

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Julie Colello Nichols, Director

LISBON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

December 3, 2021

Dear Lisbon Community School families and staff,

On December 2, 2021, the Lisbon School Department received a call from the CDC Outbreak Investigator regarding the recent number of COVID-19 positive cases at LCS. Due to the uptick in reported cases following the Thanksgiving holiday break, the CDC is now requiring implementation of the “third bullet” under expectations found in section (G) Outbreak Response of the 10.29.21 SOP. This specifically states:

If three cases are spread across multiple classrooms:

- **All students/staff/teachers of any classroom where the student/staff/teacher attended a class are considered close contacts regardless of the setup of the classroom/pod or face covering use.**
- **The school will follow cleaning guidance from U.S. CDC:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

What does this mean for staff and students at LCS? As a result of this new requirement, we are now required to return to last school year’s mitigation strategies, which reference the 6 pillars for Safe Reopening. Those are Hand Hygiene, Daily Pre-Screening, PPE: Face Covering/Masks, Physical Distancing, Cleaning Routines, and Return to School after Illness.

Although some of these precautions are currently in place, we are now required to monitor that:

- Students must be seated 3 feet apart and facing the same direction.
- Unnecessary furniture or cloth materials should be removed from classrooms to allow for safe environment and physical distancing requirements.
- Mask breaks and snack breaks will remain in the classroom but now must be silent.
- Hand sanitizer will be in all spaces and must be used upon entering the space. Handwashing, if feasible, is preferred.
- Hand hygiene will be used when entering and exiting rooms and transportation, before and after using bathrooms and eating, donning and doffing masks, beginning and ending recess and anytime an individual coughs or sneezes, wipes or blows their nose.
- All classrooms will be supplied with cleaning materials and teachers and students will do a mid-day desk, chair and other “high touch” wipe down. (High touch includes light switches, door handles, common surfaces, etc.)

- Students may not use shared materials- all student materials need to be individually used and contained.
- Spacing should be used where lines form. “Airplane and Zombie Arms” are in effect.
- Small group instruction for COVID-impact services (RTI) must be composed of students within one homeroom only. There will not be any mixed classroom or grade level groupings (where feasible- special education is excluded from this parameter.)
- Staff will be asked to use Morning Meeting time to do a wellness observation check on students. Any students exhibiting any of the COVID symptoms will be sent to the nurse for assessment and potentially will be sent home. Parents are asked to do this check in the morning to reduce the number of students coming to school with COVID symptoms.
- Adjustments to playground and lunch room schedules may need to be made after a review of the current model.

Most impactful to families and staff is the fact that-

- Any individual **not vaccinated, not pooled testing and not 90 day immune** is considered a close contact if they are in a space with a positive individual *regardless of the distance from the positive case* and *must complete a 10-day quarantine*.
- Families will be required to provide proof of vaccination to avoid quarantine.
- Essential worker rule no longer applies and any unvaccinated, non-pool testing, non-90 day immune staff will also be subject to this quarantine.
- Staff will be asked to provide proof of vaccination to complete a quarantine.
- Everyone is encouraged to join pooled testing as this status exempts individuals from quarantine.

On Monday, December 6th, this LCS Outbreak Response plan will be presented to the School Committee for review and approval. Following that, these measures will be implemented on Wednesday, December 8th.

We are painfully aware of the disruption that these new requirements may impact your ability to work and provide for your family. While the Lisbon School Department respects the fact that it is your decision on what you feel is best for your child in regards to pool testing or vaccination, we want to stress that participation in either of these options does provide students with ongoing and uninterrupted education. As simply the messenger, we want to thank you for understanding the difficulty of this transition on district staff, students and families and want you to know that we are here to help in any way that we can to support you within the constraints which have now been placed on us.

Sincerely,

