

# **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan**



## **Lake Country School District**

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# Introduction

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act was signed into law. In it, the U.S. Department of Education is providing an additional \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund). This legislation will award grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

Wisconsin will receive \$1,540,784,854 in ESSER III funds from the Act, with 90 percent being awarded to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.

This plan describes how the LEA or district will provide a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services for all schools, including those that have already returned to in-person instruction.

# Maintaining Health and Safety

## Overview

A district's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including the universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials.

### Description on maintaining the safety of staff and students

The Lake Country School District will begin the 2021-22 school year with a five-day per week, face-to-face instructional model and adhere to the following health protocols. Accordingly, the District will:

- Develop and publish COVID-19 Protocol Guidelines for day-to-day operations
  - publish the COVID-19 pre-screening checklist and strongly encourage students and staff members to utilize the checklist before entering a school facility,
  - encourage staff members and students to stay home or go home if they are showing COVID-19 symptoms or if they have tested positive for COVID-19,
  - limit visitors and activities for non-essential purposes,
  - provide sanitizing stations throughout the building.

### Description to continue to provide services regardless of the mode of instruction (for example, health and food services if the LEA must pivot to virtual or hybrid instruction)

The Lake Country School District will offer in-person learning five days a week according to the Board adopted 2021-2022 Academic Year Calendar. The school district has also provided families a virtual learning option. In the event of school closure due to the pandemic, the district purchased Chromebooks for all 5K - 4th grade students to continue virtual learning. Students in grades 5-8 already rent or own Chromebooks per previous 1:1 technology initiative.

Regardless of the mode of instruction, the Lake Country School District will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals will be provided for community members under the age of 18. If school is closed due to a pandemic, the district will assess

its ability to distribute meals utilizing the same process it used during the spring of 2020.

The Lake Country School District employs one full-time registered nurse who will operate as the Director of Health Services to offer health services in-person or virtually. The school district also increased the guidance counselor's contract to support student's mental health.

## Mitigation Measures

### Universal and correct wearing of masks

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Lake Country School Board adopted thresholds to determine when students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks and when mask-wearing will be optional. These thresholds are based on COVID activity in classrooms, grade levels, and districtwide. In addition, staff was mandated to wear masks when working with students with COVID-related health impairments. The level of COVID transmission within Waukesha County also guided decision making. Details about these thresholds as well as ongoing COVID Protocol Guidelines can be found on the district website.

### Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (for example, the use of cohorts and podding)

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Mitigation measures such as proper signage, the installation of floor decals and water bottle filling stations, and the promotion of social distancing have been implemented. Multiple, staggered meal service/lunch hours will be implemented to support social distancing while ensuring adequate time for students to consume their meals. The cafetorium will continue to be used as the setting for student meals.

Transportation will comply with CDC guidelines regarding capacity and required masking that are in effect during the 2021-22 school year.

### Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette is taught to students with high emphasis in the primary grade levels. Signage is posted throughout the building as reminders of handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, hand sanitizing stations/liquids are available in all classrooms as well as throughout the school, including in the cafetorium and at building entrances.

## **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

Enhanced disinfection procedures have been implemented focusing on high-touch surfaces. The District's chemical management system is rated to kill the SARS virus. In addition to daily cleaning, all rooms and surfaces are treated with an electrostatic charged droplet system on a bi-weekly basis. This solution is rated to last 30 days on surfaces, and the District elects to retreat surfaces at the rated half-life of the product. Upon reaching the surface from when it is charged and sprayed, all surfaces can be fully disinfected in 10 minutes with its dwell time moratorium.

The District has installed ionization air cleaning units on all air intake ventilation units in all buildings. These units function at all times that ventilation units operate and are monitored electronically through HVAC computer systems. All VAV units in the ceiling have two MERV-13 filters installed on them that capture up to 98% of airborne particles including viruses and other particles down to .3 microns. The ceiling VAV units and the air handler units also are fine tuned to use fresh air through the mixed dampers in lieu of just using air from the ceiling, rooms, or what is sitting in the plenum.

## **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Lake Country School District conducted contact tracing. The Lake Country School District will continue transparent reporting to the public of COVID-19 cases and quarantines within the District. To provide transparent reporting for our stakeholders, the District maintained a COVID-19 case dashboard throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to do so for the 2021-22 school year.

The Lake Country School District will guide parents/students, employees, visitors, and contractors on screening protocols for the daily pre-screening process, which all parties should complete before entering the school.. Lake Country School will continue to provide current health information to staff, students, and families about the symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school. Procedures can be found on the district website.

## **Diagnostic and screening testing**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The Lake Country School District recommends students and staff presenting two or more symptoms get tested for COVID. Lake Country School will only accept Rapid Antigen or PCR tests.

## **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible**

### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

All Lake Country School District staff employed in 2020-2021 were encouraged and provided time and the opportunity to be vaccinated. New staff will be given the same opportunity.

### **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

When circumstances require specific policies or procedures designed to protect the health and safety of students, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual students with disability-related issues. Classroom teachers, special education teachers, and support staff were mandated to wear masks when working with disabled students who are at a greater risk for COVID/COVID complications.

### **Coordination with state and local health officials**

#### *Description of Policies or Practices, if applicable*

The CDC recommends that all decisions about implementing school-based strategies should be made locally, collaborating with local health officials who can help determine the level of transmission in the community. The Lake Country School District worked with Waukesha County Public Health to implement contact tracing for the safety of students and staff. Lake Country School District administration and the Director of Health Services participated in weekly virtual meetings with the Waukesha County Public Health Officer regarding the impact of schools in our county and schools.

# Continuity of Services

## Overview

Districts must describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

### District response on continuity of services

**The District will provide for continuity of learning as follows:**

#### **Student Academic Needs**

Lake Country School District plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning in the fall of 2021, with a virtual live feed option. Special education teachers and aides provided in-home support to special needs students, as needed. During the summer of 2021, the district implemented an academic intervention summer school program for identified students. During the summer of 2022, the district will provide an academic summer school intervention and enrichment program.

#### **Student Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Additional school counselor time was added to address our students' social and emotional learning needs.

#### **Other Student Needs (which may include student health and food services)**

Food services will continue to provide meals under the community provision as long as USDA continues the allowance. Meals were provided for all eligible youth in our community as well as during the school year.

#### **Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

Lake Country School District provided and will continue to provide staff with opportunities for social and emotional support through post-school hour meetings, a wellness committee initiatives, and access to an on-site nurse. The staff's social, emotional, and mental health needs may also be addressed through the Employee Assistance Program provided through the District insurance program.

#### **Other Staff Needs**

Lake Country School District will follow national, state, and local governing agencies' laws and directives concerning staff employment and benefits.



# Periodic Review

## Overview

Districts are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

### District response on ensuring periodic updates to its plan

Lake Country School District will periodically review and, as needed, revise the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan has been reviewed at least monthly and will continue to be revisited as needed. Lake Country School District will seek and take into account public input. Plan revisions will address updated CDC, DHS, and County Public Health guidance on safely reopening schools if any are issued.

# Public Input

## Overview

The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

### District response on public input in the development of its plan

Lake Country School District has taken the following steps to make its plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://mylakecountryschool.org/>
- The plan is available in multiple languages through the use of our web provider powered by Google Translate. The plan is available in more than ten languages.
- The plan was sent to parents, students, and employees via our messaging systems.
- The plan was shared at the Lake Country School District Board of Education monthly meetings. Opportunities for public comment were and continue to be available at each Board meeting.
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting our district office.