

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Minimum Reopening Standards
(LAC 28:LXXIX.1105 and 1107;
CXV.401 and 403; CXXXIX.4101 and 4103)

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:6(A)(10) and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has amended LAC 28:LXXIX in Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic)—*Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*; LAC 28:CXV in Bulletin 741—*Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*; and LAC 28:CXXXIX in Bulletin 126—*Charter Schools*. Per Act 9 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session, BESE approved emergency rules, informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, to provide minimum standards, policies, medical exceptions, and regulations to govern the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. These revisions clarify policy contained in the aforementioned bulletins for which there have been questions regarding the minimum reopening standards. This Declaration of Emergency, effective May 12, 2021, is for a period of 120 days from adoption, or until finally adopted as Rule.

Title 28 EDUCATION

Part LXXIX. Bulletin 741 (Nonpublic)—*Louisiana Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators*

Chapter 11. Health

Subchapter B. Reopening School Facilities for the 2020-2021 School Year

§1105. Purpose and Background

A. This Chapter provides minimum health and safety standards regarding the reopening of school facilities for the 2020-2021 school year in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in order to ensure that students, faculty, staff, and others on school property are protected to the maximum extent possible and practical. These minimum standards regarding the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year expire on June 30, 2021. Any future requirements for schools related to a statewide pandemic will be communicated as needed.

B. - G. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:6, 17:7, 17:439.1, and 17:3391.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 46:1674 (December 2020), amended LR 47:

§1107. Minimum Requirements for Reopening and Operating School Facilities

A. - D.2. ...

E. Face Coverings

1. BESE minimum reopening standards, pertaining to face coverings, are superseded by any statewide or district specific mandate issued by the governor. If there is a statewide or district specific mandate in place, the lifting of the mask requirement will be determined by an executive order or proclamation of the governor. If there is no statewide or district mandate in place, the lifting of this requirement will be determined by the Local Education

Agency (LEA) at the appropriate time, based on the recommendation issued of the LDH.

a. While inside the school facility, all adults and students in grades 3 through 12 must wear a face covering to the greatest extent possible and practical within the local community context.

b. While inside the school facility, students in grades prekindergarten through 2 may wear a face covering.

c. While inside the school facility, children under two years old and individuals with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering.

F. Hygienic Supplies

1. School employees must be provided adequate access to hygienic supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfectant wipes or spray, paper towels, and tissues. Face coverings should also be provided when needed.

2. The quantity of hygienic supplies must be appropriately provided to the school employee, according to the role and the number and age of students or adults served by that employee.

G. Transportation

1. School buses used to transport students must not exceed the following maximum capacity requirements:

a. phase 1—25 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity;

b. phase 2—50 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity; and

c. phase 3—75 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity.

2. Passengers on a school bus must be spaced to the greatest extent possible as follows:

a. phase 1—passengers must ride one per seat. Every other seat must remain empty. Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats; and

b. phase 2 and 3—passengers must be dispersed throughout the bus to the greatest extent possible.

H. Student Programming Determinations

1. Student placement determinations in a distance or in-person education program should be made in consultation with the parent or custodian.

2. Student placement determinations should take into consideration a student's unique academic, social, emotional, familial, and medical needs of a student, as identified by the student's parent or custodian.

I. Essential Visitors to School Facilities

1. Essential visitors are individuals who must enter schools or early learning centers in order to conduct visits in accordance with Louisiana law or policy. Essential visitors include, but are not limited to, individuals who:

a. conduct CLASS[®] observations;

b. observe teacher candidates as part of the teacher preparation quality rating system; or

c. provide essential supports and services including, but not limited to, early intervention services, special education services, or mental health consultation.

J. Medical or disability impact exceptions to any standard in this Chapter should be addressed on an individual basis by the LEA in accordance with local policies.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:6, 17:7, 17:439.1, and 17:3391.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 46:1672 (December 2020).

Part CXV. Bulletin 741—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators

Chapter 4. Reopening School Facilities for the 2020-2021 School Year

§401. Purpose and Background

A. This Chapter provides minimum health and safety standards regarding the reopening of school facilities for the 2020-2021 school year in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in order to ensure that students, faculty, staff, and others on school property are protected to the maximum extent possible and practical. These minimum standards regarding the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year expire on June 30, 2021. Any future requirements for schools related to a statewide pandemic will be communicated as needed.

B. - G. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:6, 17:7, 17:439.1, and 17:3391.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 46:1672 (December 2020), amended LR 47:454 (April 2021).

§403. Minimum Requirements for Reopening and Operating School Facilities

A. - D.2. ...

E. Face Coverings

1. BESE minimum reopening standards, pertaining to face coverings, are superseded by any statewide or district specific mandate issued by the governor. If there is a statewide or district specific mandate in place, the lifting of the mask requirement will be determined by an executive order or proclamation of the governor. If there is no statewide or district mandate in place, the lifting of this requirement will be determined by the Local Education Agency (LEA) at the appropriate time, based on the recommendation issued of the LDH.

a. While inside the school facility, all adults and students in grades 3 through 12 must wear a face covering to the greatest extent possible and practical within the local community context.

b. While inside the school facility, students in grades prekindergarten through 2 may wear a face covering.

c. While inside the school facility, children under two years old and individuals with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering.

F. Hygienic Supplies

1. School employees must be provided adequate access to hygienic supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfectant wipes or spray, paper towels, and tissues. Face coverings should also be provided when needed.

2. The quantity of hygienic supplies must be appropriately provided to the school employee, according to the role and the number and age of students or adults served by that employee.

G. Transportation

1. School buses used to transport students must not exceed the following maximum capacity requirements:

a. phase 1—25 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity;

b. phase 2—50 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity; and

c. phase 3—75 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity.

2. Passengers on a school bus must be spaced to the greatest extent possible as follows:

a. phase 1—passengers must ride one per seat. Every other seat must remain empty. Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats; and

b. phase 2 and 3—passengers must be dispersed throughout the bus to the greatest extent possible.

H. Student Programming Determinations

1. Student placement determinations in a distance or in-person education program should be made in consultation with the parent or custodian.

2. Student placement determinations should take into consideration a student's unique academic, social, emotional, familial, and medical needs of a student, as identified by the student's parent or custodian.

I. Essential Visitors to School Facilities

1. Essential visitors are individuals who must enter schools or early learning centers in order to conduct visits in accordance with Louisiana law or policy. Essential visitors include, but are not limited to, individuals who:

a. conduct *CLASS*[®] observations;

b. observe teacher candidates as part of the teacher preparation quality rating system; or

c. provide essential supports and services including, but not limited to, early intervention services, special education services, or mental health consultation.

J. Medical or disability impact exceptions to any standard in this Chapter should be addressed on an individual basis by the LEA in accordance with local policies.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:6, 17:7, 17:439.1, and 17:3391.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 46:1672 (December 2020).

Part CXXXIX. Bulletin 126—Charter Schools

Chapter 41. Reopening School Facilities for the 2020-2021 School Year

§4101. Purpose and Background

A. This Chapter provides minimum health and safety standards regarding the reopening of school facilities for the 2020-2021 school year in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in order to ensure that students, faculty, staff, and others on school property are protected to the maximum extent possible and practical. These minimum standards regarding the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year expire on June 30, 2021. Any future requirements for schools related to a statewide pandemic will be communicated as needed.

B. - G. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:6, 17:7, 17:439.1, and 17:3391.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 46:1670 (December 2020), amended LR 47:

§4103. Minimum Requirements for Reopening and Operating School Facilities

A. - D.2. ...

E. Face Coverings

1. BESE minimum reopening standards, pertaining to face coverings, are superseded by any statewide or district specific mandate issued by the governor. If there is a statewide or district specific mandate in place, the lifting of

the mask requirement will be determined by an executive order or proclamation of the governor. If there is no statewide or district mandate in place, the lifting of this requirement will be determined by the Local Education Agency (LEA) at the appropriate time, based on the recommendation issued of the LDH.

a. While inside the school facility, all adults and students in grades 3 through 12 must wear a face covering to the greatest extent possible and practical within the local community context.

b. While inside the school facility, students in grades prekindergarten through 2 may wear a face covering.

c. While inside the school facility, children under two years old and individuals with breathing difficulties should not wear a face covering.

F. Hygienic Supplies

1. School employees must be provided adequate access to hygienic supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfectant wipes or spray, paper towels, and tissues. Face coverings should also be provided when needed.

2. The quantity of hygienic supplies must be appropriately provided to the school employee, according to the role and the number and age of students or adults served by that employee.

G. Transportation

1. School buses used to transport students must not exceed the following maximum capacity requirements:

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b. phase 2—50 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity; and

c. phase 3—75 percent, including adults, of the school bus manufacturer capacity.

2. Passengers on a school bus must be spaced to the greatest extent possible as follows:

a. phase 1—passengers must ride one per seat. Every other seat must remain empty. Members of the same household may sit in the same seat or adjacent seats; and

b. phase 2 and 3—passengers must be dispersed throughout the bus to the greatest extent possible.

H. Student Programming Determinations

1. Student placement determinations in a distance or in-person education program should be made in consultation with the parent or custodian.

2. Student placement determinations should take into consideration a student's unique academic, social, emotional, familial, and medical needs of a student, as identified by the student's parent or custodian.

I. Essential Visitors to School Facilities

1. Essential visitors are individuals who must enter schools or early learning centers in order to conduct visits in accordance with Louisiana law or policy. Essential visitors include, but are not limited to, individuals who:

a. conduct CLASS® observations;

b. observe teacher candidates as part of the teacher preparation quality rating system; or

c. provide essential supports and services including, but not limited to, early intervention services, special education services, or mental health consultation.

J. Medical or disability impact exceptions to any standard in this Chapter should be addressed on an individual basis by the LEA in accordance with local policies.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:6, 17:7, 17:439.1, and 17:3391.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 46:1670 (December 2020), amended LR 47:

Sandy Holloway
President

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