

Louisiana Believes



School Operations and Reopening Update
July 22, 2020

Attention: Instructions for participants

During this meeting, participants may submit questions **via the online chat feature** throughout the presentation. Submitting questions via the chat allows the LDOE the opportunity to not only answer your question while on the call but to also add your question and the answer to our publicly disseminated FAQ document(s).

2020 First Extraordinary Session ACT 9

Pursuant to ACT 9 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Legislative Session, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) adopted [emergency rules](#) informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to provide **minimum standards, policies, medical exceptions and regulations to govern the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure that students, faculty, staff and others on school property are protected to the extent possible and practical from COVID-19.**

Action Step: Prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, each nonpublic, charter and public school governing authority must adopt policies, rules and regulations in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The background of the slide is a watercolor-style illustration. It features a central white area that tapers towards the top and bottom, creating a shape reminiscent of a stylized mountain range or a large, open space. This white area is surrounded by various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep, dark teal. The colors are blended and layered, giving the impression of soft, painterly strokes. The overall effect is clean, modern, and serene.

Resource Development Process

Resource Development Process

The Louisiana Departments of Education (LDOE) and Health (LDH) have worked collaboratively over the past month to develop public health guidelines and best practices to support school reopening in 2020-2021. This included consultation with the:

- SREB Reopening Task Force
- Superintendent advisory group
- Public health response team
- Resilient Louisiana Commission's (RLC) K-12 Subgroup
- National Governors Association
- RLC's Education and Workforce Development Task Force & RLC adoption
- Ochsner, Children's Hospital New Orleans and Tulane Medical School

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Reopening Resources

Best Practices: Highlights

The [LDOE's best practices](#) includes supportive guidance and resources for implementing LDH guidelines, including:

- Specific strategies for **physical distancing** and facility use, including entry and exit procedures
- How to safely **monitor symptoms** among students and staff, and how to respond to symptomatic individuals
- **Personal hygiene** and cleaning protocols, including the **use of face coverings**
- **Food preparation and meal service** guidance
- **Transportation** safety, hygiene and cleaning guidance and references
- Multiple reopening scenarios: **traditional, hybrid, distance/remote learning**

Supports from Key Partners

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Hotline for School Wellness and Virtual Care (504-837-7760) offers guidance to school nurses and school administrators.

The Children's Hospital New Orleans Town Hall Series for Schools is being conducted every two weeks through July and August. The next Town Hall is July 21 at 1 p.m.

Regional Public Health Officers are able to provide one-on-one consultation to school system leaders with public health/operational questions.

Supports from Key Partners

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Availability for School Reopening

As school systems plan for operations during the 2020-2021 school year, the Department is working in concert with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (GOHSEP) to address immediate personal protective equipment (PPE) needs.

GOHSEP will provide:

- at least one cloth (reusable/washable) mask for each student and faculty member;
- at least 2,000 disposal masks (for visitors and/or students/faculty that may forget their mask); and
- at least 3 thermometers per each school.

Strong Start Reopening Office Hours

Strong Start School Reopening Office Hours will occur each Thursday at 3 p.m. beginning July 23 and will run through September 3. The same zoom link will be utilized each week.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 23 at 3 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/91419461028>
- **Webinar Phone Number** 301-715-8592
- **Meeting ID#:** 914 1946 1028
- **Meeting Password:** 408891

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Public Health Reopening Requirements

Group Sizes

The **maximum group size** that may convene indoors in a single room, irrespective of room size or outdoors at any given time are as follows:

- **Phase 1:** 10 individuals
- **Phase 2:** 25 individuals
- **Phase 3:** 50 individuals

Younger students who are unable to wear face coverings or maintain a physical distance from other students or adults should be assigned static groups.

The composition of a group may change if students are able to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from other students and adults in a classroom or indoor setting, to the greatest extent possible.

Physical and Environmental Standards

1. If a group convenes indoors, it must convene in a room enclosed by a wall or partition. This includes large rooms, such as a gymnasium or auditorium, which may include more than one group if each group is separated by a wall or partition.
2. If groups convene outdoors, a physical barrier is not required, but each group must remain separated.
3. To the greatest extent possible, schools must limit crowding at entry and exit points and maintain maximum group sizes and physical distance recommendations.
4. If a room is used by more than one group in a single day, high-touch surfaces contained in that room must be cleaned before and after use by each group.

Physical and Environmental Standards

Monitoring Students and Adults for Symptoms of COVID-19

- Each school must establish an area used to isolate anyone showing signs of being sick.
- Upon arriving at the school facility, each adult and student must be assessed for symptoms of COVID-19, as defined by the CDC. **This includes an initial temperature check.**

Environmental Cleaning and Personal Hygiene

- High-touch surfaces must be cleaned multiple times per day, including bathrooms.
- Students must wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at the school, at least every two hours, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment and before exiting the school facility.

Physical and Environmental Standards

Face Coverings: While inside the school facility, all adults, including but not limited to teachers, administration, support staff, and other adults/visitors on campus, and students in grades 3 through 12 must wear a face covering to the greatest extent possible and practical within the local community context. While inside the school facility, students in grades prekindergarten through 2 may wear a face covering. While inside the school facility, the face covering requirement does not apply for children under two years old and individuals with respiratory issues or other disabilities that prevent mask wearing.

**** Medical or disability impact exceptions will be addressed on an individual basis by the school system in accordance with local policies.***

Hygienic Supplies: School employees must be provided adequate access to hygienic supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfectant wipes or spray, paper towels and tissues. Face coverings should also be provided when needed.

Transportation

School buses used to transport students must not exceed the following maximum capacity requirements:

- **Phase 1:** 25 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity
- **Phase 2:** 50 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity
- **Phase 3:** 75 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity

Passengers on a school bus must be spaced to the greatest extent possible.

Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities must continue to receive special education and related services in the least restrictive environment. School systems must factor in any additional service providers who may need to enter the classroom, students who receive services outside the classroom (e.g. resource, APE) and/or students who receive services through alternate instructional methods.

Responding to Positive Cases

WHAT ARE THE STEPS WHEN A STUDENT IN SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

- 1** If a school becomes aware of a presumptive positive or positive case of COVID-19, the child should not attend school until determined to be non-infectious by their doctor.
- 2** Parents may be notified by the Office of Public Health if their child may have been exposed to the case of COVID-19, along with any next steps.
- 3** If it is determined that a school was the focus of infection for COVID-19, the school superintendent, in consultation with the Office of Public Health, will determine if the school should remain open or close for a period of time. A positive case of COVID-19 does not necessarily warrant classroom or school closure.

[Example of an assurance](#) school systems can use to ensure parents are aware of their obligation to immediately pick up sick students.

LDOE Implementation Protocols

LDOE Implementation Protocols

Systems must develop a reopening plan inclusive of the following items:

- Student learning (distance, hybrid, face-to-face)
- Alternate scheduling
- Staff and student attendance
- Transportation and meals
- Personal hygiene and cleaning
- Communications plan for families and school system employees

Diagnostics (LEAP 360) and screeners (K–3 Literacy) have been provided to be administered to students within the first 30 days of school either remotely or in person.

The Department released a school plan template in the [School Reopening Guidelines & Resource document](#) that can be used by school systems. School systems can also have their plan in an alternate format as long as the required elements are included. As part of the [Strong Start Implementation Survey](#) released by the Department, each school system will provide the public web link to their school system reopening plan. School systems and lead agencies must complete the survey by **July 28**. System plans will be publicly posted to the Department’s website no later than **August 11**.

LDOE Implementation Protocols

Registering Concerns

Community concerns regarding school reopening procedures and implementation can be registered with the Department and will be shared with local school system leadership and board chairs for follow-up.

The Department will maintain public registry of submitted concerns with appropriate data suppression measures in place.

Questions