

Silver Lake Schools



Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

JUNE 21, 2021

Silver Lake Schools is committed to maintaining the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff even as we have passed the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This document is intended to be guidance and will change as additional information/input necessitates. It will be reviewed and revised no less than every six months.

PART 1. IN-PERSON LEARNING

Describe how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. Also, describe adopted policies and procedures on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

1. Universal and correct wearing of masks.

Following the last school day of the 2020-2021 school year, the mask mandate was removed. Mask wearing will be optional and recommended for the 2021-2022 school year for those who feel safer with them, as well as unvaccinated individuals. District personnel will continue to train on the proper technique for wearing masks. Posters showing proper mask-wearing are hung around the buildings. Masks will be made available at the main offices of each building.

We will continue to monitor national, state, and local government and health agency mandates, guidance, and recommendations.

2. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).

Visual reminders of social distancing will remain around the district. Should conditions in the community warrant further distancing, we will follow the recommendations of health officials and the community notified within 24 hours. Considerations will be made for cohorts if needed.

3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

The district will maintain sanitizing stations in every classroom and common area and remind students and staff of frequent and proper handwashing. There will be posted reminders in the building, including bathrooms. The district will remind and reteach students and staff to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and post visual reminders.

4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

Custodial staff will continue to follow specific cleaning protocols and procedures. We will assign/reassign staff to applicable shifts, as needed, to continually clean high traffic areas. Teachers will have access in their classrooms to cleaning supplies. Should conditions warrant, staff will enhance cleaning protocols to meet our local needs.

The district installed air ionizers on all heating and air units, and those will remain in place.

5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.

The district increased the availability of nursing staff throughout the pandemic to assist with student and staff health needs. The district will follow all mandates of isolation (10 days) and quarantining (14 days) for those considered close contacts of COVID-positive subjects. If a group of people (2 or more) is gathered closer than 6' for ten or more minutes in a given day, all people will need to quarantine if one of the members of the group tests positive **except any person who is confirmed to be vaccinated or if all persons were properly wearing masks the entire time of the gathering.**

6. Diagnostic and screening testing.

The district will make testing available to students and staff upon request. The district's nurse and health staff will continuously monitor for symptoms, trends, and clusters and request that students and staff seek medical services as appropriate.

Classrooms, staff and students, and groups that gather as part of a team, club, or other activity may receive regular testing to ensure a COVID-19 free environment.

7. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.

The district will continue collaborating with state and local partners on vaccination efforts following state and federal law. We will provide facilities for vaccination clinics. Clinic schedules will be as requested by the county or local officials.

The district may develop an incentive program upon approval of grant funds to reduce book rental fees for students and provide gift cards for staff who show proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination.

The district will not refuse, withhold from, or deny a person any services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

8. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

The district will provide reasonable, necessary, and appropriate accommodations to its policies and practices for students with disabilities as determined by individual student needs and per an individual's documented accommodations or individualized education plan (IEP/504). Parents or guardians requesting accommodations should contact the applicable building administrator to request information on programs for students with disabilities.

9. Coordination with state and local health officials.

At least one representative will attend the meetings held by the health department. When possible, at least one member of the nurse's staff will participate in these meetings. The building or district administration will attend meetings at the state level intended to disseminate information regarding the COVID-19 virus or its variants.

PART II: CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to:

1. Addressing students' academic needs

Our district plans to continue full-time, in-person instruction beginning the fall of 2021. All students in grades K-12 will continue to have access to Chromebooks to enhance their learning. Some instructional staff have had assignments changed to classes at the secondary level that focus on students' learning gaps, primarily in reading and mathematics.

Data will be collected and reviewed and additional programs added to further support all students' academic needs. Where possible, those programs will take place during the school day; however, the possibility of before and after school and summer programs may need to be considered.

Additional time and training for staff to fully meet all needs will be made available during ordinary plan time, professional learning communities, and professional development days.

2. Students' and staff social, emotional, and mental health.

The district's staff will continue to monitor and address our students' social and emotional learning needs. The counselors have been issued school cell phones to make sure students and staff have access to these individuals. There will be regular check-ins by staff during advisory periods or homeroom time. Students in grades PreK through 8th grade have a minimum of 10-mins per day to get outside, exercise, and have unstructured social time.

The staff has access to our counselors, administrators, and additional mental health services through our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The administration will consider social and emotional wellness and mental health during planned meetings. Additionally, all staff has 24-hour access to the weight room facility, track, and the athletics trainer during his hours.

3. Other needs, which may include student health and food service.

The district's nursing staff will answer questions, do training, do preliminary screenings, and administer COVID tests. It will act as a liaison between the family and the health department. All medical treatments and diagnoses will need to be done by the family's primary care physician.

If school is closed or moved to a remote learning environment, free lunches will be made available during the 2021-2022 school year to those students who have notified the school's food service director that day. The food service director will need to be notified by email (bsmith@silverlakeschools.org) or by contacting your child's school office. The request for meal delivery by families who live on one of our daily bus routes will be made while ordering the meals.