



## Litchfield Elementary School District School Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 11-6-2020

New/updated items are in burgundy.

### **When are we reverting to Distance Learning?**

All of our schools are reverting to a distance Learning format on Monday, November 9.

### **Why are we reverting to Distance Learning?**

In light of the upward trajectory and recent spike in health metrics, we believe that this is the best decision for the health and safety of our students and staff.

### **When will students go back to classrooms?**

We will remain in Distance Learning until further notice. Superintendent Gunning will send another update after Thanksgiving.

### **Is tuition-based preschool available during Distance Learning?**

No, tuition-based [preschool](#) is not available during Distance Learning.

### **Are Extended Day programs available during Distance Learning?**

Due to staffing limitations, we are not able to offer Extended Day programs until further notice.

### **Will you provide meals during Distance Learning?**

Yes, we will provide free meals to all children age 18 and under until the end of the school year. Meals during Distance Learning will be available daily. Times and locations will be [posted on our website](#) soon.

### **Do you offer mental health services to support my child?**

We partner with [Touchstone Behavioral Health Services](#) to help children get the support they need to thrive. Please talk with your child's teacher about this opportunity or contact Touchstone directly.

### **Are you hiring?**

Yes, COVID is causing a staffing challenge. We have an especially high demand for guest teachers and student transporters. We also need certified teachers, custodians, classroom aides. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about our competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and available positions.

### **Will I be notified if there is a positive COVID case in my child's classroom or on the school bus?**

Yes. School nurses have two notification letters that principals will send, dependent on the type of exposure. Sample letters are available in the COVID section of our website.

1) **Close Contact Notification**

Defined as being within 6 feet for 10 minutes or longer. Requires 14-day quarantine.

2) **Indirect Contact Notification**

Defined as being more than 6 feet away from the person who has COVID-19.

**How is an outbreak confirmed?**

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health confirms outbreaks of communicable diseases. LESD does not confirm outbreaks of communicable diseases. To confirm an outbreak, Maricopa County Public Health will conduct case investigations and assist the school with contact tracing efforts to identify and notify any students or staff who are determined to be close contacts. Public Health also will work with the school to provide appropriate disease prevention and control guidance.

**When would you quarantine students at a school?**

The district and County Health Department discuss the level of exposure depending on the scenario. If it is determined a quarantine is necessary, we will notify families that they must refrain from school and activities for 14 days.

**What happens after a case is reported to prevent spread on the campus?**

Once we are notified, our health staff immediately gather information such as the last time the individual was on campus, what activities they are involved in, and other relevant details to better understand the impact the case has on our community.

**How many active cases are at my child's school?**

Active COVID-19 cases are listed on the LESD COVID-19 Dashboard in the CVOD section of our website. The LESD Dashboard is updated every Friday. The purpose of the Dashboard is to provide our families and staff with a transparent summary of COVID-19 cases by school resulting in exclusion from school activities.

**Will I be notified if there is a confirmed outbreak at my school?**

Yes. You can count on us to notify you if the Maricopa County Department of Public Health confirms an outbreak at your child's school.

**Will COVID absences be counted against my child?**

No.

**Should I report people who are not wearing face coverings or who come to school sick?**

We all have an important role in the health and safety of our school family. You are welcome to report any specific concerns to your child's teacher or principal. Please join us in promoting a positive school climate. Be mindful of student and staff privacy.

**What if I need to visit the school's front office?**

Please call or email, when possible. Physical distancing and face coverings are required. We will disinfect shared surface areas routinely throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available to visitors after using shared pens and/or paperwork.

**Do you provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for students?**

Every classroom is equipped with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer. Face coverings are available as needed.

Please send your child to school with at least one face covering for the day. You may send extra face coverings and personal supplies of hand sanitizer.

**Are you accepting new students?**

Yes, kindergarten and new student registration is available at our District Office. Please visit the [Student Registration Department](#) on our website for more information.

