



# **2023-2024 Lesterville R-IV Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**

Mission Statement: The mission of the Lesterville R-IV Schools is to help all students realize their worth and potential as individuals and to guide them toward becoming productive members of society.

This plan was adopted as part of a public board meeting on July 18, 2023. This plan will be updated and revised as needed in order to safely educate our students. The latest revisions were made on July 18, 2023.



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# Introduction

As Lesterville School transitions into the 2023-2024 school year, there is still a level of uncertainty in the educational world. However, the district knows that families and communities need schools to reopen as safely as possible with guidance from local health officials. This is a moment when all of us—educators, families, and communities—must unite to ensure that children reenter schools with safety as a top priority so that learning can continue and students can develop the social and emotional connections necessary for their growth. These past couple years have served as a great reminder of the role that public schools play in ensuring an equitable education for all students. Schools create conditions that support students with their social/emotional needs, develop lifelong friendships, explore their passions, and channel their energy into productive pursuits and activities.

As the world around us changes and evolves, it is imperative for the school district to learn and grow, preparing students to be successful and resilient regardless of the opportunities and challenges that lie before them. We have examined all aspects of the organization and created this guide to organize a set of directions and protocols aligned to the guidance of medical experts to lead us as we strive to provide a quality education for all students.

The mission of the Lesterville R-IV Schools is to help all students realize their worth and potential as individuals and to guide them toward becoming productive members of society. Our commitment toward providing for the health and well-being of students is of utmost importance in achieving our mission. The district is wholly committed to living our mission, no matter the circumstances are put before us. We look forward to partnering with our parents and community as the 2023-2024 school year begins.



# COVID-19

## Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have reported having a wide range of symptoms – from mild symptoms to severe illness. Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness. Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

This list is not all inclusive. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (CDC, 2020).

## Screening

Parents are asked to screen students for COVID-19 symptoms at home prior to getting on the bus or coming to school. The school nurse and staff will monitor the student population throughout the day for any COVID-19 symptoms. Students exhibiting potential COVID-19 symptoms will be screened promptly. Any student who becomes symptomatic will be isolated and will wear a face mask until they are picked up by a parent/guardian. Parents/guardians will be expected to pick up the student in a timely manner.

## Positive Cases

Should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19, traditional contact tracing and quarantine practices (as directed by the state and local health departments) will be put into play for close contacts (that are not fully vaccinated).



# Universal Precautions Recommended by the Centers for Disease Control

## **Hand Washing**

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

## **Physical Distancing**

Avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between yourself and others. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping an appropriate distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

## **Masks**

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others. You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected. Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.

## **Cover Coughs and Sneezes**

If you are in a private setting and do not have your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

## **Clean and Disinfect**

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets and sinks. If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants work well.



# Minimizing Risk

## **What can we do to minimize the risk at school?**

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Reynolds County Health Department, the district has developed a plan that places student and employee safety at the forefront of returning to school. Classroom teachers and support staff will play an increasingly important role in the health and wellness of students. Please review the following checklist that will assist in preventing the spread of sickness:

### Classroom Health & Safety Norms

- Use hand sanitizer / wash your hands for 20 seconds each time you enter and exit the school building
- Use hand sanitizer /wash your hands for 20 seconds each time you enter and exit each classroom
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds after using the restroom
- Cough and sneeze in your sleeve
- Keep your hands out of your mouth and away from your eyes
- Have a place to keep items that have been mouthed or soiled until they can be cleaned
- Remove items that cannot be easily cleaned
- Do your best to use your own supplies. Limit use of community supplies
- Utilize virtual manipulatives as much as possible
- Limit multiple students touching/interacting with the same materials
- Ensure students are facing the same direction as much as possible
- Water fountains will be shut off. Personal water bottles can be filled at the water filling stations
- At this time, Lesterville School is not making masks mandatory; however, students and staff may wear them if they choose.
- Clinics will be organized in partnership with the Reynolds County Health Center for those individuals who are eligible and wish to receive the vaccine.

These safety procedures will be taught and practiced in all of our classrooms. Parental support and reinforcement of these measures will be critical in providing the safest possible environment for students.



# Lesterville School 2022-2023 Education

At this time, we are planning to begin school using Phase 1 on August 22, 2023. In the event the district is required to reduce capacity, an alternative schedule will be implemented. If a decision is made to transition to Phases 2 or 3, Lesterville School will enact our Alternative Methods of Instruction plan. Details of this plan will be communicated with families.

In addition, the district will provide all students with a wifi enabled device. Equitable access to learning opportunities for all students will be made regardless of circumstance. Accommodations will be provided as needed or dictated by a student's Individual Education Plan.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>Phase 1: Regular week, with five days of in-person learning.</b>				
<b>1</b>	In-person learning for all students	In-person learning for all students	In-person learning for all students	In-person learning for all students	In-person learning for all students
	<b>Phase 2: Modified week, with two groups (A and B). Students will split time between In-person learning and E-learning.</b>				
<b>2</b>	A: In-person B: E-learning	A: In-person B: E-learning	E-learning for all students.	A: E-learning B: In-person	A: E-learning B: In-person
	<b>Phase 3: E-learning only, no in-person learning.</b>				
<b>3</b>	E-learning for all students	E-learning for all students	E-learning for all students	E-learning for all students	E-learning for all students

## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- District counselors will work with students, teachers and families to support students socially and emotionally. Partnerships with outside agencies may also be used to support the social/emotional health of students.



# Building Visitors

**At this time, we ask that you limit visits to the school to only those absolutely necessary. If you are not feeling well, please do not visit the school. If you must visit the school during the school day, masks are required for visitors.**

## **Dropoff and Pickup Procedures**

In the interest of limiting visitors to the school building as much as possible to comply with safety recommendations regarding COVID-19, we ask that parents/guardians don't accompany their child in the building in the mornings if at all possible. Students can be dropped off at the elementary doors where a staff member will greet them.

Parents/guardians who will be picking up their student after school will not be able to enter the building. Parents/guardians will need to stay in the designated pickup area in front of the main entrance doors. Please don't be in the offices, hallways, or other areas unnecessarily.





# Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

## **What protocols will be in place in each building to properly disinfect classrooms and commonly touched surfaces?**

- Desks, chairs and commonly touched surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day.
- Procedures to clean frequent touchpoints will be implemented.

## **Student Hand Washing and Sanitizing**

- Elementary school teachers will build in time to have students periodically wash hands throughout the day, including, but not limited to, the start of the day, before and after lunch, and following recess.
- Custodial staff will be responsible for refilling sanitizer.

## **What additional measures will staff be expected to perform to limit potential exposure to other students/staff (in individual classrooms during the day)?**

- All employees should work to keep their office and workspace as clean as possible by cleaning and disinfecting their workstations, surfaces they commonly use and other touchpoints. Employees should also avoid using others' workstations, supplies, tools and equipment.
- Use virtual manipulatives/tools as much as possible.
- Limit multiple students touching/interacting with the same materials.
- Keep students physically distant within the classroom as much as possible.
- Ensure students are facing the same direction as much as possible.



# Breakfast and Lunch Procedures

**Breakfast:** Lesterville School will serve breakfast in the cafeteria. Students will be separated by building.

**Lunch:** Lunch schedules will be staggered to avoid multiple grade levels waiting in line to be served. Students will be seated by grade to reduce the blending of different grade levels. As much as possible, social distancing will be practiced. Some grades will have the option of eating outside or in their classroom.

## Transportation

Bus routes will run as scheduled. Family groups will sit together on the bus. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be added to each bus and will be available for use upon entering. Each bus will be disinfected at the end of each route. Bus riders may wear masks while on the bus. The district can provide masks as needed.



# Communication

District announcements will be made through the School Alert System (phone calls/emails/texts), the district website ([lesterville.k12.mo.us](http://lesterville.k12.mo.us)) and/or the district Facebook page.

The SRCSP is available in languages understandable to stakeholders. Stakeholders who need a copy in another language may contact the district office.

This plan will be reviewed with input from stakeholders (parents, students, Board of Education, staff and community) every six months or more frequently, if needed.