



Schools are critical in the lives of Lake County's children and families. In light of restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, Lake County School Districts will strive to maintain the following guiding principles. We will work with Lake County Public Health to minimize risk and address safety factors. These guiding principles will drive our conversations and decisions as we all move forward to address the needs of our children and our communities.

We are committed to:

- Continuing to provide high quality educational opportunities to all students.
- Managing and mitigating risk associated with COVID-19.
- Equity for all students and maximizing individual student achievement.
- Returning students to classroom-based instruction 5 days per week or as many days as the COVID-19 health pandemic allows.
- Supporting individual family choice/need by providing online/distance based learning options for those families who desire it.
- Continuing to provide for the nutritional needs of the children in our communities.
- Providing a safe harbor for school-aged children during the school day.



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Each school district will develop their own plans to reopen campuses, which will be based on guidance from public health officials and local community input.

The following health and safety guidance for the reopening of schools contained herein has been recommended by the California Department of Public Health, Lake County Public Health, and the California Department of Education, and is current as of June 15, 2020.

What Families Can Expect When Students Return to Campus

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing will help limit the spread of the virus. Schools will consider the following strategies to maintain smaller groups of students in shared spaces:

- Modify school schedules
- Limit visitors on campus
- Keep students in smaller groups
- Keep student groups from mixing
- Serve meals in small group settings
- Serve individually plated or boxed meals
- Stagger lunches, recesses, and other transition times
- Do not host large gatherings such as assemblies and dances
- Identify a sick room for students who are not feeling well

SCREENING AT HOME

- Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher should not go to a school site.
- Anyone with respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath should not go to a school site.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

- Staff may be wearing face coverings.
- Students may arrive on buses with fewer students.
- Parents and visitors may have limited access to the school campus.
- Arrival and dismissal times may vary depending on grade level.



GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- Schools will follow enhanced disinfecting guidelines.
- Physical barriers may be installed where social distancing is not possible.
- All students and staff will be asked to wash/clean their hands regularly.
- Schools will limit sharing of supplies between students.

OTHER SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- Face coverings may be required for staff and students over the age of 12, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.
- Face coverings for students under the age of 12 may be recommended.
- School Districts may modify this as they see appropriate.
- Gloves are not recommended for use by students or staff, with the exception of those conducting duties such as cleaning, first aid, or food service.

EVERY CHILD MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BE ON CAMPUS AT THE SAME TIME.

Schools may be required by the California Department of Health, California Department of Education, and the Lake County Department of Public Health to limit the number of students on campus. If so, schools may use schedules that combine distance learning and on-campus instructions. Schedules may change throughout the year.

Some examples of schedules may include:

■ Five days a week classroom-based instruction, with parent choice

- All students will return to a full school day, five days a week.
- Social distancing will be practiced, as feasible, on all school campuses.
- Large group gatherings – field trips, assemblies, dances – are not recommended.
- High quality distance-based learning options will be available for those families who choose.
- Schools may revert to one of these other options below, if the situation requires.

■ Limit the number of students on campus to 50% of normal:

- Divide all classes into two equal groups: one would come to school on Monday and Wednesday, the other on Tuesday and Thursday.
- All teachers provide each group with two days of direct instruction and support, and three days of assignments to complete at home each week.
- Secondary schools could also implement a block schedule to reduce passing periods and lower the frequency of touches in each classroom.

■ Limit the number of students on campus to 25% of normal:

- All classes are divided into four equal groups: one for each day Monday through Thursday, plus one day of teacher prep.
- All teachers provide each group with one day of direct instruction and support, and four days of assignments to complete at home.
- Provide take-home meals for each eligible student before they leave each day.
- Use Friday for teachers to provide individual or small-group support by appointment or to prepare packets for the next week.

■ AM/PM minimum day schedule:

- All classes are divided into two or four equal groups: meet two to four times each week Monday through Thursday, plus one day of teacher prep.
- All teachers provide each group with one half day of direct instruction and support, and assignments to complete at home.
- Provide take-home meals for each eligible student before they leave each day.
- Use Friday for teachers to provide individual or small-group support by appointment or to prepare packets for the next week.

To address childcare needs, we are exploring extended learning options (before and after school programs) to support families, especially families with preschool and elementary students.

Activities that require students to congregate may be limited and modified as guidelines change.

Social distancing is important to ensure the health and safety of our students and will impact how some courses will be taught.

- Social distancing will need to be maintained in all classes and courses, as feasible.
- Some courses will need modifications on how the course will be taught if social distancing is not feasible or when there is an increased risk for spreading the virus. Some examples of this include courses like Choir and Band.
- Schools will work with students and families to ensure accommodations are made and alternative options will be considered.
- For middle and high schools, students and staff may be asked to wear face coverings when social distancing cannot be achieved in some classes.
- Field trips are not currently recommended. Consider virtual field trips when possible.
- Assemblies, dances, and rallies are not recommended at this time.

Our promise to Lake County students and families

- Lake County educational leaders will work diligently to navigate the many issues of reopening school campuses so that we can implement plans that best serve all of our Lake County students.
- The Lake County Office of Education, Lake County Public Health, and local school districts are committed to ensuring the physical and mental health and safety of all students and staff members.
- Each school district will develop their own plans to reopen campuses, which will be based on guidance from public health officials and local community input.
- Lake County Public Health will continue to closely monitor the rate of infection in Lake County.
- As public health guidelines change, the districts and schools will adapt and modify plans, as needed.

Please
contact your individual
school district to learn
more about their
current plans.

California Department of Public Health's *COVID-19 INDUSTRY GUIDANCE: Schools and School-Based Programs*

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf>

California Department of Education's *Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools*

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/strongertogether.pdf>