

NEW LEXINGTON SCHOOLS

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Casey Coffey, Superintendent

New Lexington Schools' New Release August 11, 2021

In collaboration with the Perry County Health Department, our schools want to provide factual information on current plans for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Once again, we will be offering in-person instruction in accordance with our district calendars with some of the same safety modifications in place to help mitigate the risk of contracting or spreading any infections or illnesses while at school. Currently no mask mandate is in place for schools, we respect parental decisions on whether or not to send their children to school wearing a mask based upon their personal circumstances and preferences. The same holds true for COVID vaccinations of children 12 and over; that choice and responsibility falls on the parents. It's important to note that anyone who is fully vaccinated against COVID does NOT have to quarantine if they are exposed unless they are symptomatic. Masks will be worn on busses and will be available if anyone needs one. This is the only mandate that is currently in place in our entire County and State in relationship to public schools and transportation. Quarantine measures ARE still in place for those who are unvaccinated. As Fall sports practices and extracurriculars begin, it's important for parents and student athletes to remember these quarantine requirements, especially since we've had a summer of mask-free habits.

Our collective goal is to provide the safest and healthiest environments we can for our students and families as we come back together and experience more normalcy at school. COVID is still circulating, and there are many unknown factors about the variants of the virus that have begun to surface. Any plans we have in place could change abruptly based on local health circumstances and state or federal mandates. While our hope is that we can greatly reduce the risk of infections at school, it's important to remember that there will always be risks regardless of the plans we have in place. We greatly appreciate the patience of our families and communities as we forge ahead into another school year. We're looking forward to seeing all of our students and staff very soon! **Go Panthers!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey H. Coffey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Casey H. Coffey
Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the New Lexington School District is to promote the highest level of educational achievement, maximizing all students' potential, while challenging them to become life-long learners and socially responsible citizens.

New Lexington Schools Health and Safety Coalition

NLSD Guidelines for 2021-22 School Year



This document represents a collaborative effort from New Lexington Schools and the Perry County Health Department. The key details to consider and the resulting recommendations have been developed based on the current information from ODH and the PCHD. While some guidelines are non-negotiable per ODH directives, it will be up to individual school districts as to how they implement these best practice protocols. Please note that this is a fluid document and guidelines may change as prescriptive health orders are updated.

Our Purpose

At New Lexington Schools we are committed to maintaining a safe and productive learning environment for everyone. In order to maintain a safe setting for all of our students and staff, and to comply with the orders, regulations and recommendations issued by the Ohio Department of Health for the safe return to school, we commit to maintaining the expectations set forth in this document for students and staff.





Recommendations

Protective Measures

- **Physical Distancing**

- Physical distancing of 3 feet is recommended in the following areas and settings:
 - Classrooms
 - Common areas: halls, entry ways, lunch rooms, restrooms, entry and exit points to buildings
 - Office areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Gymnasiums and auditoriums
 - School transportation

- **Face Masks**

- There is currently no mask mandate in place for schools. We respect parental decisions on whether or not to send their children to school wearing a masks based on their personal circumstances and preferences.
- Masks will be worn on school transportation vehicles
 - Except to accommodate medical or other related type concerns upon appropriate documentation provided

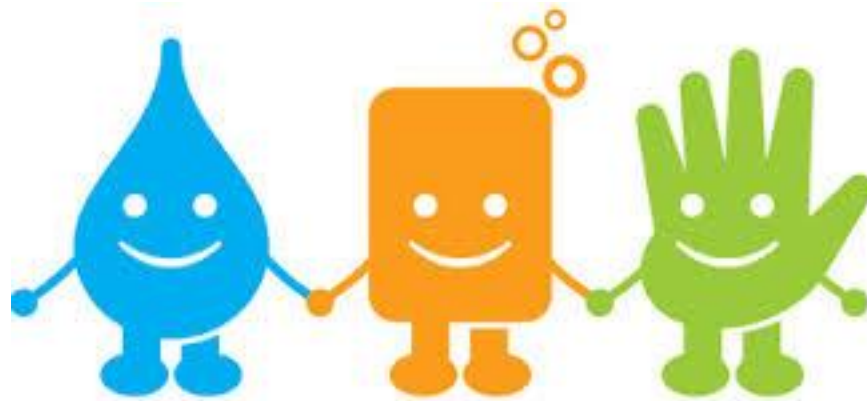


- **Hand Hygiene**

- Sanitizer stations are readily available to students and staff throughout the facilities
- Assure accessibility to sinks, soap, and paper towels
- Hands should be washed or sanitized:
 - Upon entry
 - Before eating
 - Before boarding the bus and at the end of the day
 - After restroom use
 - Any time hands are soiled
- Soap and water are to be used in between hand sanitizer use

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- District shall have available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Sanitization

- Students and staff share responsibility for building cleanliness
- Provide staff with access to cleaning products
- **Classrooms:**
 - Building life-long learning for health practices in our students is important.
 - Staff will regularly:
 - Spray their own desks, door handles, and learning supplies
- **Pay special attention to common areas for disinfecting:**
 - Door handles, hand rails, high touch points
 - Sinks
 - Water fountains: replaced with bottle filling stations
 - Printers, copiers, shared technology and equipment
 - Phones
 - Staff only areas (break rooms, mail room, etc.)
 - Shared spaces
 - Recommend cleaning throughout the day and evening hours
- **Student supplies:** limit sharing when possible; disinfect between use when shared



Transportation

- Home self-health assessments completed by parents/guardians
 - Home self-assessment is a daily health check prior to going to school which should include taking a student's temperature and assessing for COVID symptoms.
 - Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
 - Anyone with symptoms or a fever above 100°F should stay home.
- Masks will be worn on school transportation vehicles
- Disinfect all vehicles
- Coordinate procedures with other transportation stakeholders such as parochial, public school, and daycare transportation staff

Building Considerations

- **Bathrooms**
 - Post directions on correct handwashing procedures
 - Maintain ample supplies and deep cleaning schedule
 - Limit/stagger student access
- **Fire and Tornado Drills**
 - Perform drills according to ability to adapt for social distancing
- **First Aid and Emergency Medical Procedures**
 - Emergency procedures without PPE are at the risk and discretion of the employee and are not required

Daily Transitions

Daily Transitions: Drop Off and Pick Up

- Drop off and pick up procedures for students who are not riding buses may change and will be building specific
 - These will be provided by the building of attendance due to logistical differences
- Parents/Guardians picking up their students will buzz the building, and the student will be taken outside in order to limit all outside visitors
 - Please call the office ahead of time so your child is prepared for pick up



Health Assessments

- **Implement a symptom check and monitoring form**
 - Home self-health assessments completed by parents/guardians and employees
 - Home self-assessment is a daily health check prior to going to school which should include taking a student's temperature and assessing for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
 - Anyone with symptoms or a fever above 100°F should stay home.



COVID-19 Tracking and Reporting

- Recommend parents report diagnosis to school or district
 - Local health department must notify schools of students and staff testing positive for COVID-19
 - Local health department performs contact tracing
 - Student directory information may be shared in these instances
 - Collaborate with local health department monitoring
 - Return to school or work after the above steps
 - Follow CDC, ODH, and Perry County Health Department guidance
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High Risk Students and Staff

- Vulnerable student populations include foster care, homeless, mental/emotional conditions, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), special needs, medically complex, medically fragile, chronic disease, etc.
- Staff with chronic illness and/or other underlying contributing health factors, pregnancy, etc.
- Procedures that aerosolize the virus cannot be performed safely in schools:
 - Nebulizers
 - Suctioning: oral and tracheal
 - High flow oxygen

- Specialized Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is recommended for procedures that require less than 3 foot distance
 - School nurse assessment of ill and injured children
 - CPI holds
 - Hand over hand instruction
 - Diapering and toileting
 - Medical procedures: catheterizations, tube feed, ostomy care, diabetes care
 - PT/OT/Speech/Adaptive PE

Additional Resources

- **Hopewell Health Center**
 - <https://www.hopewellhealth.org/>
- **New Lexington Schools Facebook**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/School/New-Lexington-School-District-419939374745657/>
- **New Lexington Schools Webpage**
 - <https://www.nlpanthers.org>
- **Ohio Department of Education**
 - <http://education.ohio.gov/>
- **Ohio Department of Health**
 - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/>
- **Perry County Health Department Facebook**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/Perry-County-Health-Department-139224129481428/>
- **Perry County Health Department Webpage**
 - <http://perrycountyhealth.info/>