

SY 2021-22 LEA Health and Safety Plans

School Name: The Lab School of Washington
School Contact: Katherine Schantz
School Type: Private, Parochial or Independent School
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Background and Purpose

[OSSE's Health and Safety Guidance for Schools](#) is issued for LEAs and private, parochial and independent schools (schools). LEAs and schools must develop and submit to OSSE comprehensive health and safety plans. This plan is intended to provide the public with information on how the School will support the safe reopening and operation of school buildings, including guidelines on masking, social distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and appropriate response to a positive COVID-19 case.

OSSE reviewed each School's responses to the questions for clarity, completeness, and compliance with the DC Health and OSSE health and safety guidance for schools and provided feedback to the School. Before publication, School's were given the opportunity to revise their responses based on OSSE's feedback. LEAs and schools are responsible for incorporating additional or updated public health guidance into their policies and procedures throughout the school year as such guidance is released.

Face Masks

1. Provide the School's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- **a. except for specific circumstances (e.g., while eating) articulated in OSSE's guidance, all students, staff and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, must wear non-medical face coverings or face masks at all times while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and**
- **b. masks must be worn correctly.**
 - All students and faculty/staff must bring and wear facemasks while on campus.
 - Please ensure you have an adequate supply of clean, comfortable, well-fitted masks so that you or your student can wear a clean one, and bring a spare, to campus each day.
 - Reusable masks need to be laundered daily.
 - Lab School does not permit gaiters, scarves, handkerchiefs or vented masks
 - For more specifics about cloth face coverings specifications please consult: [CDC Guidance on Cloth Face Coverings](#)
 - Masks must comply with Lab School dress guidelines: no references to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping, smoking, the occult, sexual innuendo, violence or obscenities.
 - Breaks from wearing masks will occur for meals, and only when students and employees are able to be at physical distance from other members of the Lab School community, and are outdoors.

2. Provide the School's policies and procedures in the event that a student, staff member, or visitor is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times.

- Lab School does not allow students, or faculty/staff members, or visitors to enter our campuses without wearing a mask.
- Signs are posted and all personnel take responsibility to keep the community safe.

3. Provide the School's policies and procedures to support physical distancing between individuals and within and across groups, including in classrooms, common spaces, during arrival and dismissal procedures, and during extracurricular activities.

Following CDC and DC Department of Health guidelines, The Lab School has reduced density in our spaces.

- We have reconfigured spaces to allow for a prudent distance between individuals – this includes reducing classroom occupancy, modifying new spaces into larger classrooms, using clear separation panels where appropriate, and implementing other measures to ensure each occupant has enough separation and airflow to mitigate risk.
- The school has embarked on an ambitious infrastructure project to make more of our outdoor

spaces Wi-Fi accessible. Teachers and advisors may use outdoor spaces for instruction and other activities as appropriate. Every space has been evaluated to determine the number that can be accommodated with physical distancing.

- Physical Distancing
 - We have designed and installed signage to guide and reinforce safe distancing.
 - Corridors have directional signage where possible.
 - Some stairwells are UP only, others designated as DOWN only;
- All in-person group events, performances, athletics, and assemblies have been reevaluated to meet DCDOH and CDC guidelines.

4. Provide the School's policies and procedures regarding the use of cohorts for students and/or staff, including steps to minimize interactions between cohorts, as applicable.

- Students at unvaccinated grade levels are grouped in homerooms to minimize interaction with others. Generally, the combined homerooms include no more than 18 students and consistent faculty/staff to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.

5. Provide the School's policies and procedures to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette including frequent, proper handwashing strategies and encouraging covering coughs and sneezes.

Handwashing and hand sanitizing opportunities are frequent. Parents should continue to enforce 20-second handwashing for children.

- Foot pump operated hand sanitizing stands have been installed at all entrances to the buildings.
- Smaller hand sanitizers are installed in more than 100 locations around the school.
- Paper towel dispensers have been returned to the restrooms.

Students and faculty/staff are encouraged to clean hands multiple times a day including when they board or disembark from a bus – Lab or Fleet; when they arrive on campus; between all activities; before leaving or returning to a classroom; before and after eating; before and after touching shared objects; before and after using the restroom; before and after transitioning inside from the outdoors; after blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing; before and after removing or putting on a face mask; and before they leave the campus.

Students and faculty/staff are practiced in respiratory etiquette including handwashing and proper covering of coughs and sneezes.

6. Provide the School's plan to make available adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer,

tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices including, as relevant, in classrooms, bathrooms, offices and common spaces.

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Students and faculty/staff are practiced in respiratory etiquette including handwashing and proper covering of coughs and sneezes.

7. Provide the School's policies and procedures to acquire, distribute and support the appropriate use of PPE including gowns/coveralls, gloves, surgical masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles) and N95 masks, as relevant and necessary.

In addition to masks, employees who work in the nurse offices are required to wear protective eye gear, and may wear additional personal protective equipment, such as gloves and gowns, as necessary and appropriate under the circumstances. Items may be brought from home in the discretion of the faculty and the Lab School. Otherwise, all PPE items will be provided by the Lab School.

Maintain Clean and Healthy Facilities

- 8. Provide the School's schedule for routine cleaning of rooms, surfaces and objects, including high touch objects and surfaces (e.g., pens, keyboards, elevator buttons, light switches, handles, stair rails, faucets, phones, doorknobs, grab bars on playgrounds).**

Our cleaning protocols are guided by the CDC, which outlines everyday steps, as well as actions in the event of contamination. To read that guidance, see [CDC Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility](#)

Steps include:

- Nightly, the cleaning staff, wearing protective gloves, utilize Peroxide based disinfectant for high-touch common areas, restrooms, and classroom and office surfaces, including tables, desks and chairs.
 - Periodically during the day, Operations staff, wearing protective gloves, utilize Peroxide-based disinfectant for high touch common areas and restrooms.
 - In classrooms where occupants rotate, teachers spray non-irritating cleaner and students wipe down their desk and chair before use.
 - High-touch surfaces, such as copier and coffee machine touch pads, elevator buttons and other such surfaces, have been covered with NanoSeptic skins, which utilize mineral nano crystals to kill coronavirus germs. In addition, disinfectant wipes are provided near each surface so the user can wipe before and after using.
 - Buses, both Lab School and Fleet, are wiped down between uses.
- 9. Provide the School's cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the event that (1) a student, staff member, or visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in the school; or (2) if the school is notified that a student, staff member or visitor who tested positive has been in the school.**
- 1) If a student, staff member or essential visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in school, that person is immediately referred to the campus nurse who, if a student, isolates the student in the nurse's isolation room until the parent or guardian comes to pick up the student and receives instructions from the nurse for next steps, or, if an adult, sends the adult home with instructions for next steps. Based on the nurse's recommendation, generally in consultation with the DC DOH, the remaining adults and students in the cohort are either sent home immediately, or may remain until the end of the day awaiting the results of the PCR test of the individual who developed symptoms. If the test returns positive, all spaces the individual utilized are left vacant for 24 hours and then the night cleaning staff, wearing masks and protective gloves, utilize Peroxide based disinfectant to clean all surfaces. Aside from any spaces left dormant for the 24 hours period specified above, every night all spaces which were occupied during the day are cleaned by the night cleaning staff, wearing masks and protective gloves, utilizing Peroxide based disinfectant.
 - 2) If a COVID-19 case is confirmed during the day and the COVID-19 person is in the facility, the cohort is immediately dismissed and the room(s) vacated as soon as possible. In classrooms or spaces where a student or faculty/staff member has been confirmed COVID positive, the

space is left dormant for 24 hours after that person has departed and then the night cleaning staff, wearing masks and protective gloves, utilize Peroxide based disinfectant to clean all surfaces. Aside from any spaces left dormant for the 24 hours period specified above, every night all spaces which were occupied during the day are cleaned by the night cleaning staff, wearing masks and protective gloves, utilizing Peroxide based disinfectant.

10. Provide the School's plan to make available sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies.

- Nightly, the cleaning staff utilize Peroxide based disinfectant for high-touch common areas, restrooms, and classroom and office surfaces, including tables, desks and chairs.
- Periodically during the day, Operations staff utilize Peroxide-based disinfectant for high touch common areas and restrooms.
- In classrooms where occupants rotate, teachers spray non-irritating cleaner and students wipe down their desk and chair before use.
- High-touch surfaces, such as copier and coffee machine touch pads, elevator buttons and other such surfaces, have been covered with NanoSeptic skins, which utilize mineral nano crystals to kill coronavirus germs. In addition, disinfectant wipes are provided near each surface so the user can wipe before and after using.
- Buses, both Lab School and Fleet, are wiped down between uses.
- In classrooms or spaces where a student or faculty/staff member has been confirmed COVID positive, the space is left dormant for 24 hours and then the night cleaning staff, wearing protective gloves, utilize Peroxide based disinfectant to clean all surfaces.

11. Provide the School's plan to perform necessary maintenance to ventilation and water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) so that they are ready for use and occupancy and are adequately maintained throughout the operating period.

To meet the needs of this emergency we engaged an HVAC consultant to evaluate building systems and improve ventilation, filtration, and air cleaning across all our buildings. As a result:

- We have increased outdoor air ventilation wherever possible;
- For rooms with unit ventilators we have installed advanced air cleaning with ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI);
- In other areas we have increased the level of filtration to MERV13 or higher on recirculated air;
- We are increasing the frequency of all filter changes;
- We have recommissioned the high school building ventilation; and
- We have installed new exhaust fans in multiple spaces.
- All faucets, showers, water fountains and other water features have been and continue to be run regularly to prevent the buildup of bacteria.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case

12. Describe the School's policies and procedures to:

- **a. Comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE's guidance; and**
- **b. Dismiss any individual or cohort that is potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school setting.**

Exclusion Criteria

We DO NOT ADMIT students or faculty/staff to our campuses until they pass the daily health check. Daily, before being allowed to enter the campus all adults and students must respond NO to the following questions on the daily health tracker found on our student and faculty/staff health application through Magnus:

- This morning, or in the past 24 hours, was your current temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher?
- In the last 24 hours have you experienced a new loss of taste or smell?
- Do you have a new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing?
- Within the past 24 hours have you experienced diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain?
- Within the past 24 hours have you experienced a new onset of severe headache with or without fever?
- In the past 14 days has any one in your household tested positive for COVID-19?
- In the past 14 days have you been within 6 feet of a now identified COVID-19 infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period?
- Within the past 7 days, have you traveled to an area which requires you to quarantine per the DC travel quarantine order?
- If unvaccinated, within the past 14 days have you been in a confined space (i.e. a bar, restaurant, church, etc) or a large outdoor gathering where people were not wearing masks or social distancing?
- Do you have a sore throat not due to another health condition?

Once all responses confirm NO, the individual receives a green GO button on the app, which must be shown to the faculty/staff greeter before the student may exit the family vehicle or board the school bus. Faculty/staff are required to show the green GO button which is verified by the division or department head.

Students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms are not excluded from entering the school buildings on the basis of those specific symptoms if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are determined to not be due to COVID-19.

Our nurses instruct individuals that provided they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days or is fully vaccinated may be admitted while awaiting COVID-19 test results, after close contact with someone with confirmed COVID19, when a household contact is awaiting COVID-19 test results, or after travel. Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must follow the exclusion criteria outlined above.

Our nurses instruct individuals that provided that they do not currently have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days or is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may be admitted immediately after domestic or international travel. They should get a COVID-19 test three to five days after international travel. Any individual with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must follow the exclusion criteria outlined above. If excluded, students (or their parents/guardians), staff, and essential visitors should call their healthcare provider for further directions.

Our nurses instruct individuals that students and staff should get tested for COVID-19 if anyone in their household has symptoms of COVID-19, even if the student or staff member themselves does not have symptoms. All members of the household should be tested at the same time. Individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should only get tested in this instance if they develop symptoms.

Dismissal Criteria and Protocols

If a student, staff member, or essential visitor develops a fever or other signs of illness, the school follows the exclusion criteria regarding the exclusion and dismissal of students, staff, and essential visitors.

- For students, the school:
 - Immediately isolates the student from other students.
 - The student should immediately put on a face mask or surgical mask, if not wearing already.

- Assigns a staff member to accompany the isolated student to the isolation area where the campus nurse supervises the student while awaiting pickup from the parent/guardian.
- The staff members briefly responding to the sick student in the classroom, accompanying the student to the isolation area, and supervising the student in the isolation area comply with PPE best practices.
- Additionally, the School nurse:
 - Notifies the student’s parent/guardian of the symptoms and that the student should be picked up as soon as possible and instruct them to seek healthcare provider guidance.
 - Follows guidance for use of the isolation room.
 - Immediately follow all cleaning and disinfection protocols for any area and materials with which the student was in contact.
- For staff and essential visitors, the campus nurse:
 - Sends the staff member or essential visitor home immediately or instructs them to isolate until it is safe to go home;
 - Instructs the staff member or essential visitor to seek healthcare provider guidance; and
 - Follows cleaning and disinfecting procedures for any area, materials, and equipment with which the staff member was in contact.

On both campuses we have created an Isolation room where the campus nurse may place a sick person if outdoor isolation is impractical because of weather. When in the isolation area, the sick individual always wears a face mask or surgical mask, is within sight of the campus nurse and is separated from other individuals by at least six feet. We isolate only one sick individual in the isolation area at a time. The isolation area is immediately cleaned and disinfected after the sick individual departs. Supervising staff always comply with the PPE best practices.

13. Provide the School's plan to comply with the requirements to:

- **a. Identify a staff member as the COVID-19 point of contact (POC) to whom families, staff, contractors and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 and who is responsible for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health;**
 - **b. Report any applicable positive COVID-19 case in a student, staff member or essential visitor to DC Health on the same day the school is notified;**
 - **c. Not exclude students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.**
- The School nurses have been active participants in reporting and contact tracing with the DCDOH and will continue to follow that practice.
 - The nurses note and track all information regarding students and employees who have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, are suspected to have COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19, and may communicate this information with and follow all directives from DCDOH. Student and employees health information relating to COVID-19 will be kept confidential to the extent practicable, in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws
 - In the event of a positive test or suspected diagnosis, it may be necessary to report this event to other members of the School community, so that the School can implement additional precautions and other members of the community can also be tested. This is particularly true where a student or faculty member has been in classes with a small group of other students on a daily basis. While the individual student or faculty member’s name/identity will not be affirmatively disclosed to other members of the School community, the identity of such individual may be readily discernible to other members of the community due to context cues.
 - Where a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, exposure tracing may commence and members of the School community with high-risk of exposure to the infected individual (whether on or off campus) may be instructed to quarantine and get tested in accordance with CDC guidelines. Students and employees are advised that they may be asked to quarantine themselves for a period

- of days or weeks before they are able to be meaningfully and effectively tested for COVID-19.
- If a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that a student or faculty/staff member has pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19 symptoms, that student or faculty/staff member will not be excluded from campus based on those symptoms.

14. Provide the School's procedures to support DC Health with contact tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19.

- The School nurses have been in active participants in reporting and contact tracing with the DCDOH and will continue to follow that practice.
- The nurses note and track all information regarding students and employees who have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, are suspected to have COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19, and may communicate this information with and follow all directives from DCDOH. Student and employees health information relating to COVID-19 will be kept confidential to the extent practicable, in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws
- In the event of a positive test or suspected diagnosis, it may be necessary to report this event to other members of the School community, so that the School can implement additional precautions and other members of the community can also be tested. This is particularly true where a student or faculty member has been in classes with a small group of other students on a daily basis. While the individual student or faculty member's name/identity will not be affirmatively disclosed to other members of the School community, the identity of such individual may be readily discernible to other members of the community due to context cues.
- Where a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, exposure tracing may commence and members of the School community with high-risk of exposure to the infected individual (whether on or off campus) may be instructed to quarantine and get tested in accordance with CDC guidelines. Students and employees are advised that they may be asked to quarantine themselves for a period of days or weeks before they are able to be meaningfully and effectively tested for COVID-19.

15. Describe how the School will notify the school community, as appropriate, of the positive case and corresponding actions taken by the School.

- The School nurses have been in active participants in reporting and contact tracing with the DCDOH and will continue to follow that practice.
- The nurses note and track all information regarding students and employees who have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, are suspected to have COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19, and may communicate this information with and follow all directives from DCDOH. Student and employees health information relating to COVID-19 will be kept confidential to the extent practicable, in accordance with applicable state and federal privacy laws
- In the event of a positive test or suspected diagnosis, it may be necessary to report this event to other members of the School community, so that the School can implement additional precautions and other members of the community can also be tested. This is particularly true where a student or faculty member has been in classes with a small group of other students on a daily basis. While the individual student or faculty member's name/identity will not be affirmatively disclosed to other members of the School community, the identity of such individual may be readily discernible to other members of the community due to context cues.
- Where a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, exposure tracing may commence and members of the

School community with high-risk of exposure to the infected individual (whether on or off campus) may be instructed to quarantine and get tested in accordance with CDC guidelines. Students and employees are advised that they may be asked to quarantine themselves for a period of days or weeks before they are able to be meaningfully and effectively tested for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

- 16. If applicable, describe the School's current or planned COVID-19 testing protocol for symptomatic and/or asymptomatic students and/or staff, including steps the School will take to encourage participation in the testing program. Please include the School's plan to ensure that results of such testing programs are reported to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements: dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements.**

Lab School schedules periodic COVID-19 testing clinics which are mandatory for any unvaccinated faculty/staff members and students who are on our campuses. No individual is eligible to access our campuses unless s/he has participated in the most recent mandatory testing. Information on these clinics is distributed via email channels.

If the results for any students or faculty/staff member are NOT NEGATIVE, our nurses immediately initiate a conversation with DC DOH to determine the next steps for the individual and for the other members of the individual's group.

- 17. Provide the School's plans to support COVID-19 vaccination of staff and students, as eligible, including efforts to encourage participation in public and community-based vaccination opportunities.**

Lab School *strongly recommends* that all eligible members of the community take the full course of the COVID vaccination. Once the vaccinations are moved from Emergency Use Authorization to full FDA approval, they *will be required* for all eligible faculty, staff and students. The School has coordinated the vaccination of all faculty/staff and is offering vaccination clinics for all eligible students.

Students with Disabilities

- 18. Provide the School's plans to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities with respect to its health and safety policies and procedures.**

No accommodations are required or offered to our students with respect to our health and safety policies and procedures.

We do not currently have any students enrolled who have expressed having a disability that would prohibit them from meeting our safety policies and procedures. However, we continue to support each of our students with disabilities as appropriate and through the support of our learning specialists and nursing team. If a student were to have a disability that did restrict their access, we would meet with the family to determine how best to meet the needs of the student and adhere to safety protocols. To date, all of our students have been able to access our programs.

We also facilitate access to technology and internet if those are barriers for access in the event that a student remains at home for a short period of time.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring

19. Please provide the School's plan to provide training and technical assistance on its policies and procedures to safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools, including:

- **a. who will receive training and technical assistance; while on school grounds, on school buses and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and**
- **b. the topics that the training and technical assistance will address; and**
- **c. how and by whom the training and technical assistance will be delivered.**

All faculty/staff, students and parents have received regular updates and training on all aspects of our risk mitigation protocols. Topics have included the requirements for testing, vaccinations, daily health checks, face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, hygiene and respiratory etiquette, bus rider safety, travel restrictions, drop off and pick up procedures, restriction of campus visitors, and shared responsibility/our community agreement. Additionally, the administration has briefed faculty/staff, students and parents on process for contact tracing, return to school after exposure, symptoms or diagnosis, provision of PPE, enhanced facilities cleaning, and building ventilation and water safety. Training has been conducted by the Head of School, the two school nurses, our medical advisor, our CFO, our Director of Facilities and Division and Department Heads.

20. Provide the School's plan to monitor the implementation of the health and safety plans at each campus, including how, when and by whom the implementation will be monitored, and how the School will respond if a given campus is not adhering to the plan.

The two school nurses, the Director of Facilities, the Division Heads, and the CFO all regularly monitor aspect of the plan and bring forward any necessary adjustments, training or drilling required to ensure compliance.

21. Describe the School's plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff and visitors.

All faculty/staff, students and parents have received regular updates and training on all aspects of our risk mitigation protocols. Topics have included the requirements for testing, vaccinations, daily health checks, face coverings, physical distancing, handwashing, hygiene and respiratory etiquette, bus rider safety, travel restrictions, drop off and pick up procedures, restriction of campus visitors, and shared responsibility/our community agreement. Additionally, the administration has briefed faculty/staff, students and parents on process for contact tracing, return to school after exposure, symptoms or diagnosis, provision of PPE, enhanced facilities cleaning, and building ventilation and water safety. Training has been conducted by the Head of School, the two school nurses, our medical

advisor, our CFO, our Director of Facilities and Division and Department Heads.