

Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum Guidance 2022-2023

LEAs are required to update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan every six months through **Sept. 30, 2023**. Each time, local education agencies (LEAs) must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. The purpose of the plan is to keep stakeholders informed.

Every LEA should complete the addendum and upload it to ePlan in the LEA document library and post it to the LEA's website (Feb. 15 and Sept. 15). Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

Please consider the following when completing the addendum:

- Ensure the LEA used multiple models of engagement offered to stakeholders. Examples may include surveys, in-person or virtual committee meetings, town hall meetings, or other inclusive engagement opportunities.
- LEAs should engage all applicable groups noted in meaningful consultation during the crafting of the plan and when making any significant revisions or updates to the plan.
- The number of stakeholders engaged should represent the composition of students. For example, if students with disabilities make up 15 percent of students, then 10-20 percent of respondents should represent this subgroup.
- Ensure the stakeholder engagement happened prior to the development/revision of the plan.
- The LEA must engage the health department in the development and revision of the plan. This is different from providing the health department with COVID-19 numbers.
- Plans must explicitly address every bullet point in Question 3 regarding district policies and strategies.
- Plans require local board approval and public posting.
- LEAs must update the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.
- All revisions must include an explanation and rationale, with meaningful public consultation and in an understandable format. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Addendum

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) helps safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. LEAs are required to update the plan every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, and must seek public input on the plan and any revisions and must take such input into account. LEAs also must review and update their plans and ensure they align with any significant changes to CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

LEA Name: Lake County Schools

Date: August 2022

1. Describe how the LEA has continued to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.

To revise the Health and Safety Plan, Lake County Schools engaged in meaningful consultation with our families and community partners during April and May of 2022. We employed multiple modes of engagement to inform our planning team, including an online survey, direct emails and phone calls to interest groups representing students, discussion with our district parent and family engagement council, an open comment email address that will remain publicly available through the life of ESSER decision-making, and QR code access to the survey posted throughout our communities, website, and social media outlets. Survey data and feedback from community members were reviewed during health and safety team meetings and administrator meetings during the revision process. District officials discussed the plan with Lake County Health Department representatives to consider revisions and discuss the latest TDH and CDC guidance. Following the revision process, the Lake County School Board reviewed and approved the plan during the September 2022 Board Meeting. The Administrative Team is charged with plan implementation in their respective schools. The most current plan will remain posted on the Lake County Schools district website at least throughout the life of the ESSER grants.

2. Describe how the LEA engaged the health department in the development of the revised plan.

Lake County Schools Coordinated School Health Officials discussed the plan with a representative from the Lake County Department of Health. Input from the local health department representative was considered and used to make further revisions before final approval by the School Board. The local health department representative will be consulted during the revision phase every 6 months during the life of ESSER funding and at any such time that the plan may need additional revisions due to local public health emergencies.

3. Provide the extent to which the LEA has updated adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

Extra measures are being taken to further protect students with disabilities who may be more susceptible to complications from viral contagion. Additional cleaning procedures are being utilized to help lessen viral transmission. Homebound services are available for students who are under the care of a physician and require a different placement due to health risks. Proper handwashing techniques and respiratory etiquette posters are placed throughout the schools, so students have visual reminders concerning health and safety measures. Students with an IEP are placed in his or her least restrictive environment (LRE) to maximize learning. When the LRE is a regular education classroom, the student follows the same safety protocols that are in place for all students and staff, which are in place to promote a healthy and safe environment for everyone.

Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

Physical distancing is encouraged, but not required at this time. Should community viral spread increase, LCS will work in conjunction with local health department officials and county officials to follow any updated state or CDC guidance for physical distancing. New furniture for physical distancing has replaced older, difficult to sanitize furniture, and more furniture will be ordered to further these efforts.

Hand washing and respiratory etiquette

Posters concerning proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette are displayed throughout our schools. Teachers and staff members teach younger students how to engage in these important prevention strategies. In upper grades, students are reminded of these prevention strategies as necessary.

<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including improving ventilation</i>
ESSER funding has helped improve our indoor air quality. New HVAC units were installed in each of our 3 schools to help improve air quality and remove indoor air pollutants. Windows will be replaced to help mitigate viral spread. This work will be completed in the fall of 2022. Custodial and maintenance staff members are ensuring that proper sanitation resources are available to staff members in each school. Stockpiles of PPE have been secured and are distributed as needed. Surfaces in many areas of our schools were painted with antimicrobial paint to help maintain a healthy environment. Additional cleaning procedures are in place on all campuses. Extra care is being given to disinfecting surfaces, especially doors, tables, chairs, light switches, and other surfaces that students touch frequently. Custodians and all school staff are diligently cleaning desks, tables, and supplies that are handled by multiple children to prevent viral spread.
<i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</i>
School nurses follow CDC protocols for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. Currently the local Health Department is contact tracing. The local Health Department notifies families of students who need to quarantine or isolate.
<i>Diagnostic and screening testing</i>
Students are screened for physical and emotional issues. Health screenings are conducted for students in even numbered grades every year. Students are screened for mental health issues at least once per year through the SRSS screener. Students also have access to an online request for counseling services through Project Aware. Students can be served in-person or online if they are quarantined due to COVID-19 or any other health risk. Each school has a school nurse and counselor to provide needed services for students and staff. Students and staff members can participate in Telehealth services which is provided through a partnership with a local nurse practitioner. Through this service and with parental consent, nurses can conduct testing for COVID-19 and other infections, such as flu and strep, under the direction of the nurse practitioner. Tele Mental Health Services are being offered, with parental consent, to students through a partnership with Coordinated School Health and Carey Counseling.
<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>
Information from the Tennessee Department of Health is being forwarded to students through our social media outlets and our Alert Now call system.

Universal and correct wearing of masks

At the time of this addendum, LCS students and staff members are not required to wear masks. Should community viral spread increase, LCS will work in conjunction with local health department officials and county officials to determine whether universal masking will be required or recommended. School nurses, teachers, and staff work with students to ensure correct mask wearing when masks are required or recommended.

4. Provide a current description as to how the LEA is ensuring continuity of services including but not limited to services that address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Social, Emotional, and Mental health:

School counselors and student support personnel will be available to assist students and staff members with any social, emotional, or mental health issue(s) that may arise. In the event of another shutdown, counselors are available through online conferencing platforms to meet with students. School counselors have created Google Classrooms with links to the counseling request form, so all students, whether in-person or online, will have access to services. Tele-Mental Health services are available to students, with parental consent, and staff through a community partnership with Carey Counseling.

Student health:

School nurses follow local policy and CDC protocols for managing student health issues, such as screening, contact tracing, and isolation of students who exhibit symptoms of viral infection. Students are screened for health issues by our school nursing team in conjunction with our Coordinated School Health Program. Telehealth services are available, with parental consent, and can be used by students and staff. Through telehealth, school nurses, under the direction of a local nurse practitioner, can conduct COVID testing as well as tests for other illnesses such as flu and strep. Our lead school nurse is the liaison between the schools and the local health department. School nurses follow CDC protocols for contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. Currently the local Health Department is contact tracing. The local Health Department notifies families of students who need to quarantine or isolate.

Food services:

Food services utilizes touch-less barcode scanners at all cafeteria checkouts. Grab & Go meals are provided where feasible and as necessary when viral spread is determined to be increasing. In the event of a new viral outbreak, food service personnel will distribute meals using the same remote feeding procedures that were implemented in 2020 and 2021 so there is no major disruption in services.

Continuity of academic services:

LCS is providing in-person instruction. Tutoring is provided through two grant sources. Our SWAG program, which serves grades 1-8, is funded through a 21st Century CLC grant, and our tutoring program at Lake County High School, which serves grades 9-12, is funded through the ESSER 3.0 grant.

LCS has adopted a Virtual Education Policy for students who need to participate in **temporary** remote learning due to quarantine, illness, homebound, or shifting to hybrid scheduling. In the event that it becomes necessary to resume hybrid scheduling due to a viral outbreak, students and staff members have devices that they already know how to use for daily instruction. Google Suite will be the primary LMSs utilized for instruction, and teachers have a wide variety of other platforms to assign as supplemental material. Staff members will remain in contact with students on a daily basis. Students will be expected to utilize video conferencing apps to maintain contact with teachers for daily well-being checks, classroom instruction, and evidence of independent skill practice. Students should experience little to no interruption in schoolwork in the event of a shutdown. LCS will also conduct 1 virtual practice day each semester to ensure students are able to login to remote learning platforms.