



COVID 19 Mitigation Plan

Dear Leading Edge Academy Families,

The health and safety of our students and staff are a top priority at Leading Edge Academy. The following policies are to be implemented at all Leading Edge Academy school sites and will be implemented in conjunction with other current Leading Edge Academy health protocols. These policies will remain in effect for the 2020-21 school year or until such time that the school governing board removes or modifies said policies.

The purpose of this plan is to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other flu like illnesses. Parents will be responsible for screening their students each day before school. You are responsible for ensuring that your child is not exhibiting any of the following symptoms PRIOR to coming to coming to school and keeping them home if they do.

- Fever above 99.5 or higher
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Any other symptom of illness, whether or not you believe it is related to COVID19
- Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has exhibited any of the above symptoms?
- Has your child recently been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID19?

Upon arrival at school each day, students will be screened for the above symptoms. This will include daily temperature checks. This initial screening will take place by the classroom teacher or other appointed staff member. Any student who displays one or more of the above symptoms

will immediately be taken to the campus health aide for re-evaluation and upon verification of the above symptoms; parents will be contacted for pick up with the following exceptions:

- If the student has a runny nose and no other symptoms, the campus health aide may contact parents to inquire about other symptoms or COVID-19 exposure at home. If no other symptoms have been present and the student has had no exposure to COVID-19, the student may be allowed to return to class.
- If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and is displaying no other symptoms, the campus health aide may contact parents to inquire about other symptoms and COVID-19 exposure at home. If no other symptoms have been present and the student has had no exposure to COVID-19, the student may return to class.

Each campus will have a designated location where anyone displaying symptoms may be separated from others while waiting to be screened or picked up. One staff member should supervise the student at all times and this staff member should wear appropriate PPE and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet unless there is an emergency. In the event of a medical emergency, staff should notify the school office and call 911. Employees displaying symptoms should be separated from others and may self-transport home if able. If an employee is unable to safely self-transport, a family member or emergency contact should be contacted.

If your child is sick, or needs to leave school:

- If your child is sick with any illness, keep them home from school and notify the school of your child's absence.
- If you are contacted by the school regarding your sick child, they must be picked up 1 hour of being notified.
- Medications will not be given at school that mask COVID-19 like symptoms (i.e. headache).
- Contact your child's school COVID 19 Communication liaison with any concerns specifically related to COVID-19 and your child's health.
- Consider planning for alternate childcare arrangements. Have a backup plan in the event your child needs to stay home from school or is sent home from school.
- Please make sure all contact information is always up to date in Synergy.

Staff members will be responsible for screening their own symptoms before arrival each day at school and will be screened upon arrival by campus health aides. The same policies and procedures listed above for students will be applicable to all staff members.

Students/Employees may return to school/work after 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery which is defined as: (a) resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and (b) resolution of other symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath). Parents/Employees will be required to sign an attestation upon return to school/work that the student/employee has recovered in accordance with the above definition.

Communication and Education

Leading Edge Academy will proactively communicate with families, students, staff, and community stakeholders on the importance of physical distancing and adopting behaviors that reduce the spread of viruses.

Communication efforts will be done in the following ways:

- Email communications (prior to school starting and into the school year as reminders)
- Social media - communicate efforts being taken by the school
- Posters and signage in common areas, classrooms, restrooms
- Signage and physical markers on the floors and hallways

Staff and families will be encouraged to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 for individuals attending or working at Leading Edge Academy, as well as within their homes.

Health Protocols

Staff

- Daily - Staff will complete a temperature check upon arrival and will be sent home if they have a temperature above 99.5 and/or are displaying respiratory illness symptoms.
- Staff must wear a face covering when unable to keep physical distance from other individuals.
- Reminders will be continually communicated to staff to stay home if they feel sick or have any symptoms.
- Staff will be trained on health and safety protocols and proper hygiene and sanitation practices. Staff will be expected to teach and remind students of these same protocols and practices.

Students

- Daily - Students will complete a temperature check upon arrival and will be sent home if they have a temperature above 99.5 and/or are displaying respiratory illness symptoms.

- Students must wear a face covering unable to keep physical distance from other individuals.
- Students will be taught and reminded of health and safety protocols and proper hygiene and sanitation practices.

Supplies

- Additional cleaning supplies will be purchased to ensure the building is disinfected daily and high traffic areas are cleaned throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available in all classrooms and throughout the building. Students and staff will use hand sanitizer at minimum upon entry and exit of the classroom.
- Masks have been purchased and will be provided should an individual need a mask to enter the premises.
- Face Shields have been purchased and will be provided to all employees.
- A designated space will be available for individuals who display symptoms.

Cleaning Protocols

- Cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be intensified in all schools.
- High touch surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day.
- Playground equipment will be sanitized regularly.
- Teachers will not permit sharing of school supplies among students. If a school supply or piece of equipment must be shared by students (for instance, a pencil sharpener or manipulative), a staff member will wipe down the item with disinfectant regularly.

Physical Distancing Protocols

- Signage and floor arrows will be utilized to facilitate physical distancing.
- Modified layouts will be used in classrooms when possible so students are not facing one another.
- The number of students in common areas such as cafeteria and playground will be minimized to promote physical distancing.
- While flexible seating is normally strongly encouraged in classrooms, teachers will be asked to use assigned seating to minimize the mixing of students.
- Smaller classroom sizes will continue to be maintained so that physical distancing can be promoted as much as possible.

Lunch/Recess

- Lunch will be delivered to and eaten in classrooms when physical distancing is not possible in the cafeteria. Schedules will be created to minimize the mixing of classes.
- Recess schedules will be developed to allow for smaller groups of students and to minimize the mixing of classes.

Field Trips, Events and Visitors or Guest Speakers

- No field trips will be approved for the first semester. At that time, the leadership team will review recommendations from experts and local governing authorities to determine if field trips can resume safely. Virtual field trips will be strongly encouraged in alignment with the instructional model and mission of the school.
- School-wide assemblies will be held to account for physical distancing and virtual platforms for assemblies will be encouraged when appropriate.
- Large-scale school events such as “Back to School Night” or fall carnivals will be held in a manner that takes into account physical distancing or will be held utilizing a virtual platform. Small-scale activities like parent-teacher conferences may take place over the phone or by other virtual platform.
- No visitors or guest speakers will be allowed beyond the school lobbies unless they are deemed necessary for school business. This includes parent volunteers. Virtual guest speakers will be strongly encouraged to continue to enrich the learning environment.

If Staff members or students have contracted Covid-19, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the Coronavirus, after in-person classes resume, it must be reported to the campus COVID 19 communication liaison immediately. We will keep this information confidential as required by law. However, knowing of a possible exposure by anyone in our School community will allow us to respond sensitively and appropriately and to alert others with whom you may have come into contact to take appropriate precautions and seek testing if warranted. In the event of such a potential exposure, the School will implement the responses and guidelines regarding potential exposure in the COVID19 Health Policy for the health and safety of all in our community.

Leading Edge Academy is monitoring the best practices and recommendations of the CDC and the Arizona Department of Health as well as the directives of the Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. We will proactively communicate with families, students, and staff about proper hygiene practices, the importance of social distancing, and adopting behaviors that reduce the spread of viruses. Although Leading Edge Academy is taking many steps to protect your child and staff from the spread of COVID 19, it is impossible to reduce the risk to zero.