what constitutes exposure, see the Response Interventions Chart.

Response Interventions

Person A

Confirmed Case
Must Self Quarantine

Person B

**Contact with
Confirmed Case**

If exposure is confirmed, Person B must stay at home, practice social distancing, and monitor for symptoms.

If casual contact, no special precautions are necessary.

Person C

Contact with Person B

Unless Person B has or develops symptoms, tests positive for Covid-19, Person C is not at risk and no special precautions are necessary.

*Person C is not at risk for infection and would not be subject to self-isolation unless Person B had or developed symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19.

Response Interventions

Absence monitoring:

Student and staff absences will be monitored closely throughout the school year. Indiana law requires schools to maintain student attendance records. Schools that experience student daily absence levels exceeding 20% will report the information to the La Porte County Department of Health.

Response Interventions

Social Emotional Interventions for Staff and Students

- LPCSC Staff and students will likely have social emotional needs to be met returning to school with such a long period off and right in the midst of social protests going on across the country.
- La Porte Community School Corporation has a Social Emotional Learning Curriculum for grades PK-12. The curriculum, by grade level, can be found in the appendix of this plan.
- Counselors, social workers and staff will use their training to look for signs of students and staff that may be struggling socially and/or emotionally.
- School administrators and our Family Resource Services Staff will participate in Project AWARE, an interactive platform that provides resources and training for K-12 administrators and educators to help improve the mental health of students and their access to services:
<https://www.projectawarein.org/resources/>.

Response Interventions

Learning Loss Interventions

The LPCSC anticipates that due to the Covid-19 related eLearning instructional program last school year, students may have fallen behind in their pace to master academic standards for their grade/classes.

In order to address this situation, LPCSC teachers will be starting the school year with spiraling lessons and experiences both in subject classes and grade level courses. Additionally, the Northwest Evaluation Educational Assessment(N.W.E.A) will be administered and results will guide staff lessons and review efforts.

Students will be able to take advantage of Study Island Software , assistance from their classroom teachers, after school homework help, and local Wi-Fi hotspots arranged by the school corporation to meet additional student learning needs.