



To: Louisiana Public and Non-Public Schools
 From: Louisiana Department of Health
 Re: Public Health Guidance for the 2020-2021 School Year in light of the Governor’s Roadmap to Restarting Louisiana

In light of the Governor’s Roadmap to Restarting Louisiana, we are issuing guidance relative to opening public and non-public school facilities to serve students in the 2020-2021 school year. This guidance is relative to operating schools in Phases 1, 2, and Phase 3 of reopening.

This guidance is based on current medical knowledge of how COVID-19 is transmitted, primarily through close physical contact, vocal and musical activities during which aerosol particles might be emitted, and touching shared surfaces or objects.

Protective measures in school settings include:

- Social distancing, achieved by establishing and, for the maximum number of days possible, maintaining small groups of individuals that minimally interact with other groups or individuals, including in shared indoor spaces;
- Monitoring students and staff for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat; and
- Practicing frequent environmental cleaning and hand-washing.

Additionally, and as defined by [federal guidelines](#), vulnerable students should not attend and vulnerable staff members, including environmental services staff, should not enter the facility. [Vulnerable](#) school bus drivers and aides should not provide transportation services to students.

Guidelines

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Maximum group size	10, including adults	25, including adults	50, including adults
Younger students	Maintain static groups, understanding that individuals may come into close contact and may not be wearing masks		
Older students	If students are able to maintain physical distance, the group’s composition may change. Students maintain physical distance of six feet in classroom / indoor settings to the maximum extent possible.		
Physical	- Groups convene indoors in rooms enclosed by walls or partitions		

standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-touch surfaces (e.g., desks, doorknobs) are cleaned before and after each group's use - Groups are separated outdoors but do not require a physical barrier - Limit crowding at entry and exit points: maintain maximum group sizes and physical distance recommendations to the maximum extent possible 		
Athletics	Refrain from contact and high-risk sports	Contact / high-risk sports allowable within defined groups	
Symptom monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess students on arrival and throughout the day, including initial temperature check - Establish an area that can be used to isolate sick students - Clean and disinfect surfaces in the isolation area after the sick student has gone home 		
Environmental Cleaning and Personal Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-touch surfaces are cleaned multiple times throughout the day, including bathrooms - Hand-washing at arrival, at least every two hours, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, and at exit - Adults and secondary students (5th grade / 10 years old), as able, should wear cloth masks to the maximum extent possible, most importantly at entry and exit, and during transitions within the school building. Individuals with severe breathing difficulties should not wear masks. 		
Transportation	Maximum school bus capacity, including adults		
	25 percent	50 percent	75 percent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure space between seats in accordance with maximum capacity; in Phases 2 and 3, achieve spacing by reducing the number of passengers per seat and, when possible, ensuring space between seats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats, with an empty seat between household groups - To increase airflow, windows should be open to the maximum extent possible - High-touch surfaces are cleaned after each group's use - The bus is cleaned at least once per day 		

For information regarding coronavirus 2019/COVID 19, please visit the LDH website and CDC website: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/coronavirus> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, and follow the below general guidelines.



Protecting Yourself and Others in Louisiana		
<i>Practice Social Distancing</i>	<i>Wash Your Hands, Cover Your Cough</i>	<i>Take Caution with Louisianans Who Are at Risk</i>
<i>Even if you feel well, stay at home as much as possible. In public, keep at least six feet distance from others. Avoid unnecessary appointments.</i>	<i>Cover your cough and sneezes. Use your elbow or a tissue. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.</i>	<i>Take special caution to avoid exposing the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. Avoid visiting those most at risk, and call instead. Offer to help with groceries and other needs.</i>