

Lexington R-V School District



Return to Learn Plan and Guidelines

#minutemenallin

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
General Information	4
Governance	5
Communication	6
Facilities	7
Transportation	7
Health/Wellness	8
Academic	10
Attendance	15
Building/Facility Visitors	16
Social and Emotional Health	16
Guidelines and protocols considered but <u>NOT ADOPTED</u>	17
Resources	17
District Contact Information	18

Introduction

Dear Lexington R-V Minutemen Family,

As the Lexington R-V School District plans for re-entry following the pandemic, we acknowledge that there is still uncertainty and that the COVID-19 information continues to change daily. This plan should be considered a “living document” that will continue to evolve as guidelines and information change to ensure that the most up-to-date information is considered for the health and safety of our students, staff and community. Fall planning has been an ongoing process throughout these past few months. We have been actively working on our reentry plan based on our local situation. Local, state, and national guidance has been taken into account as well as data collected in staff and family surveys.

The procedures, guidelines and expectations outlined in this plan are intended to provide guidance in preparing for successful reentry into regular education services. We will make every reasonable effort to minimize contact to COVID-19. However, we understand that the success of this plan requires the cooperative and collective efforts of our families, students, community and staff as attending school in person will inherently introduce a greater risk. We thank everyone in advance for their assistance in ensuring that the students in our community are able to return safely to learning. The district will continue to collaborate with regional colleagues and coordinate with local authorities (DESE, Local and State Health Departments, CDC) to adhere to the most recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We all need to be prepared to be flexible, as adjustments will occur as the situation changes. We will continue to work through this TOGETHER! Thank you again for your continued patience, support and dedication to our District, students, families and community.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent

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Director of Student Services

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Director of Technology

Jason Whitt
HS Principal

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General Information for Students and Faculty/Staff

The Lexington R-V School District is committed to providing a quality education to all students, while also ensuring their safety and well-being. The COVID-19 guidelines developed and presented below follow all applicable local, state, and federal guidelines to the greatest extent feasible, and incorporate many best practices advocated by school associations and groups. The guidelines and protocols outlined in this document are subject to revision as needed to reflect local, state, and federal guidance. Guidelines and protocols may also be revised as appropriate to reflect the needs of local conditions.

- Students are required to wear masks during arrival and dismissal of each school day (from the parking lot to the classroom), and during passing time for middle and high school students. These are times where larger groups of students will be in small areas at a time.
- Staff will wear face masks or shields when within 6 feet of students.
 - If a student or faculty/staff member is unable to obtain masks, the district will provide them. Homemade masks are acceptable but must meet school dress code guidelines.
 - Availability of district-provided masks is subject to the district's ability to procure masks (shortages of masks may limit availability).
 - Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition. Cloth masks should be washed daily.
 - Students may not share masks.
- Students will be guided to wash hands multiple times per day.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at multiple locations throughout the school.
- Drinking fountains will not be used, except for the bottle filling capabilities.
 - Students should bring personal water bottles from home. They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition.
- Social distancing will be observed to the extent possible by all faculty, staff and students.
- Student activities and athletics will be conducted as usual to the extent they are permissible under local, state, and federal guidelines. These are voluntary activities where students and parents have a choice to participate or not.
- Specific guidelines for activities, spectators, transportation and locker room use for sporting activities and events will be provided to players and their parents/guardians prior to each season to reflect current Lafayette County Health Department and MSHSAA guidelines.

- Daily sanitizing and disinfecting will be a priority at all district facilities. MS/HS students will sanitize desks at the end of each class period using wipes. Elementary will sanitize throughout the day as well.
- Attendance incentives for students will cease and attendance policies will be implemented as recommended by Federal, State and Local school attendance guidelines. Staff and/or students who are sick need to stay home.

Governance

The Board of Education and district administration will work with appropriate agencies to understand and plan for the immediate needs to reopen schools. Long term planning and consideration will be undertaken to address continued impacts of COVID-19 on instruction, facilities and best practices to ensure a safe learning environment for all. The district will take appropriate action when essential steps become necessary.

Potential Action Items:

- CDC and Local Health Guidelines monitored daily for adjustments in planning and practice.
- Review the 2020-2021 school calendar with considerations to possible contingencies.
- Consider suspending policies that conflict with statutory waivers or extensions granted by the Governor.
- Consider suspending policies and/or revising practices that conflict with Local and State emergency mandates.
- Review suggested changes to facilities based on recommendations from the Superintendent to minimize the risk of infection.
- Review and revise the budget as appropriate to plan for federal pandemic funds and other grants.
- Review staff leave policies.
- Review student attendance policies for absences during an outbreak.
- Review and make determinations for building closures and reopenings.
- Review and approve district plans for learning.
- Review and approve recommendations of the Superintendent of the necessary materials for teaching and learning.
- Review and approve recommendations of the Superintendent to procure necessary health and safety supplies.
- Apply for emergency relief funding when applicable.

Communication

The Lexington R-V district recognizes the importance of clear and effective communication as a critical element in any educational plan. In a time when contradictory messages may be provided from different sources, it is essential to identify the communication procedures to ensure that families, students, community members and staff receive the intended district message.

The District Central Office will issue any and all statements on behalf of the district as it relates to critical situations.

This includes:

- Preparing and sharing communications to staff
- Preparing and sharing communications to parents/guardians
- Preparing and sharing communications to students
- Preparing and sharing communications to the public
- Working with community agencies, local government, health-related groups to provide consistent and factual messages.

The District will share communications in the following ways:

- Email
- Textcaster
- School reach -- email and voice messages
- District Website
- District Facebook page

Facilities

- CDC and Local Health Guidelines are monitored daily for adjustments in planning and practice.
- Custodial staff and District Administrative team trained on sanitizing, disinfecting and cleaning best practices.
- Products that are CDC certified to kill communicable diseases including COVID-19 are purchased and being used.
- Custodial staff are deep cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing the buildings to prepare for students and staff to enter the building.
- Staff will have supplies on hand for students to wash their hands frequently and to address immediate cleaning needs.
- The district is taking every precaution to ensure that rooms are sanitized every day prior to and following school.
- Areas of the building (bathrooms, libraries, etc.) that are utilized by multiple classrooms will be frequently wiped down and sanitized. Procedures will be developed by the building administrator to maintain social distancing and limited mixing of groups.
 - Sensory Rooms, Recovery Rooms and Playground equipment will not be used when school initially re-opens.

Transportation

The Lexington R-V School district will continue to provide bus transportation for students who meet the riding guidelines. Transportation will look different in the fall and require student cooperation to follow safety guidelines.

- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to drop off and pick up students if they are able to do so.
- Students riding the bus from the same household will be required to sit together.
- Bus drivers will set up seating charts for students where they will be required to sit.
- Buses will load from back to front, and unload front to back.
- Buses will be sanitized in between morning and afternoon bus routes and following afternoon routes and trips.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on school buses.
- Masks will be required on buses due to the inability to social distance.
- Drivers will follow Apple Bus Company guidelines for safety as far as personal protective equipment that is provided to them.

Health/Wellness

The first step in the re-entry plan requires family collaboration and cooperation. The district encourages parent/guardians to pre-plan childcare needs on the days when your child may not be able to attend school. Please ensure that emergency contacts are updated so that the district can reach you or someone with authority to pick up your child during the school day. Daily please evaluate the health of your child according to the following checklist.

Please keep your child home for the day if, your child has a temperature of 100+, is not feeling well, just not acting like themselves or displaying symptoms such as:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please call in to the school office to make us aware of your child's absence.

Similarly, the district expects staff members to evaluate themselves daily using the same checklist and will call in if they are experiencing symptoms.

Maintenance of Student Health:

- Nursing staff will monitor and follow state and local health guidelines.
- Students with Health plans will continue to receive services. Parents/Guardians should send in any updated medical information. The plans will be shared with relevant teachers and a copy will be maintained in the nurse's office.
- Parents/guardians whose students have medical conditions (comorbidities, medically fragile, morbid obesity, severe asthma and/or respiratory illness) are encouraged to see a doctor to receive clearance to return to school.
- All necessary medicines should be brought to the school, the nurse will meet parents/guardians at the door, these will be provided to students as prescribed while at school. Medications will continue to be maintained in the nurse's office. In an effort to

limit the number of well students going to the Nurse's office, please administer any morning medication at home.

- Normal Health and wellness treatments will continue. However, the number of students allowed in the Nurse's office will be limited to follow social distancing guidelines and limit group interactions as feasible.
- State immunizations rules/expectations remain in place.
- Students sent home for a fever will not be allowed to return until they have been fever free without the use of medication for 24 hours and/or do not have any other COVID symptoms.
- The Nurses office will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- The District Nurse has evaluated and ensured that all necessary supplies are available in the Nurses' offices.
- District care for COVID-19 symptomatic staff and students will follow state and local guidelines.
- A separate waiting location will be established for students who are displaying COVID-19 symptoms. Nurses will provide information to families about testing locations as needed. Parents/guardians should pick up students within 30 minutes of being asked to do so.
- District RN will work in conjunction with Lafayette County Health Department (LCHD) on symptom reporting.
- The District RN will report to the Superintendent immediately any concerns with COVID-19 symptomatic staff and students.

Positive COVID-19 Test -- Staff/Students

- LCHD will notify the district if a student or staff member has tested positive.
 - Parents/guardians please notify the school if a student has tested positive.
 - Employees (staff, bus drivers, therapists etc.) please notify your immediate supervisor and the building administrator if you have tested positive.
- LCHD may conduct contact tracing to identify possible exposure to others.
- Lexington R-V will follow recommendations for closure and contact tracing by LCHD.
- The district will only notify specifically concerned groups.
- School(s) could possibly close for 2-5 days. Academics would transition to virtual learning for time out of the building.
- Staff will perform a deep targeted clean and disinfection of exposed areas.
- District will work with the local health department on reopening and reentry plans.

Returning from COVID - 19 symptoms

- Persons with symptoms can be with others after
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved

Or

- When released from the Lafayette County Health Department
- Persons who tested positive but without symptoms
 - At least 10 days since the positive COVID-19 test without additional symptoms
 - If you develop symptoms, follow the guidance for returning from COVID-19 symptoms
 - When released from the Lafayette County Health Department
- Close Contacts to a person that is COVID+ and CDC Quarantine Guidelines
 - Anyone with close contact to someone with COVID-19 should stay home 14 days after exposure.
 - Scenario 1 - Close contact but no further exposure - Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from the date you had close contact
 - Scenario 2 - Close contact and live with the person but can avoid further contact - Your last day of quarantine is 14 days from when the person with COVID-19 began home isolation.
 - Scenario 3 - Under quarantine but had additional close contact - Date of additional close contact with person who has COVID-19 + 14 days = end of quarantine.
 - Scenario 4 - Live with someone who has close contact and can't avoid contact -Date the person with COVID-19 ends home isolation + 14 days = end of quarantine

Academic

The Lexington R-V district is committed to the academic achievement of all students. Provision of rigorous and relevant learning experiences is essential across all grade levels. The following steps and provisions have been put into place in order to leverage student learning.

1. District Vertical content area teams have met to identify the standards that were not taught or mastered from the end of school due to the closure. They have communicated that information to teachers in the next grade level.
2. The Lexington School District's plan is to teach our grade level standards and incorporate the standards from the previous grade level into the units where they relate. In this manner, we will weave in the standards to eliminate the learning gap.
3. Teachers will consider the foundational skills and concepts that will enable students to master essential standards.
4. The district will respond to the impact of the school closure on student learning with purposeful and strategic planning that is focused on the prioritized concepts and skills and maximizing instructional minutes.

5. Benchmark assessments will be used to determine student achievement levels and can be taken in person or virtually.
6. Grade level/Content area teaming is used to provide interventions for students.
7. The new math curriculum that contains components for in-person and virtual learning, along with videos designed to help parents/guardians in assisting their students with assignments, will be implemented.
8. Students will be taught essential skills to follow CDC recommendations: signs of illness, hand washing, respecting personal distance, keeping hands to themselves, coughing into elbows, not sharing supplies, food, etc.
9. Teachers will create and utilize Google Classroom and the Google platform for learning.
10. Students will be taught essential skills to be able to navigate virtual learning environments at the beginning of the year.
11. Parents/guardians will be provided with virtual learning expectations and information at the beginning of the year and immediately previous to a situation where virtual learning will need to be implemented.
12. Activities will continue following state and local guidelines with frequent cleaning and social distancing implemented when possible.

Special Education Services

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to reach out to case managers with any new pertinent information.

504 Plans

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to reach out to building counselors with any new pertinent information.

In-Person instruction

The Lexington R-V School districts instructional preference is to provide for in-person face to face instruction. We recognize that students need assistance with learning and that there is value in daily interaction between teachers and students. In a classroom and/or school setting some guidelines are not feasible or conducive to learning. Through district surveys, the administrative team has been made aware that viewpoints of the community differ on some key guidelines. District practices were developed with this information in mind.

Prior to the Beginning of School

- Staff will engage in professional learning about the expectations, guidelines and safety precautions
- Students will be scheduled into classes. These classes will be the student's homeroom group and throughout the day the students will interact with the students who were also assigned to their homeroom group.
- Teachers will set up their classroom as feasible in regards to extending the space between students.
- Teachers will plan for students to use materials in the classroom without having to share resources.

- Teachers will schedule their day considering how to provide time for students to wash their hands and when to clean desks.
- Building administrators will establish hallway traffic patterns to promote social distancing.
- Building administrators will establish traffic patterns for pick up and drop off that promote social distancing.
- Teachers will remove non-essential learning items from the classroom that require sharing or are soft surfaces that are not easily sanitized.
- Teachers will evaluate and adjust common classroom instruction practices such as carpet time to ensure social distancing priority is 6 feet and the minimum is 3 feet.
- Teachers will adjust schedules to allow for social distancing between groups/grade levels to limit the interactions between groups of students.
 - Elementary classrooms will have a designated location for recess.
- Staff will be provided cleaning supplies for immediate concerns.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available throughout the buildings.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to help prepare students to return to learning by discussing and practicing wearing masks, opening food packages and by making arrangements for if their child is ill and must stay home
- Masks are a topic of much debate with strong feelings on both sides. At this time, students are required to wear masks during arrival and dismissal of each school day (from the parking lot to the classroom), when in hallways and during passing time for middle and high school students. These are times where larger groups of students will be in small areas at a time and students will wear masks since social distancing isn't feasible.
 - If a student or faculty/staff member is unable to obtain masks, the district will provide them. Homemade masks are acceptable but must meet school dress code guidelines.
 - Availability of district-provided masks is subject to the district's ability to procure masks (shortages of masks may limit availability).
 - Masks must be in clean, sanitary condition. Cloth masks should be washed daily.
 - Students may not share masks.

Upon Arrival

- Before School care will not be provided.
- Parents/Guardians will drop off and pick up their students outside of the building. In order to limit the number of individuals in the building, access inside the building will be limited to staff and students.
- Students will report directly to their homeroom or 1st hour class.
- Buses will stagger the time they allow students to leave the buses to allow a busload of students to get into the building and to classrooms before the next bus is unloaded.
- Students should bring personal water bottles from home. They should be labeled with the student name, and in clean, sanitary condition.
- Students will only be able to use the automatic bottle refilling option on drinking fountains.
- Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the building/classroom.

- Any materials that are shared will be wiped down prior to the next person using it. Sharing will be limited to only essential items that must be shared, for instance, a student desk, sinks, toilets.
- Individual student materials will be maintained in a personal space so items do not mix.
- Breakfast in all buildings will be eaten in the homeroom class.
- Teachers whose children attend school in the district may wait for the shuttle bus or class to start in one location in their classroom. The teacher will sanitize this area prior to the arrive of classroom students.

During Instruction

- Students at the ECC and LBS will stay in their homeroom groups for learning. Special Teachers will rotate to the classrooms to limit the number of students entering a learning environment. Teachers will practice handwashing and other safety precautions. PE is the exception since students will be able to socially distance in the gym. Other specials teachers will incorporate movement and hands-on activities to allow students opportunities.
- Students at LMS/LHS and LLRTC will wipe down their desks at the end of each class period.
- Students will not change out for PE classes since current guidance prohibits the use of locker rooms.
- Lockers at the MS/HS will not be used for general purposes.
- The number of students allowed in the bathroom at any time will be limited.
- Instructional best practices will be utilized in the classroom. However, some instructional practices may use technology or other tools to be accomplished to maintain social distancing.
- Students will be encouraged not to share supplies.
- Recess and other activities will be planned to allow for social distancing between homerooms.
- Breakfast and lunch will be eaten in the classroom. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating. Desks and/or table tops will be wiped off before and after eating.

After school

- Students who are not in activities will be released in staggered manner - buses, walkers, car riders. Buildings will be providing specific procedures for their buildings.
- Bus numbers will be called, students will wear their masks and sanitize before moving to their assigned seat on the bus.
- Teachers whose students come to school with them will go straight to their parent's classroom and stay there.
- After-school care will not be offered at this time as it does not coincide with guidelines to limit mixing of student groups.

The Lex La-Ray Technical Center (LLRTC) serves students from the Lexington School District and sending schools. If a student chooses a virtual option at their sending school, it is highly recommended they attend in person programming at Lex La-Ray. If the Lexington R-V School District would close at any time and shift instruction to virtual, Lex La-Ray will follow this shift. Additional guidelines specific to the building needs are being developed.

Virtual Learning

The Lexington R-V district recognizes the importance of face-to-face instruction. However, there may be times throughout the school year when we transition to a virtual learning environment. If the district were to have to shut down again, instruction would continue for students according to the district [Alternative Methods of Instruction Plan](#). Therefore, it is essential that parents/guardians, students and teachers understand the guidelines and tools to be utilized so that instruction is seamless.

- Learning will continue for all students if the district or a building enters a time when we are shut down again. We will seamlessly transition to online learning at that time for students in grades 3-12. If feasible, PK -2nd grade students and students with IEPs in-person instruction will be maintained with additional safeguards aligned to current health protocols and in consultation with the Lafayette County Health Department.
- District -wide we will utilize the Google Classroom platform for learning.
- Video-conferencing - classes will be provided through Google Meets.
- Chromebook- Device checkout will be made available to students during shutdown.
- Antennas have been placed so that students can upload and download content within close proximity to the school, such as parking lots. They do not have to be at the building to complete the work once it is downloaded; they can work offline and only return to the building to upload.
- Chromebooks and Google tablets have been ordered to utilize a district-wide platform.
- Students who do not have access to the internet can request paper copies from their teachers.

Teacher Expectations during Virtual Learning

- Provide Parents/Guardians and students with login information to all programs used.
- Teach students how to navigate Google Classroom
- Share plans with parents about what the expectations will be during virtual learning.
- Collaborate with SpEd staff so that all classroom materials for students are in one location.
- Post weekly assignments on Monday morning of each week. Email links to parents whose students do not have internet access and print a copy of the packet for them during shut down or quarantine times..
- Provide digital office hours from 8-3.
- Provide daily instruction through the Google Meets - record sessions and post in the classroom for students who may not be able to attend at that time due to conflicting schedules.
- Schedule times to meet with students, 1-1 conversations and small groups either using Google Meets and/or email/phone for students with internet access concerns.

- Teachers will provide instruction from their classroom, utilizing materials familiar to students while maintaining social distancing to teach students.
- Provide individual frequent feedback to students about their work.
- Plan learning that provides students opportunities to engage in hands-on learning activities.
- Balance reading expectations and provide students a strategy to understand what they have read.
- Provide opportunities for interaction between students and with the teacher.
- Consider assessment and grading practices that may not translate to virtual learning.
- Mitigate negative results from inexperience in virtual learning to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate content mastery.

Parent/Guardian Expectations during Virtual Learning

- Encourage students to complete virtual coursework 1 assignment per course/content daily to be considered in attendance for the day.
- Students will complete their work in order to receive attendance credit for the Alternate Methods of Instruction Teachers will provide instruction from their classroom, utilizing materials familiar to students while maintaining social distancing to teach students.
- Share with students that the work is helping them to understand key concepts and continue to learn in the content area.
- Remind students that the work they complete during virtual learning will impact their grade and attendance.
- Students will upload assignments and/or return packets to teachers within five (5) days after school resumes.
- Encourage students to reach out to teachers via email or Google Meets if they are having difficulty.
- Reach out to teachers for clarity and assistance.

Student Expectations during Virtual Learning

- Complete virtual coursework to continue growth in the class. 1 assignment per course per day.
- Keep track of assignments and turn them in virtually if possible or place them in a folder to turn in upon return to school.
- Reach out to teachers via email or Google Meets if they are having difficulty.
- Attend virtual meetings with teachers.

Attendance

- Please keep your child home if they are sick or displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Fever 100+ or chills

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Please call in to the building to let us know that your child is ill that day.
- Teachers displaying any of these symptoms will call in.

Building/Facility Visitors

The health and safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance and at the forefront in all decision making. In an effort to mitigate the number of people to whom our students and staff interact with we are implementing the following guidelines.

- Parents/guardians will drop off and pick up their students outside of the building.
- Visitors will not be allowed to come into the building.
- Meetings will be conducted virtually when feasible. If a meeting must be scheduled in person, the individuals entering the building will be required to wear a mask, wash their hands upon entering, and will be escorted to and from the meeting location by a district staff member.
- Visitors attending activities that are outside will be asked to maintain social distancing and are required to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

Social and Emotional Health

The Lexington R-V School district will collaborate with providers to support students and staff as we return to school. We understand that the social, economic and emotional impacts of the COVID-19 closure have impacted students and staff in many ways and we will work to provide appropriate accommodations for the social and emotional well-being of our community of learners.

- Provide trauma-informed training for teachers.
- Review suicide awareness and prevention policy and ensure that staff has been trained to respond to an incident and screen high-risk students.
- Review anti-bullying policy and ensure staff has been trained to respond to an incident.

- Utilize family survey information to reach out to families who identified the potential need for services.
- Encourage on-going communication with all stakeholders to identify and meet needs.
- Utilize school and community resources to provide mental health services.
- Counselors will provide resources to staff, parents/guardians and students to assist them with social emotional needs.

Guidelines and protocols considered but NOT ADOPTED

- Students attending school on alternate days, alternate times, staggered school start times, and having the option of online education.
 - Creates significant hardship for families, especially those with younger children, and those who are economically disadvantaged.
 - Limited benefit is gained if students still commingle in school classes, at activities, athletics, or during social occasions.
- Temperature screenings
 - Many young people are asymptomatic and may not run a fever with COVID-19. Temperature screenings are not considered determinate and are not advised by the local health department for students. This also creates bottleneck areas at building entry points, creating unnecessary situations where students cannot maintain adequate physical distance from one another
 - Staff and visitors will be screened via non-touch temperature checks before entering the building.
- Plastic shields placed in classrooms on tables/desks
 - Hygiene, especially with younger students, is a major concern.
 - Behavior issues (throwing items over the shield, etc.) are a concern.
 - A “jail-like” message/environment in the classroom is a concern.
- Staggered hallway passing times for MS and HS students
 - Students are required to wear masks during passing time since social distancing can’t be practiced.
- Limiting buses to one student per seat, or limiting students to every other seat
 - The rural nature of the school district makes it necessary for many bus routes to be quite long. It is very difficult to run a second route, or double routes, when bus routes are 45 minutes or longer.
 - This protocol reduces bus capacity by 50% or more and the district is unable to provide the buses and drivers necessary to implement.
- Placing/constructing clear plastic shields between bus drivers and students
 - These modifications are not permitted under federal bus standards.

Resources

[Lafayette County Health Department](#)
[COVID 19 State Team Resources](#)
[DESE COVID 19 Updates](#)
[SHOW ME Strong Recovery Plan](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

District Contact Information

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