



**NATCHITOCHE PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD**
TOGETHER WE CAN

NPSB Ready to Achieve

2021-2022

School Operational Guidelines

Ready to Achieve

- **FACE COVERINGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:** While inside the school facility, per the Governor's mandate, face coverings will be worn at all times by all students and staff. While outside, masks do not need to be worn. Neck gaiters are allowed but must be "doubled up."
- Facial Covering Mandate – Executive Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021
- Exceptions: Please visit Governor Edwards' Letter to Dr. Brumley concerning [exceptions to the mask mandate.](#)

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- **TRANSPORTATION:** Buses are allowed to operate at 100% capacity and as required by Presidential Executive Order No. 13998 on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, all passengers on the school bus must wear a facial covering while using transportation, regardless of capacity.
- Windows should be kept open when it does not create a safety or health hazard. Seating charts should be created and consistently enforced. Buses will be sanitized daily. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available on each bus.

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- **GROUP SIZES/PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Maximum group size (indoors) should be determined by physical distancing requirements.
- 4 year old students who are unable to wear face coverings or maintain a physical distance from others should be assigned static groups.
- Adults will work to maintain distance to the greatest extent possible when working with students within the context of effective instructional practices. Schools will be able to utilize large spaces such as cafeterias and gyms without the necessity of barriers or dividers between individual groups.
- **PHYSICAL STANDARDS:** Schools will continue to establish controlled routines for entrance, exit, and class exchanges.

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- **PERSONAL HYGIENE:** Students and employees will continue to have access to hand washing stations and hand sanitizer throughout the day. Students and employees will be encouraged to utilize hand sanitation resources when entering the school, exchanging classes, before and after eating, and other times throughout the day as needed.

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- **MONITORING AND SCREENING FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:** Schools will continue to screen students/staff (temperature checks) at the beginning of each school day. It is also important that all students and staff properly monitor their own symptoms and conduct proper screenings prior to attending school or work for the safety of themselves and others. *No student or staff member should attend school or work when experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or experiencing a fever even without having other symptoms.*
- NPSB allows for “covid leave.” This applies if a staff member is positive, under quarantine, or caring for a household member who is positive. Employees who wish to use “covid leave” must apply through our website at onlinetools.npsb.la/covid19. They must apply within 30 days of their quarantine.

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- **COVID TESTING:** Through a partnership with LSUHS all students and staff may participate in weekly Covid testing. This is **NOT** mandatory; it is 100% voluntary. Weekly testing will occur at every school location. This is not for symptomatic individuals. **This program is free and requires parental consent.**
- If you test positive or have any questions, contact our NPSB nurse at covidnurse@npsb.la.

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- **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING:** Natchitoches Parish Schools will continue its efforts toward daily cleaning and disinfecting. High-touch surfaces should be cleaned at least twice per day, including bathrooms. Students should wash or sanitize hands upon arrival at the school, before and after eating, before and after using outdoor play equipment, after bathroom usage, and before exiting the school facility.
- Traditional drinking fountains will remain closed. Schools have water filling stations available. Students and employees are **encouraged to bring personal water bottles** for refilling.

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- **VISITORS:** Schools will continue to limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible.
- School visitors must wear a face covering and submit to temperature screening upon arrival.

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- **LARGE GATHERINGS:** Per the Governor's August 2nd mask mandate, all spectators at indoor events will be required to wear masks.
- Assemblies and other large gatherings are limited to the maximum group size allowed by social distancing. Those younger students unable to mask, must maintain static groupings.
- Field trips are currently not allowed.

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- **BAND, VOCAL and MUSIC:**

- Band or vocal activities may occur indoors or outdoors. When band and vocal music classes are unable to practice outdoors, class can be held indoors in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations and the National Association for Music Education Guidance which has physical distancing, masking, and instrument covering provisions.
- Indoor concerts can be held in accordance with theaters, concert, or music hall guidance found at opensafely.la.gov.

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- **COVID-19 SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS:** If Covid-19 symptoms arise during the school day for a student, schools will isolate students and inform parents to pick up their child. Staff who develop symptoms should immediately inform their direct supervisor and isolate immediately.
- **CONFIRMED COVID POSITIVE CASE RESPONSE:** Natchitoches Parish Schools will continue to work to identify close contacts to any confirmed positive case so that close contacts can be properly notified and provided information for the appropriate response.
 - Parents/Staff should inform administration of positive cases in order for contact tracing to occur.

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- **REASONS FOR QUARANTINE:**

- Positive cases (10 days from test date)
- Covid-19 Symptomatic persons
- Persons living in the same household as someone with a positive case (unless they have been positive themselves within the past 90 days).
 - Will quarantine for 14 days from exposure.
- Persons exposed to a positive case/symptomatic person, while **not** properly wearing a mask or distancing, will be required to quarantine.
 - Persons exposed to a positive case/symptomatic person, while properly wearing a mask and distancing **will not have to quarantine** but are encouraged to test immediately after notification and 5-7 days after if initial test is negative.
- Those employees who are on quarantine or caring for a quarantined family member need to supply documentation verifying the diagnosis. (onlinetools.npsb.la/covid19).
- Employee Quarantines who do not apply online will not be covered and/or qualify for covid leave.

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- **QUARANTINE GUIDELINES**

- Quarantines due to exposure (not properly masked), will be asked to stay home for 14 days. Options to shorten quarantine if asymptomatic include:
 - No symptoms develop during quarantine AND they have a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than day 5 after their last exposure: they may quarantine for 7 days from last contact with a COVID-19 case OR \
 - Close contacts who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 90 days and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine. **(documentation required)**.
 - Close contacts who are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose in a single-dose vaccine) at the time of exposure and remain asymptomatic do not need to quarantine from last contact with a COVID-19 case.
 - If a person tests positive they will quarantine for 10 days after the positive test.
 - If individuals are initially symptomatic but later develop symptoms, they should inform their NPSB contact.

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- **ATHLETICS:**

- Athletics in high school and middle school will follow the [Louisiana High School Athletic Association](#) (LHSAA). Any changes LHSAA makes throughout the year will be followed.
- Per the Governors proclamation, Executive Proclamation Number 137 JBE 2021, masks are not required of athletes during sporting events.