



2021-2022 East Longmeadow Public Schools Protocols for Health and Safety revised 1/11/2022.

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. The following strategies have proven to be effective in helping keep all in the ELPS community.

Daily screening and symptom checks at home before coming to school.

Families will need to check students each morning for symptoms before coming to school or getting on the bus. Staff members will need to go through a self-check for symptoms each day before coming to work.

The following link will take you to the Daily Checklist for symptoms: [ELPS Daily Checklist for Symptoms](#)

Everyone wears a mask or face covering every day.

As the route of transmission of COVID-19 is primarily respiratory, the expectation is that every person in the building wears a mask/face covering (covering both the nose and mouth area) at all times. This strategy was effectively implemented in ELPS and proved to be successful last school year. **In accordance with the mandate from the Commissioner of Education, ELPS will require all staff and students to continue to utilize masks while inside the building and at all times when on the bus. Masks must cover the mouth and the nose. All schools will utilize outdoor spaces when possible. Organized mask breaks will be scheduled throughout the day for all grade levels.**

Staff will provide their own reusable or face cloth coverings. Reusable or cloth face coverings are acceptable. Mask/face coverings for students will be provided by the student/family. We encourage families to pack an extra reusable face mask for each student daily. **The district will have face masks available for students/staff for situations where a mask is forgotten, soiled, or unwearable.**

Students and staff who cannot wear a mask for documented medical reasons, and students who cannot wear a mask for documented behavioral reasons, may be exempted from the requirement. Exemptions must be approved by the school principal in consultation with the school nurse.

Students who do not comply with this requirement will meet with the building Principal or Assistant Principal and parent/guardian to discuss whether the student is in a condition to attend

school in a manner that is safe for the student and others in the building, and may be subject to progressive discipline for deliberate non-compliance.

Note: The mask requirement will be in place until at least **February 28, 2022** , and is subject to change thereafter.

Handwashing and hand sanitization will continue to be part of the ELPS daily routine.

Increased handwashing and hand sanitization during the day for both staff and students will be part of the daily routine as with the last school year. Handwashing protocols of soap and water for at least 20 seconds are posted near building sinks. If a handwashing station is not easily accessible, hand sanitizer (at least 60 percent ethanol or at least 70 percent isopropyl content) will be available.

Hand hygiene and hand washing will be built into arrival to school, before eating, after bathroom use, when hands are visibly soiled, before putting on or taking off masks, and before dismissal.

Physical distancing

Similar to the 2020 - 2021 school year, ELPS will practice distancing whenever possible to keep students and staff safe. Classrooms will be set-up to provide distancing between student desks, and distancing will be used during the lunch period.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The District has PPE and key safety supplies. The following supplies are available at all ELPS Schools:

- Disposable / reusable masks
- Nitrile and vinyl gloves
- KN95 masks for health room staff and building custodians
- Disposable gowns (or substitute) and face shields for health staff and custodians
- Hand sanitizer for classrooms (soap and water remain the priority)
- Infrared thermometers
- Electrostatic disinfection devices
- Disinfection products and cleaning products

Staff and Student Training

Staff and students will be provided instruction on the following:

- How to safely put on and remove a mask/face covering

- Safety measures while wearing a mask/face covering
- Hand hygiene instructions and frequency

Health Office Protocols

Parents/Guardians of children with underlying medical conditions are asked to have a discussion with their Primary Care Physician about whether their child can safely attend school and if any interventions need to be in place to provide the safest environment for the child.

Temperature and symptoms will be checked in the nursing office with brief triage to ensure correct isolation or care area provided for a student. To protect all students and staff, any symptoms of COVID-19 will be treated as a suspected case until determined otherwise.

Students who show COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be moved to an isolation space and will need to be immediately picked up by a parent/guardian or approved emergency contact person. Staff who show COVID-19 symptoms during the school day should make arrangements to leave school immediately and seek medical attention.

Procedures for the health office will include hand hygiene protocol entering and leaving the office, mandated mask or face coverings, maintaining physical distancing, temperature checks. Visits will be kept to a brief limited time period. No visitors or parent pick-up will occur in the health office. Visits will be limited to medically indicated reasons only.

First aid situations, to the degree possible, should be handled by the student and in the classroom to prevent health office congregation and possible cross exposure. To the extent possible, students will provide self-care with staff direction and physical distancing. Students should be triaged over the phone and only those sent with valid health concerns will be sent for additional treatment to the health office.

In some instances, students may need to take medication at school. To the degree possible, every effort will be made to identify ways that medications may be taken at home, instead of during school hours. Windows will be opened as often as feasible.

Communication will be sent home to parents explaining how to make an appointment prior to the start of school, to bring medication and the health care providers medication order to the school building. Medication drop-off procedures will need to occur outside of the school building with staggered appointment times, parents remaining physically distant, wearing masks/cloth coverings, and no medication dropped off by anyone who is ill.

Immunization requirements and updated physical exam requirements for admission to school remain unchanged for the 2021-2022 school year. This includes updated immunization injections and records for preschool, kindergarten, grade 7, and grade 11. Updated physical exams are required for preschool, kindergarten, grade 1, grade 4, grade 7, and grade 10.

The East Longmeadow Health Services Team will work collaboratively with the East Longmeadow Board of Health, as necessary, to identify individuals who have tested positive and/or who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Individuals and families will be instructed to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, following DESE guidance, if symptoms develop. The Health Services Team will work closely with the East Longmeadow Administrative Team to identify any COVID-19 cases and any necessary actions, including isolation for close contacts up to possible school closure.