

Updated Family Guide to School Opening

2021-22



School Starts Aug. 31
Contact your local school for more details.

An Exciting School Year Awaits

Dear Long Beach Unified Family,

We are so pleased to offer full-day, in-person instruction for the fall semester. We know that for most students, the in-person setting is the best way to learn. Our educators and support staff are committed to reopening our schools in the safest way possible. During the past summer we successfully educated more than 14,000 students on our campuses, and we will continue to implement prudent health and safety protocols to minimize transmission of the coronavirus.



This quick guide summarizes some key safety information and provides tips as we anticipate the first days of the new school year. As of now, based upon guidance from Long Beach Health and Human Services, students and staff are expected to wear face masks while indoors on-campus. Everyone will be asked to check their health for COVID symptoms prior to arrival on campus. Employees will be required to show proof of COVID vaccination or submit to weekly, asymptomatic COVID testing. We also have added COVID surveillance testing of all unvaccinated students to COVID prevention measures. At this time, there is no requirement for social distancing, but we will distance students as far as space allows.

We recognize that families have experienced difficulties in many ways over the past year. To help address social-emotional well-being, and to make sure students have the academic support they need to thrive, we have developed a Learning Acceleration and Support Plan available at lbschools.net. This comprehensive plan for excellence and equity was developed with broad input from our community, including new advisory groups and many partners at the local and national levels.

We deeply appreciate your support as we look forward with excitement to the school year and a new era of progress for our students.

Warmly,

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

Jill A. Baker, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Published July 2021
Updated August 2021

Our Commitment to Safety



Guidance from Health Officials

The Long Beach Unified School District will continue to adhere to the most recent guidelines issued from the California Department of Public Health and Long Beach Health and Human Services.



COVID-19 Prevention Strategies


- Masks: staff and students are required to wear face coverings indoors
- Physical distancing to the extent possible in each class
- Optimizing ventilation
- Ensuring that staff and students stay home when sick with symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Cleaning and hand hygiene
- Vaccination verification and/or asymptomatic testing
- Case reporting, contact tracing and quarantine for staff or students



Vaccination Details

Thousands of LBUSD employees were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in spring 2021. The school district is now requiring all employees to show proof of COVID vaccination or submit to weekly COVID testing. Students ages 12 and older, and family members of LBUSD students, can receive COVID vaccinations at various community clinics.

For the start of the school year, LBUSD will conduct asymptomatic surveillance testing of unvaccinated students. The test method is the anterior nasal swab test that the school district implemented when in-person classes resumed during the spring 2021 semester.

LBUSD continues to partner with Long Beach Health and Human Services on school-based vaccination clinics. Electronic flyers with information about clinics are emailed to families. These flyers also are posted on each school's website (select the  peachjar logo to view the current e-flyer board).



Personal Protective Equipment

The following items are available for schools based upon student and staff needs:

- Cloth or clear masks
- Disposable masks
- N95/KN95 masks for selected staff
- Face shields for selected staff and students
- Hand sanitizer
- Gowns and disposable gloves for selected staff
- Cleaning wipes and alcohol-based wipes



Self-Screening at Home

Parents will be reminded to monitor these potential symptoms daily before children go to a school:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Cough, sore throat, congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Chills or muscle or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

Stay home if ill.



COVID Case Response and Reporting

Students found to have COVID-19 symptoms when entering campus or during the school day will be sent to the CARE Room. A staff member will contact the parent/guardian to come pick up the student right away. Each site will have a CARE Room with designated trained staff.

LBUSD has designated employees to support COVID protocols and management, along with a COVID compliance hotline available at (562) 204-6075 should any concerns arise.

The school district's COVID Dashboard at lbschools.net shows positive cases confirmed at sites. Each positive case is followed up with site notifications, including parent notifications when applicable.

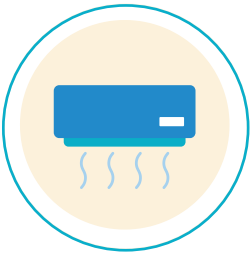
The protocol for managing COVID exposure includes complete contact tracing of all in close contact, which the California Department of Public Health defines as less than six feet of spacing for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. All close contacts are to be notified of possible exposure to COVID within 24 hours.



Home Quarantine

Current home quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts, or for unvaccinated students who have not had any symptoms:

Quarantine can end after day 10 from the date of the last exposure without testing, or after day 7 if tested after day 5 from the date of the last exposure, and the test is negative.



Indoor Air Quality

The Centers for Disease Control recommends increasing air filtration as high as possible (target MERV 13) without diminishing air flow and enforcing the existing or revised indoor air quality plan. MERV is an abbreviation for Minimum Efficiency Reporting Values.

Air purification units have been provided to sites that were not able to accommodate a MERV 13.

All new heating and air conditioning systems have been designed with MERV-16 filters. These are the most efficient filters commonly available for institutional systems.

Back to School Checklist

- ✓ **Check our website at lbschools.net/coronavirus** for the latest COVID and school opening updates, including video messages from the superintendent, plus related resources.
- ✓ **Make sure your student has a clean face mask** to bring to campus. Per guidance from health officials, masks should be worn indoors except when students are eating.
- ✓ **Obtain vaccinations for all eligible family members.** Health officials have determined that vaccinations are safe and effective for anyone age 12 and older. Vaccines are an important part of protecting yourself and others. While vaccines are not currently required for staff or students, we strongly encourage all eligible community members to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ **Enroll in and update your contact information in the ParentVUE.** This website allows parents to view their child's current and historical information, including daily attendance, grades and more. Reach out to your local school if you need help signing up.
- ✓ **Practice new routines.** Daily routines such as getting up and getting dressed on time, wearing a face mask, eating on a regular schedule, and becoming comfortable around other adults and children are all important parts of the transition back to school.

