



**2023-2024**

# **COVID-19 GUIDELINES**



**Updated August 14, 2023**

Please note this plan may evolve throughout the school year in response to the latest medical recommendations. We will continue to work side-by-side with local, state, and federal medical experts to ensure our plan meets the changing nature of the pandemic. Learn more at [jpschools.org/COVIDGuidelines](https://jpschools.org/COVIDGuidelines)

## HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Should the public health situation worsen, restrictions may gradually tighten, allowing for less flexibility and fewer opportunities for in-person teaching and learning. In addition to meeting the guidelines recommended by the state, we may take extra precautions to increase the safety of our students, employees, and families.

**We're implementing the following safety protocols for the 2023 - 2024 school year:**

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| <b>Face Masks</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All adults and students in grades PK-12, regardless of vaccination status, are encouraged to wear a face mask while inside the school facility or in close proximity to others.</li><li>• Students and staff returning to school/work from isolation are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask, while close to others, through day 10 from date of test collection.</li><li>• Students and staff identified as close contacts of an individual that tested positive for COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask for 10 full days from the last day of close contact.<br/>Students and staff exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask for 10 full days from onset of symptoms.</li><li>• Individuals who are immunocompromised or at risk for getting very sick should talk to their healthcare provider about wearing a mask.</li></ul> |
| <b>Personal Hygiene</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students and staff should wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at school, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, and before exiting the school facility.</li><li>• Students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after changing any classroom. Teachers in the classroom should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer every time a new group of students enters.</li><li>• Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used in place of hand-washing in some instances.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Daily Cleaning Efforts</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High-touch surfaces should be cleaned with a commercially available cleaning solution, including EPA-approved disinfectants at least once per day. This includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Light switches, doors, benches, banisters, and bathroom fixtures</li><li>• Surfaces and objects in libraries, labs, and other settings where "hands-on" materials and equipment are used</li><li>• Student desks, which should be cleaned before and after each student's use</li></ul></li><li>• Sharing of materials between students should be minimized.</li><li>• Playground equipment and athletic equipment should be cleaned as necessary, depending on frequency of use.</li></ul>  |

## Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Schools should plan for and expect that some students/staff will contract COVID-19 during the school year given the levels of COVID-19 in our communities. Students, families, and employees should notify the school or their immediate supervisor if they test positive for COVID-19.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be isolated at home for five (5) full days from the date the COVID-19 test was collected.
- Student athletes participating in contact sports should not return to athletic practice or competition for five (5) full days.
- The student/employee may return to school/work once the isolation period is complete, symptoms have significantly improved and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- The student/employee is strongly encouraged to wear a face mask while around others for 10 full days from the date of test collection.
- Schools will communicate with employees and parents of students who were in close contact with the affected COVID-19 individual.
- Aggregate cases may be reported to LDH in accordance with the School Reporting and Data Sharing Order.
- Closures of individual classes and/or schools may be necessary. Factors considered will be the level of community transmission, number of students/faculty affected, and risk of spread at the school.

## COVID-19 Symptoms

- Students and employees who are sick should remain at home, regardless of vaccination status. Staff and families should notify school officials (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Individuals who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, (temp of 100.4 or higher, persistent cough, severe headache, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, body or muscle aches, fatigue, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell) will be sent home and strongly encouraged to seek confirmatory PCR COVID-19 testing and mask for 10 full days from the onset of symptoms.
- If the PCR COVID-19 test result is negative, the individual may return to school/work once symptoms are resolving and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Negative antigen and home tests are considered inconclusive and will not be accepted.
- Each school should establish an area used to isolate staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students in the isolation area must be monitored at all times.
- The isolation area should be cleaned after it is occupied by a sick student or adult.
- Parents will be responsible for picking up their child from school if it is determined that the student has any signs of illness.

## COVID-19 TESTING

- JPSS may offer free rapid, molecular COVID-19 testing at each school site, during regular school hours to JPSS students and staff.
- JPSS students and staff that wish to participate in COVID-19 testing must complete a registration and consent in advance.

## Visitors

- Visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations are strongly encouraged to wear face masks when indoors and in close proximity to others.

### Close Contacts of a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 case

- Individuals who were in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive case may be identified and contacted as part of the LDH contact tracing process.
- Close contact is defined as
  - being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Close contacts, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask for 10 days from the date of last close contact.
- Close contacts are strongly recommended to get tested for COVID-19 after day five (5) of exposure or as soon as possible if symptoms develop.

### COVID-19 Immunizations

- Current guidance from the CDC and Louisiana Department of Health indicates that COVID-19 vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. All students and staff are encouraged to consult their doctor or local health agency for personal vaccination eligibility.

### Mental Health Supports

- Jefferson Parish Schools will continue to provide families and employees access to the Emotional Support Line, staffed by experienced mental health professionals.
- Schools will screen all students to determine if there are any social and/or emotional supports needed.

## TEACHING & LEARNING:

Based on the public health situation, schools may shift to a 100% virtual school instructional model, either on a school-by-school basis or district-wide.

### Isolated Students

- Should students need to be isolated, they should bring devices home, access assignments in Google Classroom and conduct asynchronous learning for days out of school.
- Teachers will check assignments, provide feedback for assignments through Google Classroom and monitor student work.

### Technology

- The district has 1:1 device capacity for K-12 graders and will provide students with district computers in order to support instructional technology for teaching and learning.
- We continue to partner with Cox Communications so qualified families can easily access discounted, low-cost home internet. More information is available at [jpschools.org/internetoffer](https://jpschools.org/internetoffer).

## TRANSPORTATION:

### Transportation

- All passengers should engage in hand hygiene upon entering the bus. Hand sanitizer should not exceed 80% alcohol concentration and containers should be securely closed, secured against shifting and protected from damage.
- Operational Standards
  - Open windows when possible to facilitate air flow as weather conditions permit.
  - Clean high-touch surfaces, including seats and handrails, as per normal. The bus should be cleaned and disinfected daily.



# EXTRA-CURRICULARS:

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| Assemblies and Field Trips       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students and staff should wash hands before and after events.</li><li>• Field trips will be authorized on a case by case basis, depending on the most current community COVID-19 levels and other factors.</li></ul> |
| Athletics and Physical Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Athletic activities should follow the recommendations put forth in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Guidance for High School Athletics and Activities.</li></ul>                                     |
| Band and Music                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Band and vocal music activities may continue with the guidance put forth in the <i>JPS Band and Music Guidelines</i>. - Band, music, and vocal activities may occur indoors or outdoors.</li></ul>                   |

# MEALS:

We will continue to provide nutritious meals for our students. Food will be served with additional safety and sanitation procedures in place.

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| Food Preparation and Meal Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash hands before and after every meal.</li><li>• Allow students to bring food from home.</li><li>• Food and nutrition staff should:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean frequently touched surfaces such as kitchen counter-tops, cafeteria and service tables, door handles, carts and trays at least twice a day. Follow the directions on the cleaning product's label and clean hands afterwards.</li><li>• Practice proper hand hygiene. This is an important infection control measure.</li><li>• Gloves must be worn throughout the preparation and service of food.</li><li>• Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used, but not as a substitute for cleaning hands with soap and water.</li></ul></li></ul> |
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