



La Porte Independent School District

La Porte ISD Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan

Public Health Guidance

General

The details in this document are subject to change as directives are provided by governing authorities and/or health officials, or as environmental conditions change.

Attendance and Enrollment

In-Person Instruction

General

- Per Texas Education Code (TEC), 25.092, students must attend 90% of the days a course is offered (with some exceptions) in order to be awarded credit for the course and/or to be promoted to the next grade. This requirement remains in force during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Student attendance will be earned through in-person instruction.



La Porte Independent School District

Student & Staff Safety Protocols

Protocols for Screening and Isolation

General

All students and staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms regularly and individuals who present with symptoms will be separated and sent home.

COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

Close Contact

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:



La Porte Independent School District

- Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on while not wearing a mask); or
- Being within 3 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptoms onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab tests.

Screening Protocols

- Staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day to include taking temperature.
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school.
- Teachers will monitor student health and refer students to the nurse if symptoms are present.

Isolation Protocols

Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms

- When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine whether a student needs to be sent home.
- Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than 1 hour from the time the campus contact the student's parent/guardian. School transportation will not be provided.
- District communication will be provided to the parents of students who come in close contact with a COVID-19 positive student or staff member.
- Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow La Porte ISD, TEA and CDC guidance.



La Porte Independent School District

- Students or staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days and may not return to campus during that time.

Face Coverings and Protective Measures

Staff and Student Expectations

- Staff and students may wear a mask if they choose.

Protocols for Campus Visitors

Visitor Screening/Masks

- Visitors to the campus will be subject to the following guidelines:
 - Visitors are encouraged to wear masks.
 - All visitors will be subject to screening, including temperature checks and a symptom screening form.
 - Visitors and staff will adhere to safety protocols for necessary on-campus meetings.

Protocols for Disinfecting and Hand Sanitizing

General

Frequent disinfection and hand sanitization will help ensure health and wellness of students and staff.



La Porte Independent School District

Handwashing/Sanitizing Expectations

- Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in common areas and upon entry to the classroom.
- Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Provide periodic teacher reminders to wash and/or sanitize hands during the instructional day, after using the restroom and before eating.

Disinfecting Expectations

- Staff will have access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies.

Protocols for Campus Cleaning and Disinfecting

General

Staff will be trained in appropriate methods of cleaning and disinfecting to promote a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Daily Campus Cleaning

- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned daily.
- All high touch areas will be cleaned daily.
- The cafeteria will be disinfected throughout the day.

Additional Cleaning Measures for Covid-19 Positive Cases on Campus

- If a classroom or facility is closed due to COVID-19 spread, a recommended disinfectant will be used.



La Porte Independent School District

Work and Learning Environments

Classroom Configurations and Procedures

- Each classroom will be outfitted with the following:
 - Visual reminders of distancing practices and requirements in all classrooms and common spaces
 - Access to hand sanitizer
 - Access to disinfectant supplies to sanitize working surfaces
- Desks or tables will be socially distanced as much as instructionally possible.
- Students will have access to hand sanitizer.
- Limit shared supplies.
- Teachers will develop, teach, and implement procedures that:
 - Limit student movement within the classroom such as turning in assignments, materials being passed out, etc.
 - Encourage students to clean personal areas, materials, and supplies with disinfectant.
 - Outline handwashing protocols and use of hand sanitizer.
- If tables are used, limit the number of students per table and identify which seats are to be used to provide as much social distancing as possible.
- To the extent possible, keep doors open between classes to minimize contact with doors and door handles by students and staff entering or exiting classrooms.
- The gymnasiums may be repurposed for instructional space to increase the teaching capacity of the building.
- Recommended safety protocols will be applied to all classroom settings.

Physical Education Classroom Protocols

- Whenever possible, physical education classes will be held outside to allow for maximum social distancing between students.



La Porte Independent School District

- Any activities bringing students into close physical contact will follow TEA and UIL guidelines.
- Staff will provide visual and verbal reminders of social distancing rules.
- Procedures will be implemented in locker rooms to maximize social distancing.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- Sanitizing areas and access to handwashing will be provided.

Collaborative Work and Projects

- Technology or other social distancing measures will be utilized when students are involved in collaborative work.

Special Education Considerations

- La Porte ISD will continue to support special education students through the implementation of student IEP's and follow La Porte ISD procedures and TEA guidelines.
- More resources can be found at: <https://www.lpsd.org/departments/special-programs>

Common Areas and Flexible Learning Areas

Restrooms

- Visual and/or verbal reminders will be provided regarding maximum restroom capacity.
- Students must wash hands before leaving the restroom.
- Visual reminders for proper handwashing will be provided.
- Increased disinfecting of the restrooms will occur throughout the school day.

Cafeteria: Breakfast/Lunch

Students may have meals in the cafeteria and other areas to reinforce social distancing.



La Porte Independent School District

- Cafeteria capacity will be based on current guidelines.
- Meals may be pre-packaged to ensure ease of pick up and transport to eating location.
- Signage and staff will reinforce social distancing and traffic patterns in the cafeteria.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits of the cafeteria.

Library

- Visual reminders will be posted and furniture rearranged to help students maintain social distancing while in the library.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and exits of the library.
- High touch surfaces (e.g. table tops, chairs, door handles) will be cleaned regularly.

Transitions

- When transitioning between classes, students will be instructed to travel hallways as far to the right as possible.
- Verbal and/or visual reminders will be provided to help students maintain social distancing and adhere to established campus traffic flow in hallways.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Classroom doors will be propped open during transition periods to reduce high touch areas.

Arrival

- Separate entrances will be designated for different groups of students (e.g. car riders, bus riders).

Dismissal

- Campuses may designate staggered dismissal groups to maintain social distancing.



La Porte Independent School District

Outdoor & Off-Campus Student Activities

- Student participation in academic contests (robotics, UIL, etc.) will only be attended if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g. host site, La Porte ISD, TEA, UIL).
- Special Education Community-Based Vocational Instruction (CBVI) guidance will be followed to ensure these learning environments are available to students per ARD/IEP recommendations.

Extra-Curricular Programming

Athletics

- Practices and competitions will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in gym areas and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Locker room space will be utilized to follow social distancing guidelines.

Fine Arts

- Practices and competitions will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in practice areas and equipment will be sanitized on a regular basis.
- Off-campus fine arts performances will only be conducted if specific guidance is provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA and UIL).
- Concerts/performance may be adjusted based on health and safety guidelines provided by an authorized entity (e.g. La Porte ISD, TEA, UIL), including but not limited to transportation procedures, number of attendees, and the orientation of concerts.



La Porte Independent School District

Transportation

Special Education students will be contacted for arrangements.

It is highly recommended that parents/guardians bring students to school.

Requirements for students to ride the bus:

Parents must sign up for transportation.

- Parents must screen their children for COVID-19 before allowing them to ride.
- Students may wear a face covering.
- Students must stay in their seat during the route.
- Prekindergarten students may ride on an elementary bus when needed.
- Student stops will be adjusted (relocated) to limit the number of stops. (This is due to the double routes that will be required.)
- Once the school year begins, it will take a week to add a new rider to a route.

Students that become sick at school will not be permitted to ride the bus home.

Continuity of Services

La Porte ISD will address:

- **Academic Needs:**
 - Provide accelerated instruction to all students to address academic impact of lost instruction.
 - Provide accelerated instruction for any student in grades 3-8 who failed STAAR reading or math and students who failed STAAR EOCs (HB 4545)



La Porte Independent School District

- **Food Services:**
 - La Porte ISD will offer free meals to all students regardless of economic status. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued nationwide waivers to allow LPISD to offer this benefit for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Students' and staffs' social and emotional Needs:**
 - Implement our district-wide Character Strong curriculum and continuing to utilize restorative practices to intervene trauma situations for staff and students.
 - Utilize the Emotional Backpack training on each campus to identify student needs.
 - Secure additional mental health personnel
 - Collaborate with outside community resources for additional mental health support.
 - Staff members are offered access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) regardless of their participation in the employee health plan.