



LINDEN CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Road to Return Plan

Board approved on July 26, 2021

Dr. Timothy Thurman, Superintendent of Education

Ola Ford, Board Chairman

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Glenda Hayes, Board Member

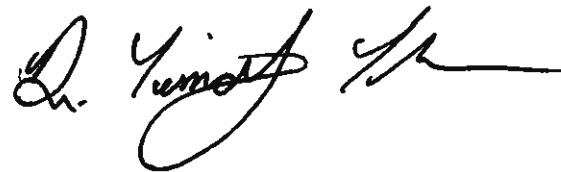
Introduction

The purpose of this document is to update you on our plans as we prepare for the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to communicate transparently and frequently throughout the months ahead. We are committed to returning to traditional instruction as much as possible, however, the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our number one priority. Like all school systems, our system is subject to governmental mandates and directives, so we are also preparing to modify instruction as required should either a shelter-in-place directive return or some other learning posture be deemed necessary. Such decisions will be made in accordance with three operational priorities:

1. Governmental directives and best-practice medical advice;
2. Prioritizing the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff; and
3. Ensuring that meaningful learning is taking place regardless of the learning environment.

As we reopen, we will continue to receive input from local health officials, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Association of School Boards, the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Although the road ahead may not be as smooth as desired, we can make it through together if we communicate, remain transparent, and think safety first. We are in this together, and we will navigate whatever challenges may lie ahead as we always do, as a team dedicated to our children's success. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Yumiko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The plan below is organized into twelve sections with attached appendixes. The twelve sections are as follows:

1. Mode of Instruction
2. Technology and Other Requirements
3. Transitions
4. Safety Precautions
5. CNP Food Services
6. Instruction
7. Transportation
8. Athletics
9. Field Trips
10. Extended Day
11. Response to COVID-19 Positive Case or Symptoms
12. Communication

Disclaimer: The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Instead, all information and content available in this document are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information.

Mode of Instruction	On-line Delivery	Blended Delivery	On-Campus Delivery
Brief Description of Mode	Only students with documented health issues may be considered for on-line delivery. The instructional platform will be through ACCESS.	Blended delivery is not planned until it is deemed necessary by health officials.	Traditional delivery, face to face instruction, will be the method of instruction for LCS. Students attend school five days a week with safety, prevention, and hygiene precautions implemented and closely monitored
Technology Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have reliable internet connectivity • LCS will provide a Chromebook computer, if students do not have other devices, that is to be returned at the conclusion of each academic year 	N/A	N/A
Transitions	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be allowed on campus until designated times (LES- 7:15 AM, G.P. Austin- 7:15 AM, LHS- 7:15 AM). • Breakfast and Lunch will be served in the cafeteria until further notice • Dismissals will be staggered (i.e., walkers, 3

			minutes later car riders/drivers, 3 minutes later bus riders)
Safety Precautions	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student temperatures will be taken frequently. • In the case that a child has a fever, or any COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be placed in an isolated room and will need to be picked-up by his/her legal guardian or emergency contact within the proceeding hour • Only essential employees will be allowed on campus until further notice • Parents will not be permitted beyond the entrance of school until further notice. Parents are encouraged to call the school for student pick up and/or to schedule a parent/teacher conferences • Masks or face shields are mandatory in buildings and on buses, mask or

			<p>shields can be provided to all students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals will be required to hand sanitize upon entry to buildings and as they exit buildings until further notice • All individuals will be required to wash hands after using the restroom (sanitizer is not a substitute for soap and water) • School nurses will not test for COVID-19 • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, FERPA and HIPPA laws will be closely followed <p>In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, schools will provide general information as a precaution, however, contact tracing will be the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health</p>
CNP Food Services	5 day meals (Breakfast and Lunch) will be available each Wednesday for pick up, from 10:00am to 11:30am also 2:30pm to 4pm	N/A	All meals will be done in the traditional fashion.
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desks will be in straight rows facing the same direction (when applicable) 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will instruct from the front of the room (as much as possible) • Teachers will wear facial coverings or shields while delivering small group instruction • Plexiglas (sneeze guards) separators will be used when possible
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows remain down while students are on the bus or cracked in the case of rain or extremely cold weather. Mask/face shields are encouraged.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All athletic events will be full capacity.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trips will resume for the 2021-22 school year.
Extended Day	Traditional format.
Response to COVID Symptoms or Positive Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each school will have a designated quarantine area • In the event a student shows signs of COVID-19, he/she will be isolated in the designated area • School nurses will not test for COVID-19 • Student absences will be coded as excused/other • Students will be expected to participate in Remote Learning and or instructional packages while quarantined at home
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) will be closely followed • In the case of a student or staff member who tests positive, contact tracing will be the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health • When “Close Contact” can be confirmed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer without a facial covering, and/or b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on) by a confirmed COVID-19 case <p>The school will report known or reported positive Covid cases to the ADPH so that contact tracing may be done.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Appendixes Sample Parent Letter for Possible COVID-19 Signs or Symptoms Are Existent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child _____ has presented with possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The signs/symptoms that were noted are: _____

Please look at the signs/symptoms below of COVID-19:

- *Fever of 100.4 especially first thing in the morning
- *Cough, runny nose, sinus congestion
- *Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- *Abdominal pain or stomach ache
- *Unusual symptoms, lack of taste or smell
- * Diarrhea or vomiting
- *Chills, shaking, muscle pain or aches

Due to the present day pandemic situation of concerns of the spreading of COVID-19 within our community, we ask that you contact your child's healthcare provider for an evaluation for testing. Please contact the school nurse to update on the follow-up results of the physician's recommendations and testing results. **Make sure that your child does not return to school until cleared by the school nurse/administration.**

Appendix “Close Contact” Letter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that your child has been in “Close Contact” with a person with a Positive Confirmed COVID-19 Test. Linden City Schools will be following the Marengo County Health Department (MCHD) Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19 when there is a confirmed case or exposure to a confirmed case.

Your child _____, may have been exposed on _____. Your child should immediately begin a 10-day quarantine period. Contact your child’s healthcare provider for testing. The test results should be reported to _____. You should not take a test prior to the fifth day of exposure unless symptomatic. To reinforce, “if a contact to a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 test negative, they need to finish out the 10-day quarantine.”

Because the virus can still be spread from person-to-person within the 10 days of exposure, even with a negative test, please be on the watch for any of the following symptoms:

- *Fever of 100.4 or higher especially first thing in the morning
- *Cough, runny nose, sinus congestion
- *Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- *Abdominal pain or stomach ache
- *Unusual symptoms, lack of taste or smell
- *Diarrhea or vomiting

Contact your child’s healthcare provider if you or a family member experiences any of the above symptoms and follow their directives.

Please see centers that do COVID-19 testing. Your child’s Pediatrician can also recommend somewhere for testing. Please make sure you call ahead. Some may do Telemedicine or Virtual interviewing and then give you guidance if testing is needed.

Appendix Protocol for Confirmed Covid-19 or Risk of Contact Exposure for Student

Positive Confirmed Case of COVID-19

With symptoms: Must quarantine for 10 days from onset of symptoms and at least 3 days after recovery. (Recovery)- defined as resolution of fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) with progressive improvement and resolution of other symptoms.

Positive Confirmed Case of COVID-19

Without symptoms: Isolation can discontinue 10 days after test date.

Contact Exposure to COVID-19 Case

“Close Contact” is defined as:

- a) Being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer
- b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g. being coughed on) by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

Parents of students with the risk of contact exposure due to being in “close contact” with a student confirmed COVID-19 positive will be notified by the school or school district representative. Parents will be advised to contact their student’s healthcare provider by calling ahead or telemedicine visit with the MD to be assessed and to be given further directives.

According to Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19 Revised 06-02-2020:

“if a contact to a person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 tests negative, they need to finish out the 10-day quarantine period. The 10 days should be from the date of last exposure. Just because they tested negative during the 10 days, does not mean they will remain negative and they should finish the full-10-day quarantined period.”

Before Returning to School:

Parent/guardian must provide to Linden City Schools in writing one of the following statements from their healthcare provider:

Confirmed Positive COVID-19:

According to MCHD/ADPH Timeframe listed above, the student that tested positive for COVID-19 may discontinue isolation after the following criteria are met:

a) the student that tested positive for COVID-19 may discontinue isolation at least 10 days from onset of symptoms and fever free without fever-reducing medications for at least 3 days. (Requires release from healthcare provider as mentioned above).

Contact Exposure to COVID-19 Case:

a) the student has a negative COVID-19 test and is symptom free at the completion of the 10-day quarantine or

b) the student has been symptom free during the 10-day quarantine.

(ADPH Isolation and Quarantine Timeframes for COVID-19 Revised 06-02-2020 states, “Household and close contacts without symptoms No Testing Performed will still require 10-day quarantine.)

In closing, we wish to serve as a resource and want to work together to reach our common goal of ensuring a safe and sustainable return to school. We are especially passionate about this process as we will be the ones taking care of patients and families affected by COVID19. We are on the front lines of fighting this horrifying pandemic and see, firsthand, the fear, the pain and the devastation families experience. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our input.

