



# LOWELL JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM (IIPP)



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## COVID-19 INFECTION PREVENTION PLAN

ESTABLISHED: FEBRUARY 1, 2021

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### OVERVIEW

The following guidelines and considerations are intended to support school and community leaders plan and prepare to resume in-person instruction.

**This guidance is interim.** These guidelines and considerations are based on the best available public health data at this time, international best practices currently employed, and the practical realities of managing school operations; as new data and practices emerge, the guidance will be updated. Additionally, the guidelines and considerations do not reflect the full scope of issues that school communities will need to address, which range from day-to-day site-based logistics to the social and emotional well-being of students and staff; further guidance is forthcoming, including on school-based sports and extracurricular activities.

Implementation of this guidance will depend on local public health conditions, including those listed here. Communities meeting those criteria, such as lower incidence of COVID-19 and adequate preparedness, may implement the guidance described below as part of a phased reopening. All decisions about following this guidance should be made in collaboration with local health officials and other authorities.

Implementation of this guidance will be tailored for each setting, including adequate consideration of instructional programs operating at each school site and the needs of students and families.

The guidance is not intended to revoke or repeal any employee rights, either statutory, regulatory or collectively bargained, and is not exhaustive, as it does not include county health orders, nor is it a substitute for any existing safety and health-related regulatory requirements such as those of Cal/OSHA. Lowell Joint will stay current on changes to public health guidance and state/local orders, as the COVID-19 situation continues. Cal/OSHA has more safety and health guidance on its Cal/OSHA Guidance on Requirements to Protect Workers from Coronavirus webpage and will be developing supplemental guidance to assist education employers in complying with Cal/OSHA's COVID-19- related standards.

### General Measures

The District has established and will continue communication with local and State authorities to determine current disease levels and control measures in our community. Lowell Joint SD weekly consults with both LA County Public Health Department as well as the Orange County Public Health Department, because LJSD operates schools/facilities that are physically located in both counties. Examples of these communications:

- LJSD reviews and refers to, if applicable, the relevant county variance documentation. Documentation.

- LJSD regularly consults with both county health officers, and designated staff who are best positioned to monitor and provide advice on local conditions.
- Collaborate with other local educational agencies in your region, including the county office of education.
- Regularly review updated guidance from state agencies, including the California Department of Public Health and California Department of Education.
- Regularly meet with and coordinate with LA County Department of Education as well as the Orange County Department of Education.

The District will evaluate whether and to what extent external community organizations can safely utilize the site and campus resources. The District will ensure external community organizations that use the facilities also follow this guidance.

The District has develop a plan for the possibility of repeated closures of classes, groups or entire facilities when persons associated with the facility or in the community become ill with COVID-19. This is part of the [LJSD Return to School Adaptable Plan Continuum](#).

The District has developed a comprehensive [LJSD Re-Opening of School Safety Plan](#), which is in compliance with California Department of Public Health and is posted on our the LJSD webpage. Each school also has their individual comprehensive [School Site Re-Opening of School Safety Plan](#) that is designed specifically to their school.

The District has established a COVID-19 resource tab on the district’s website where families, the community, and staff can access all information and resources ([Resources Link](#)).

The District has completed and posted the most current [CAL/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program](#), which is located on “resources” tab of the [LJSD webpage](#).

The District has develop a flexible plan to further support students with access and functional needs who may be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness due to COVID-19. For example, review existing student health plans to identify students who may need additional accommodations, develop a process for engaging families for potentially unknown concerns that may need to be accommodated or identify additional preparations for classroom and non-classroom environments as needed. Groups that might be at increased risk of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness include the following:

- Individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers and family members;
- Individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as hand washing and physical distancing; and
- Individuals who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.

### **Healthy Hygiene Practices**

Staff will teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

- Students are taught, and staff reminded, to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow.
- Students and staff will be expected to wash their hands before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after being outside; and before and after using the restroom.
- Students and staff will be expected to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly.
- Staff are expected to model and practice handwashing. For example, for lower grade levels, use bathroom time as an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.
- Students and staff should use fragrance-free hand sanitizer when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry. Note: frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers.
- Ethyl alcohol-based hand sanitizers are preferred and should be used when there is the potential of unsupervised use by children. Isopropyl hand sanitizers are more toxic and can be absorbed through the skin.
- Children under age 9 will use hand sanitizer under adult supervision. Call Poison Control if consumed: 1-800-222-1222.

The District has installed additional portable handwashing stations throughout campuses and near classrooms to minimize movement and congregations in bathrooms to the extent practicable.

The District and school sites have develop routines enabling students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals.

The District and school sites will teach and reinforce use of cloth face coverings, masks, or face shields. Face coverings are most essential when physical distancing is not practicable.

- All staff will use cloth face coverings unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection. Teachers can use face shields, and are provided, which enable younger students to see their teachers' faces and to avoid potential barriers to phonological instruction.
- Food service workers and staff in routine contact with the public (e.g., front office) will use gloves and facial coverings.
- Students will be required to use cloth face coverings unless they have a medical or educational restriction. Cloth face coverings are most essential in settings where physical distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as school buses or other settings where space may be insufficient.
- Students and staff have been and will continue to be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Information has been and will continue to be provided to all staff and families in the school community on proper use, removal and washing of cloth face coverings.

The District has and will continue to ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

The District has and will continue to provide and ensure staff use face coverings and all required personal protective equipment (PPE).

- The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Department of Public Health (CDPH) are and will be working to support procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment.

### **Intensify Cleaning, Disinfection, and Ventilation**

The District has suspend or modify use of site resources that necessitate sharing or touching items. For example, suspending use of drinking fountains and instead encouraging the use of reusable water bottles. The District has installed additional touchless water bottle filling stations on all campuses.

Staff will properly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within school at least daily and, as practicable, frequently throughout the day by trained custodial staff. The District has deployed electro-static cleaning equipment, which is used for cleaning and disinfecting on campuses and facilities.

The District does not maintain any buses.

Frequently touched surfaces in the school include, but are not limited to:

- Door handles
- Light switches
- Sink handles
- Bathroom surfaces
- Tables
- Student Desks
- Chairs

The District will limit use of shared playground equipment in favor of physical activities that require less contact with surfaces.

The District will limit sharing of objects and equipment, such as toys, games and art supplies to the extent practicable. But where allowed, clean and disinfect between uses.

When choosing cleaning products, use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list “N” and follow product instructions.

To reduce the risk of asthma related to disinfecting, programs will aim to select disinfectant products on list N with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid).

- Avoid products that mix these ingredients with peroxyacetic (paracetic) acid, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) or quaternary ammonium compounds, which can cause asthma.
- Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times. Provide employees training on

manufacturer's directions, on Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use and as required by the Healthy Schools Act, as applicable.

- Custodial staff with the responsibility of cleaning and disinfecting the school site have been equipped with proper personal protective equipment, including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection (when applicable) and other appropriate protective equipment as required by the product's instructions. All products must be kept out of children's reach and stored in a space with restricted access.
- The District has established a cleaning and disinfecting schedule in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.
- The District has also deployed UV sanitizing equipment for routine use as well as targeted use in any room/facility that may have been exposed to COVID-19.

The District will continue to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectant and keep products away from students.

The District will continue to ensure ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting. Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible, for example, by opening windows where practicable. When cleaning, air out the space before children arrive; plan to do thorough cleaning when children are not present. If using air conditioning, use the setting that brings in fresh air. Replace and check air filters and filtration systems to ensure optimal air quality.

- If opening windows poses a safety or health risk (e.g., allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to persons using the facility, the District will consider alternatives. For example, maximize central air filtration for HVAC systems (targeted filter rating of at least MERV 1)

The District will continue to take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, drinking fountains and decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.

Good sanitation practices include:

- Checking restroom facilities frequently and make sure they are clean and sanitary
- Assigning an employee to check restrooms, open doors, re-stock toilet paper, clean and sanitize as necessary
- Making sure handwashing areas have plenty of soap, paper towels and that someone is cleaning and sanitizing
- Making sure handwashing supplies are re-stocked regularly
- Assigning an employee to serve drinking water and provide appropriate PPE including but not limited to gloves and N95 respirators
- Sanitizing water receptacle and spigot frequently

## **Implementing Distancing Inside and Outside the Classroom**

### *Arrival and Departure*

1. Open windows and maximize space between students and between students and the driver on school buses where practicable.
2. Minimize contact at school between students, staff, families and the community at the beginning and end of the school day.
3. Stagger arrival and drop off-times and locations as consistently as practicable as to minimize scheduling challenges for families.
4. Designate routes for entry and exit, using as many entrances as feasible. Put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with others as much as practicable.
5. Consider using privacy boards or clear screens.

### *Classroom Space*

1. Students will be expected remain in the same space and in groups as small and consistent as practicable. The same students and teacher or staff will be kept with each group, to the greatest extent practicable.
2. Minimize movement of students and teachers or staff as much as practicable. For example, consider ways to keep teachers with one group of students for the whole day.
3. Maximize space between seating and desks. Distance teacher and other staff desks at least six feet away from student desks. Consider ways to establish separation of students through other means if practicable, such as, six feet between desks, partitions between desks, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.
4. Consider redesigning activities for smaller groups and rearranging furniture and play spaces to maintain separation.
5. Staff will develop instructions for maximizing spacing and ways to minimize movement in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are easy for students to understand and are developmentally appropriate.
6. Implement procedures for turning in assignments to minimize contact.

### *Non-Classroom Space*

1. Nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving other groups at the same time will be limited. Visitors will only be allowed on campus for official business.
2. Campuses will limit communal activities where practicable. Alternatively, stagger use, properly space occupants and disinfect in between uses.
3. All non-classroom space will be considered for instruction, including regular use of outdoor space, weather permitting. For example, consider part-day instruction outside.
4. Campuses will minimize congregate movement through hallways as much as practicable. For example, establish more ways to enter and exit a campus, and staggered passing times when necessary or when students cannot stay in one room.
5. Serve meals in classrooms or outdoors instead of cafeterias or group dining rooms where practicable. Serve individually plated or bagged meals. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils and buffet or family-style meals.
6. Consider holding recess activities in separated areas designated by class.

### *Physical Distancing*

Physical distancing is an effective method that can help stop or slow the spread of an infectious disease by limiting the contact between people. For COVID-19, the recommended distance is at least 6 feet. Employees will be expected to practice distancing outdoors including, but not limited to the following:

- When working in sports fields, playgrounds, assembly areas, and/or other outdoor areas
- Before starting the work shift
- After the work shift
- Coming and going from vehicles
- Entering, working and exiting physical buildings or other structures
- During breaks and lunch periods
- When other work activities including using various tools

### **Limit Sharing**

Campus staff will keep each child's belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies or areas as much as practicable. Ensure personal belongings are taken home each day to be cleaned.

Campus staff will ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials (art supplies, equipment, etc.) to the extent practicable or limit use of supplies and equipment to one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between uses.

Campus staff will avoid sharing electronic devices, clothing, toys, books and other games or learning aids as much as practicable.

### **Train All Staff and Educate Families**

The District will train all staff and provide educational materials to families in the following safety actions:

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Physical distancing guidelines and their importance
- Use of face coverings
- Screening practices o COVID-19 specific symptom identification

The District has consider and conducted the training and education virtually, or, if in-person, ensure distancing is maintained.

Information has been provided to all staff and families on proper use, removal and washing of cloth face coverings.

## **Check for Signs and Symptoms**

The District will prevent discrimination against students who (or whose families) were or are diagnosed with COVID-19.

The District does actively encourage staff and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home. The District has developed and implemented policies that encourage sick staff and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and ensure staff, students and students' families are aware of these policies.

The District has implement wellness screening and other procedures for all staff and students entering the facility.

- All staff are expected to complete a personal health/wellness check at home before coming the campus as well as a required [LJSD Health/Wellness Screening](#) as they arrive to campus. The Health/Wellness screening does require staff to use the non-touch temperature check equipment, deployed at each campus, as part of their screening.
- The school staff will conduct a visual wellness checks of all students and students' temperature will be taken with the use a no-touch thermometers.
- Ask all individuals about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
- Make available and encourage use of hand-washing stations or hand sanitizer.
- The District Nurse will document/track incidents of possible exposure and notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality, as required under FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records. Additional guidance can be found here. As noted in Section 9 below, the staff liaison can serve a coordinating role to ensure prompt and responsible notification.
- If a student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, staff should communicate with the parent/caregiver and refer to the student's health history form and/or emergency card to identify if the student has a history of allergies. [COVID-19 Informational Forms](#) are available on the [ljsd.org](http://ljsd.org) webpage.

The District will monitor staff and students throughout the day for signs of illness; send home students and staff with a fever of 100.F degrees or higher, cough or other COVID-19 symptoms.

The District will not penalize students and families for missing class.

## **Plan for When a Staff Member, Child or Visitor Becomes Sick**

The District will work with school administrators, nurses and other healthcare providers to identify an "cool down" area (isolation) or area to separate anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19. Each school's "cool down" area is located in an outside tent area to help provide social distancing and fresh air.

Any students or staff exhibiting symptoms will immediately be required to wear a face covering and be required to wait in an "cool down" area until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as practicable.

The District will establish procedures to arrange for safe transport home or to a healthcare facility, as appropriate, when an individual is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

For serious injury or illness, district staff will call 9-1-1 without delay. Seek medical attention if COVID-19 symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. Updates and further details are available on CDC's webpage.

In compliance with all CDPH and CAL/OSHA directives, notification of local health officials, staff and all families will be made of any positive case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws.

Areas used by any sick person will be closed off and not use before cleaning and disinfection. To reduce risk of exposure, staff will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. The District has deployed the use of surgical UV light sanitization equipment or routine and target cleaning. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, staff will wait as long as practicable. Staff will ensure a safe and correct application of disinfectants using personal protective equipment and ventilation recommended for cleaning. Disinfectant products will be kept away from students.

Sick staff members and students will not be allowed to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, including 3 days with no fever, symptoms have improved and 10 days since symptoms first appeared.

The District does ensure that students, including students with disabilities, have access to instruction when out of class, as required by federal and state law.

The District does provide students, teachers and staff from higher transmission areas opportunities for telework, virtual learning, independent study and other options as feasible to reduce travel to schools in lower transmission areas and vice versa.

### **Maintain Healthy Operations**

The District does monitor staff absenteeism and have a roster of trained back-up staff where available.

The District does monitor the types of illnesses and symptoms among your students and staff to help isolate them promptly.

The District has designate a staff liaison or liaisons to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who they are and how to contact them. The liaison should be trained to coordinate the documentation and tracking of possible exposure, in order to notify local health officials, staff and families in a prompt and responsible manner. Staff are encouraged to connect with their site principal, immediate supervisor, and/or Mr. Jim Coombs, Superintendent of Schools (562-902-4203, [jcoombs@ljsd.org](mailto:jcoombs@ljsd.org)), Ms. Andrea Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services (562-902-4280, [areynolds@ljsd.org](mailto:areynolds@ljsd.org)), and Mr. David Bennett, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations (562-902-4291, [dbennett@ljsd.org](mailto:dbennett@ljsd.org)).

The District does maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report symptoms and receive prompt notifications of exposures and closures, while maintaining confidentiality, as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records. Additional guidance can be found here. <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>

The District does consult with local health departments if routine testing is being considered by a local educational agency. The role of providing routine systematic testing of staff or students for COVID-19 (e.g., PCR swab testing for acute infection, or presence of antibodies in serum after infection) is currently unclear. It should be noted that Lowell Joint School District coordinates with both the LA County Public Health Department and Orange County Public Health Department, because LJSd has school campuses and facilities that are physically located in both counties.

The District does support staff and students who are at higher risk for severe illness or who cannot safely distance from household contacts at higher risk, by providing options such as telework, virtual learning or independent study.

### **Considerations for Partial or Total Closures**

The District does check State and local orders and health department notices daily about transmission in the area or closures and adjust operations accordingly. The District also meets with and coordinates with both LA and Orange County Public Health Department staff on a weekly basis.

If a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and had exposed others at the school, implement the following steps:

- In consultation with the local public health department, the appropriate school official (District Nurse) may decide whether school closure is warranted, including the length of time necessary, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
- Given standard guidance for isolation at home for at least 14 days after close contact, the classroom or office where the patient was based will typically need to close temporarily as students or staff isolate.
- Additional close contacts at school outside of a classroom should also isolate at home.
- Additional areas of the school visited by the COVID-19 positive individual may also need to be closed temporarily for cleaning and disinfection.

- Implement communication plans for school closure to include outreach to students, parents, teachers, staff and the community.
- Include information for staff regarding labor laws, information regarding Disability Insurance, Paid Family Leave and Unemployment Insurance, as applicable for public local educational agencies.
- Provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of community physical distancing measures while a school is closed, including discouraging students or staff from gathering elsewhere.
- Develop a plan for continuity of education. Consider in that plan how to also continue nutrition and other services provided in the regular school setting to establish alternate mechanisms for these services to continue.
- Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.

## **Training**

The District does provide regular training for employees on the following topics using interactive methods that are easy to understand including verbal, visual, audiovisual and picture-centered handouts and other resources:

- What is COVID-19 and how is it spread
- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- When to seek medical attention if not feeling well
- Prevention of the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick
- Physical distancing guidelines
- Importance of washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
  - Hand washing should occur before and after using the toilet, eating, coming and going to work, after interactions with others, after contacting shared surfaces or tools, before and after wearing masks or gloves, and after blowing nose or sneezing. Methods to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Safely using cleansers and disinfectants
  - Reading labels, wearing proper personal protective equipment (PPE), hazard review and steps to minimize harm to employees using those products.