

Leeds Public School

District #6

Health and Safety Plan

HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES

Throughout the pandemic, Leeds Public School (LPS) has prioritized the health and safety of our students and staff during the return to in-person instruction. The goal of LPS is to provide a healthy school environment to foster greater academic achievement and healthier lives for our students and staff.

Leeds Public School has adopted policies and practices related to each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC. Below is a description of safety strategies we utilize.

Universal wearing of masks:

Masks are not required at this time. Students, staff, and visitors will continue to have the option to wear masks as a mitigation strategy for COVID-19.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing:

Leeds Public School will continue to monitor the transmission of COVID-19 in school facilities and work to reduce transmittable moments as needed.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

Stations are available throughout the school that include hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes or spray, along with adult and children disposable masks. Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, proper disposal of used tissues and proper handwashing are stressed to students and staff. Postage and signage will continue to be used throughout the school.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities:

Daily sanitizing and disinfecting practices of the school building and buses continue. High touch areas will be disinfected throughout the school day.

Contact Tracing:

LPS will continue to work with the public health departments regarding notification and contact tracing, as necessary, for COVID-19 cases impacting LPS.

Diagnostic screening and testing:

Students and staff who are sick should not attend school or any school events. Screening of students, staff, and visitors prior to entering the school may be conducted should the need arise. Parents will be asked to go over the daily health checklist with their child before sending them to school. The daily health checklist should include:

- Check for fever
- Check for cough
- Check for headache

- Check for smell
- Check for taste

In coordination with public health services, COVID-19 testing continues to be available in the community. Additionally, LPS has been approved by the NDDoH to perform BinaxNOW COVID testing at the school. These tests are free, quick, and easy. Trained members of our school staff will oversee testing. This test is performed by gently swabbing the inner part of the lower nostril. This test is not painful. We do not use the longer swabs that reach higher into the nose. Results are available in 15 minutes.

If a student shows two or more symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the school day, they will be referred to the office. Those symptoms include fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.

Parents will be called and will be given the choice to either pick up their child or have them tested.

- Parents who choose not to test their child will be required to keep their student at home until symptom-free including being fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- Students who test and are negative will be allowed to stay at school.

Students or staff members that have been identified as a close contact have the following options:

- Quarantine for 10 days and return to school after day 10 if symptom free (CDC recommendation).
- Get tested by a trained member of our school with a BinaxNOW test every other day for seven days. As long as the tests are negative, the student or staff member can continue in-person learning and participating in extra-curricular activities.
 - Positive test will need to quarantine for 10 days or obtain a negative PCR tested from a clinic.

Students or staff that have been identified as household contact have the following options:

- Quarantine for 10 days during the infectious family member's isolation and an additional 10 days after the family member that tested positive is no longer contagious (CDC recommendation).
- Quarantine for the duration of the infectious family member and then return to school with a negative COVID test result taken after the family member is no longer infectious (10 days).
- If able to isolate in the home from the infectious family member, they can continue in-person learning and participating in extra-curricular activities as long as they:
 - Remain asymptomatic

- Get tested by a trained member of our school with a BinaxNOW test every day for 10 days. As long as tests are negative, the student or staff member can continue in-person learning and participating in extracurricular activities.
 - Positive test will need to quarantine for 10 days or obtain a negative PCR tested from a clinic.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

In coordination with the Benson County Health Department, vaccination clinics were offered to all staff in the spring of 2021, allowing staff members the opportunity to be fully vaccinated prior to the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Efforts are in place state-wide through public health and healthcare agencies to provide vaccinations to eligible individuals, including students.

Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities:

The school was not made aware of any students with disabilities who needed specific accommodation related to our health and safety measures. However, we will make all the necessary accommodations if the need arises.

Leeds Public School works in conjunction with Lake Region Special Education (LRSE) to make educational decisions for students with IEPs on an individual basis in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and ND Department of Instruction office of Special Education Guidelines. Case managers and school teams will meet to collaborate with parents/guardians on an individual education plan (IEP) for their child. The team will work together to develop plans that will ensure equitable and effective access to provide FAPE for students with special needs in all learning environments.

Special Education case managers will be the contact person for communication between each IEP student's parents/guardian and required team members and will monitor the continuation of services and accommodations.

Coordination with state and local health officials:

Leeds Public School collaborates with Benson County Public Health and other local health departments, that work directly with the North Dakota Department of Health and the CDC for our COVID-19 guidance.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Leeds School District has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to, addressing students' academic needs and students' and staffs' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Academics:

Full-time distance learning is NOT an option. North Dakota Department of Public Instruction has discontinued this practice unless schools set up a virtual academy which LPS is not doing. All learning will be in-person at LPS.

Leeds Public School is utilizing a variety of sources, including state and local assessments, to identify learning gaps in mathematics and literacy. Students and parents were given learning packets, activities, and educational computer programs to use throughout the summer for continuation of learning.

For the fall of 2021, the following plans will be implemented to build teacher capacity and close achievement gaps:

- Identification of student gap areas in reading and math
- Restructuring of schedule to allow for interventions and enrichment
- Redefine assessment protocols
- Purchase of intervention material/programs
- Review and purchase of new reading and math curriculum
- Student mentors to implement skill acquisition and/or homework help

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:

Student mental health has been on the forefront of our continuous improvement plan and especially during the pandemic. Below is a list of what we have put in place and/or will continue to implement for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs.

- Social worker available in-person one day a week for students and available as needed for assistance
- Permanent part-time guidance counselor has been hired to start for the 2021-2022 school year
- Social Emotional Curriculum was purchased and will be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year
- Targeted discussions of student needs at staff meetings
- Student mentoring opportunities throughout the year

Other Services:

Free school meals have been provided during the school year since March of 2020. Student transportation services to and from school have been provided in compliance with CDC guidelines. Extracurricular and athletic activities continue following guidance from the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) and public health recommendations.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Leeds Public School plan was developed in collaboration with staff, parents, and community input along with guidance from the Benson County Public Health Department and CDC. Throughout the development of the plan, stakeholders provided input through virtual sessions, meetings, and surveys.

PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF PLAN

During the period of the ARP ESSER award (until September 2024), Leeds Public School will periodically review and revise, as needed, its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and the school will seek and consider public input during the review process. Plan revisions will address updated CDC guidance on schools remaining open if any are issued.