



LaPorte Community School Corporation
“Get back to Learning” Re-entry Options for 2020-2021 School Year
Questions & Answers

Updated 8-27-20

Instructional Questions		
1	What are the learning options available for LPCSC students?	1) Traditional (in-person) instruction 2) LPCSC Distance Learning Academy (students working remotely with LPCSC teachers) 3) LPCSC Homeschool Academy (instruction provided by third party provider, EdOptions) Parents must complete online registration from July 29-Aug. 7th and indicate their option.
2	What will the traditional, in-person school day look like?	Traditional (on campus learning) will follow the Green/Yellow/Red threat levels as outlined in the corporation’s Getting Back on Track plan. In-person learning environments have been modified for social distancing and additional safety measures. Parents and students are expected to exercise self-screening prior to in-person attendance.
3	If someone commits to in-person and then changes their mind, will they be allowed to switch to distance learning?	Students can make changes to their learning plan at the 9-weeks mark for grades K-8 and at the semester mark for students in grades 9-12.
4	How many teachers will my child have in the distance learning option?	K-6 students will have one distance learning teacher; middle and high school students will have more than one teacher depending on subjects. Students will also be assigned to a teacher at their “home” school.
5	Can/will schools change colors or open and close at a moment's notice?	Cases in our schools and levels of threat that exist in the county will be monitored. The corporation recognizes the inconvenience changes in schedules can cause families and will communicate changes as soon as possible.

6	How can I get more information about Option 3 - the Homeschool Academy?	<p>A virtual meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4th at 5 p.m. Register in advance for this webinar: https://edmentum.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Dsb7Gw6mRWq4duuM-cWBcw</p>
7	What options are available for PreK students?	<p>PreK students should choose the traditional, in person, option. Online curriculum will not be available for PreK.</p>
8	Will preschool students complete blended learning if in-person learning goes from Green to Yellow or Red?	<p>Preschool teachers will provide work packets and possibly some virtual activities, if in-person learning goes to Yellow or Red threat levels.</p>
9	When do athletics start?	<p>High school and middle school athletics are following the phased athletic return to play plan which can be found at the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/10wAZA2V59MWRxrkxMRU9tC3pkLfZxM0t/view</p>
10	What is happening with the LP County Career & Technical Center programming?	<p>Programming at the career center includes on-campus instruction in a block format meaning all schools will be divided into groups to attend on different days. LPHS falls in Block B and will attend classes only on Wednesday and Thursday each week. The balance of those days will consist of online instruction. Transportation will be provided from LPHS. Students may request permission to drive through LPHS.</p>
11	What will happen to in-person learning if the threat levels change from Green to Yellow or Red?	<p>If there is a change in threat levels, in-person learning students will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teacher. In Yellow, the number of in person days would be 1-4 rather than 5 and in Red, instruction would be delivered virtually to students by their in person teacher.</p> <p>A change in threat levels would not impact students who are already enrolled in the Distance Learning Academy or the LP Homeschool Academy; those programs would continue as originally set up with the student.</p>

12	How will breakfast be served?	Breakfast will be served as a “grab and go” allowing students to go to their classrooms at the elementary or into different areas at the intermediate, middle and high school.
13	How will lunch be served?	The cafeteria will be arranged to provide social distancing and other spaces will be utilized. More supervision will be assigned to assist with social distancing in line and other areas.
14	Will my child be allowed to carry a backpack? Will they have a locker?	Yes, students will be allowed to carry a backpack. A clear backpack is preferred. Students will be assigned a locker but asked to minimize visits to reduce hallway traffic.
15	Can my student enroll in in-person learning to try it out for a few weeks and then switch to distance learning?	No, the school corporation needs to ensure that adequate staffing is in place when giving students learning plan options.
16	Will there be an Open House for my child to visit the school prior to the first day?	Schools are in the process of making plans for the start of the school year. Some may be doing virtual open houses as a way to reduce building traffic. Please refer to communication from your child’s principal.
17	Will childcare be available before and after school?	Yes, the childcare program is operating. http://www.lpcsc.k12.in.us/childcare/
18	What if I do not have a strong broadband internet at home?	Because strong internet connection is required for Option 2 and Option 3, students would be best served in Option 1, Traditional setting.
19	Will I receive a school chromebook?	All students, K-12, will receive a school chromebook to use. Each school will inform parents of chromebook distribution.
20	Do all LPCSC schools have video streaming capabilities that would allow teachers to do synchronous classes by streaming regular classes?	LPCSC does not currently have webcam setups for all teachers but are working on adding this equipment to help improve our ability to teach students the same lesson at home that the students in class receive.

21	What happens if we select a distance learning option for my child and LPCSC ends up not opening/or closing at some point due to COVID numbers. Do students have the option of re-registering for original classes, or are they “stuck” with their original learning option selected?	The plan calls for a minimum commitment (semester for high school; 9 weeks K-8). Students can’t go back and forth in a term, but can re-register at the break increments to stay in their current option.
22	What happens if my child starts with LPCSC Homeschool Academy or LPCSC Distance Learning Academy, but we discover that program isn’t a good fit for my student?	Your child will be able to return to their traditional “home school” after the minimum set time (9 weeks for grades K-8, semester for grades 9-12). Families will be asked to review the situation with the LPCSC Homeschool and Distance Learning administrator.
23	Does LPCSC Homeschool or LPCSC Distance Learning cost money?	<p>There is no cost for the LPCSC Homeschool Academy or the LPCSC Distance Learning Academy. They are public school options as part of LaPorte Community School Corporation.</p> <p>Book rental fees will still be charged for LPCSC Distance Learning, as students will have access to Chromebooks and e-format textbooks. Homeschool will be charged for chromebook rental at a cost of: Grades 1, 5 and 9 - \$31.50 (chromebook) per year, \$16.20 (chromebook case) one time charge All other grades - \$27.50 (chromebook) per year, \$20.00 (chromebook case) one time charge.</p>
24	If my child enrolls in LPCSC Homeschool or LPCSC Distance Learning, do they work during the school day, or can we work on our own time?	The State of Indiana requires your student to work 25 hours per week for elementary school and 30 hours per week for middle/high school. LPCSC Distance Learning will require more of a traditional school day schedule, with a schedule and calendar of live instruction from a LPCSC teacher. The LPCSC Homeschool Academy allows

		the student/family to have flexible course pace therefore a flexible work day.
25	We're considering the Homeschool elementary school program. How much will parents/caregivers be involved? What interaction with other children will they experience?	LaPorte Homeschool requires the at home leadership of an adult for a young child to be successful. All courses will be taught by Ed Options teachers--with support from a LPCSC administrator helping you answer questions. The program is flexible to your schedule, and therefore <u>asynchronous</u> --there is engaging content like videos, games, and virtual labs, but not necessarily live instruction. Your child, regardless of grade level, will be working independently from other children in the Homeschool option. After LPCSC Homeschool enrollment is collected, we will be surveying to see how LPCSC can best support Homeschool learning from home.
26	My child doesn't have access to a device. Can LPCSC help?	All LPCSC students (regardless of their learning option choice) will have access to Chromebook rental.
27	I want my child to continue to receive school breakfast/lunch, and/or I receive free/reduced lunch. Will my child be able to receive breakfast/lunch through LPCSC?	Yes. In August, we will make arrangements for school meals and share details with you.
28	Can my child participate in athletics through their home school?	If your student is enrolled in LPCSC Distance Learning Academy, yes he/she may but must adhere to IHSAA by-laws and orange book policy. If the student is involved in LaPorte Homeschool, no they may not unless the IHSAA by-law 12-5 is met (very rare).
29	Can my child participate in extracurricular activities through their home school?	Yes, but participation is subject to administrative approval.
30	Will my elementary or middle school student be able to participate in high ability courses?	We will be watching distance learning enrollment numbers closely to provide the best educational programming possible. High ability courses are highly specialized and rely on classroom interaction.

31	Can my high school student still take AP courses through LaPorte Distance Learning Academy?	Yes, depending on enrollment and technology, we will do our best to accommodate AP course enrollees. LaPorte Homeschool does not offer AP courses. We will see if any qualified AP teachers request to be distant teachers. If an AP credentialed teacher is available, the course may be delivered virtually.
32	My child was set to take a dual credit course this year. Is that possible with a distance learning option?	We will do our best to accommodate high school students enrolled in LaPorte distance learning to be able to continue with dual credit. LaPorte Homeschool does not offer dual credit.
33	My child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Will they be able to follow their IEP through LaPorte Distance Learning?	Students with IEPs will be supported by LPCSC teachers and teacher of records through LaPorte Distance Learning. If your child has an IEP and you are interested in distance learning or LaPorte Homeschool, please contact special education representative to set up a case conference meeting to discuss whether the virtual option is a good choice for your child. Your child's IEP will continue, whether in the virtual program or traditional setting.
34	Will there be a distance learning option for PreK?	No, a traditional classroom setting is the only option for PreK during the 2020-2021 school year. If in-person learning goes to Yellow or Red threat levels, then the preschool teacher will provide hard copy packets and/or electronic learning materials.
35	What is the length of commitment when selecting an option?	K-8: Nine Week commitment Grades 9-12: Semester commitment
36	Can Option 2, Distance Learning, be continued into the second semester?	Yes. Families will be asked prior to the end of the semester whether they wish to continue in Option 2 for second semester.
37	HS students schedules are not on Skyward. Will they still be able to get into the classes they had selected? Will we know this before we register?	We are working to have previous selections visible for students and parents. In the interim, if there are questions we encourage you to contact the school.

Health, Safety, and Personal Protection Equipment Questions and Answers

1	What preventative measures are being put into place in my child's school for safety against COVID?	Each school has developed a re-entry plan with safety measures designed to reduce risks. These plans are constantly being updated and revised for improvement. Please refer to your child's school plan on the school's website.
2	Where can I get information from the Indiana Dept. of Education on school re-entry?	The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) released the IN-CLASS (Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools) document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T1nQj3BrQRtT5QXVcVLGe114bOd5dSCIWRggPuPE5dg/edit
3	Why is the data in the board presentation from two weeks ago? Given the fluid nature of the pandemic, current data places Indiana in the category of surging (or about to), with other states barring residents from entering their state without 14 day quarantine.	The data graphs in the presentation were intended to be examples of the types of data we will be looking at to make determinations on the status of Covid in the county. Data changes daily on those sites as well as the links referenced in the July 27 presentation.
4	What are the specific thresholds for Green, Yellow, and Red?	We will work with the county and state health departments to look at the data and make the determination for all schools in the county at the same time. One data set or formula does not currently exist. Certainly positive case counts are important along with percentages of symptomatic cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Recently some counties have produced formulas and those vary from one county to the next. Most of those have focused on the percent of positive tests.

5	Given that many people streaming board meetings would like to add questions, can you enable the live chat?	Questions can be asked either in person or by calling in for public comment. We are not opposed to the idea of working in other ways for public comment. We are also hopeful that communications after the meetings will address specific questions.
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6	Are masks required to be worn by the students for the entire day or just while in the halls?	Each school plan addresses face coverings and masks. All students are required to wear face coverings while physically present in school buildings and facilities. This includes students between the ages of 2 and 8. There are some exemptions to the face covering requirements which are outlined in the state's executive order and each school's plan.
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7	What measures should I take when self screening my child?	Screening should take place every morning: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take temperature: No higher than 100.4 2. Assess for symptoms of cough, chills, sore throat, muscle pain, headache, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, congestion or shortness of breath;
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8	Do students have to wear masks while in their seats?	Executive order 20-39 from Governor Holcomb outlined guidance regarding face masks in class. If students are seated from 3-6 feet apart and facing the same direction they do not have to wear masks. The order can be found on this link: https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive%20Order%2020-39%20(2nd%20Extension%20Stage%204.5).pdf
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9	Will masks be provided?	The school will provide one face covering for each student. Parents are asked to provide at least one additional face covering. All face coverings must cover the nose and mouth and must be school appropriate (not disruptive).
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10	Are there any exemptions for face coverings in the LPCSC?	The exemptions to the face covering requirements are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food Consumption: while eating and drinking ● Faculty/Staff Areas: Faculty and staff while working together in a room, office, or place where social distancing of 6 feet or more from each other may be maintained. This does not apply to when staff is preparing food or meals.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom Settings: When classrooms are arranged for students to be socially distance (3 to 6 ft.). When the teacher can be socially distant from students, the teacher does not have to wear a face covering. ● Recess: When social distancing can be maintained, face coverings are not required. ● Extracurricular Activities/Co-Curricular Activities: Students, teachers, instructors, directors, coaches, trainers, volunteers, and any other personnel when engaged in strenuous physical activity or can maintain social distancing.
11	Where can I get more info about health and safety related to COVID?	The Indiana Department of Health created a guide for parents at the following link: https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19/incovid019-parentsfaq-32320.pdf
12	Were there parents on the Coronavirus Committee?	Names of members and the school /department they represented are in the July 27th presentation. Parents were not involved in the committee as the charge of the group was to look at Covid safety within all departments, schools, and employee unions.
13	Will I be notified if a student in my child's school is COVID positive?	LPCSC will inform parents and staff when a positive case is confirmed. No details will be given out to protect all from privacy rights violations. We will be following Indiana State Department of Health guidelines which calls for contacting individuals that have been within 6 feet of positive cases for 15 or more minutes.
14	How will passing periods work at the middle and high school levels?	Students are expected to wear masks in the hallways when social distancing is not possible. Students will not be allowed to congregate in crowds to socialize. Everyone needs to keep moving. Additionally, the schools are improving traffic patterns with directional arrows in the hallways and designated up/down stairways. Specific routes and staggering movement will be implemented when and where possible.
15	Is the prison included in the LP County numbers that our district is using to assess our yellow status?	Yes. All county data is included in the data regardless of the city or institution.

<p>16.</p>	<p>How is the covid Positivity average figured in order to determine if we are in the red,yellow, or green?</p>	<p>Go to the Indiana Department of Public Health web page and click on the coronavirus database. Above the interactive map of Indiana click on the positivity box. Next click on La Porte County on the map. Go to the graphs for the county labeled LaPorte County Daily Positive Test Rate. Hover your mouse over the columns which represent dates. Over each date a box will appear with two percentages. One percentage is a daily positivity percentage and the other is the positive rate moving average. Add the positive rate moving average numbers for the last 14 available dates. Divide by 14. That is the percentage we will use on September 2, 16,30, and October 14 when we evaluate the threat..</p>
<p>17.</p>	<p>46. If we compute the positivity percentage and we need to change from one phase to another on our red,yellow, green chart, will the change occur the next day?</p>	<p>The dates that we will be determining the positivity rate fall on Wednesdays. If there is a change in programming it will begin the following Monday.</p>
<p>18.</p>	<p>Can my child wear a face shield instead of a mask?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A face shield is primarily used for eye protection for the person wearing it. At this time, it is not known what level of protection a face shield provides to people nearby from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer. There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control.

		<p>Therefore, CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● However, wearing a mask may not be feasible in every situation for some people for example, people who are deaf or hard of hearing—or those who care for or interact with a person who is hearing impaired. Here are some considerations for individuals who must wear a face shield instead of a mask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although evidence on face shields is limited, the available data suggest that the following face shields may provide better source control than others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Face shields that wrap around the sides of the wearer’s face and extend below the chin. ■ Hooded face shields. ○ Face shield wearers should wash their hands before and after removing the face shield and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth when removing it. ○ Disposable face shields should only be worn for a single use and disposed of according to manufacturer instructions. ○ Reusable face shields should be cleaned and disinfected after each use according to manufacturer instructions or by following CDC face shield cleaning instructions.
19	Are masks required at recess?	Yes. Masks are required at recess when students are not socially distanced. If a student is reading

		off to the side or taking a walk by himself/herself, a mask would not be required.
TRANSPORTATION		
1	What safety measures will be taken on the bus?	Because it is impossible to social distance on the bus, masks will be required for students, drivers and aides. Seating charts will be used on the bus and students will be expected to sit in their assigned seat. Buses will be cleaned throughout the day and at the end of the day.
2	Can I drop my student off at school instead of riding the bus?	Yes, parents who are able to transport their children will help the transportation department plan for better social distancing and efficient routes if parents can provide transportation. Please refer to each school's parent drop-off and pick-up procedures and schedule.
3	Will students be allowed multiple drop-off and pick-up locations?	LPCSC will need to limit families to ONE pick up location in the morning and ONE drop off location in the afternoon each day. The pick up and drop off location may be different.
	Will transportation be available to all students?	All students, except PreK students, will be provided bus transportation.