

Dear Laker Families,

Thank you to all parents and guardians who attended Tuesday evening's elementary town hall intended to answer your questions about our Return to School protocols. There was a lot of information to cover and we would like to provide additional clarity on the following topics:

COVID SYMPTOMS → RETURN TO SCHOOL. Let's use a hypothetical example to walk through our LMC symptoms, testing and Rapid Response protocol:



SCENARIO: Jane is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, feeling feverish, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, severe headache, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell) but she has not been tested.

ACTION: Jane goes home (or stays home) along with any household members who are at either the Elementary or Middle/High School. Jane is encouraged to see a medical doctor to determine if she/household members are positive for COVID.

RETURN TO SCHOOL:

- If Jane is not evaluated by a medical doctor: she and her household members must quarantine for 14 days and see a resolution of symptoms (fever-free / temp <100.4F for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication) before returning to school.
- If Jane is evaluated by a medical doctor who diagnoses her with a non-COVID illness (did not test for COVID), Jane must follow the medical doctor's recommended stay at home duration and be fever-free / temp <100.4F for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before she may return to school. Asymptomatic household members may return to school when Jane receives her non-COVID diagnosis. Jane and household members should continue to self monitor for symptoms.
- If Jane is evaluated by a medical doctor and tested for COVID, she and her household members must stay home until she receives her test results.
 - Negative results:
 - Jane must follow the medical doctor's recommended stay at home duration and be fever-free / temp <100.4F for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before she may return to school.
 - Asymptomatic household members can return to school when Jane receives her negative test result and continue to self monitor for symptoms.
 - Positive results:
 - Jane and household members must quarantine for 14 days. Household members are considered close contacts.
 - The Berrien County Health Department will notify the school that Jane has

tested positive. This notification will trigger the LMC Rapid Response Process that includes contact tracing for Jane's case. Close contacts will be contacted by the BCHD and required to quarantine for 14 days.

- ❑ Jane's classroom will be closed for 24 hours for disinfection protocols (class will meet in an alternate location during cleaning).
- ❑ Jane may safely return to school 10 days after her symptoms first appeared. She must also be fever-free / temp <100.4F for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

NOTE: Lake Michigan Catholic protocols were developed in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.

- CDC defines [close contacts](#) as people who were within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more; people who provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19; people who had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them); people who shared eating or drinking utensils; people who were sneezed or coughed on.
- CDC recommendations on when you can be around others after you had or likely had COVID-19, click [here](#).
- Additional [FAQs](#) related to scenarios are available on our [Laker website](#) for your convenience.

RAPID RESPONSE PROCESS

Our Rapid Response Team (RRT) will come together as quickly as possible upon LMC learning of a positive test at our school. It is important to have a consistent team following a standard process when a case is reported to us by the Berrien County Health Department. RRT members include:

- Larry Hoskins and James White (administrators)
- Sara Horvath and/or Angie Seger (CCEC/Return to School Taskforce)
- Anne Dudley, Jimmy Gendernalik or Sarah Gendernalik, Jacob Blazo (physicians)
- Melissa Vegter (if HS student)
- Ginger Hysell (if MS student)
- Elementary classroom teacher (if ES student)
- Guy Miller (Berrien County Health Department consultant)

The team will gather all facts related to the positive case to help determine close contacts and document the timing of symptoms and test results. These dates will dictate when the person can safely return to school, as well as which close contacts will need to quarantine (if any). Access to case details will be limited to school administrators and designated staff members responsible for rapid response follow up actions. Please adhere to all BCHD guidance if contacted as part of contact tracing.

MASKS

Facial coverings must always be worn by all faculty, staff and TK-12 students during Phase 4, except while eating or drinking. This includes during school transportation and in hallways and other common areas.

Protocols for classrooms:

- Preschool Students (grades PS3-PS4): Facial coverings are optional, but encouraged in classrooms.
- All faculty, staff, TK-12 Students: Facial coverings are required in classrooms.

Per CDC guidelines, we are recommending everyone bring two clean masks to school each day. Disposable paper masks will be available at all schools in the event a student forgets their own masks at home.

All elementary age students will be provided with a breakaway clasp lanyard to help keep track of their mask. Lanyards will be available at the MS/HS upon request.



Mask Accessories: Mask extenders, ball caps with buttons (royal or navy blue or Laker hats only) headbands with buttons, and mask sliders for glasses are all acceptable accessories for mask usage at LMC. Accessories are widely available on Amazon, Etsy, bbSNAPS, and other online retailers or you can make your own at home. Click [here](#) for additional information about masks.



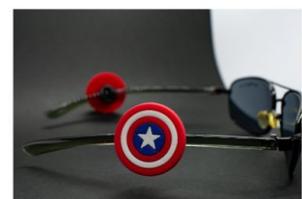
Extender



Royal or Navy ball cap with button



Headband



Sliders for glasses

Wearing a mask all school day will get easier over time. We want everyone to be as comfortable as possible—if your student is having difficulty adjusting to the mask, please encourage him/her to speak to their teacher.

THANK YOU

On behalf of all of us at Lake Michigan Catholic, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we implement these and other new health protocols at our schools. We are very confident that we have the right processes in place to safely start the school year.

We are looking forward to being together again as a Laker family in learning and faith. As always, your questions are always welcome. For tracking purposes, please submit them to our [form](#) so we can ensure you receive answers in a timely manner. Again, remember to first check our Return to School [FAQ document](#) posted on our website for the most updated information.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Larry Hoskins, Elementary School Principal
James White, Middle/High School Principal