LCPS Preparedness Relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

DEPARTMENT OF PUPIL SERVICES
LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MARCH 10, 2020
Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency Management Team
- Communication – LCPS Preparedness COVID-19
- Emergency Response Plan
- Universal Precautions (Preventive Actions)
- Prohibited Field Trip Travel
- Continuity of Education
Emergency Preparedness

● Emergency Management Team
  ○ LCPS Department Representatives
  ○ Loudoun County Health Department

● Communication
  ○ Routine Updates at COVID-19 Preparedness at LCPS
  ○ Blackboard messages, social-media posts
  ○ Ongoing Review of CDC Guidance
  ○ Ongoing Collaboration with Loudoun County Health Department Director
Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency Response Plan: Pandemic/Epidemic Infectious Diseases
  - Collaboration with Loudoun County Health Dept.
  - Communicate Preventive Actions
  - Follow Policy 8415: Bloodborne, Contagious, Communicable or Infectious Diseases
  - Follow LCPS Routine Cleaning Plan
  - Continuity of Business Operations
Universal Preventive Actions

● Emphasize Commonly Known Preventive Actions
  o Stay home when sick
  o Cover your cough
  o Sneeze into your elbow or tissue (throw away tissue)
  o Wash your hands often with soap
  o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth
  o Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (phone, keyboard, etc.)
Poster Campaign
Increased emphasis on the LCPS standard cleaning plan and chemicals which are designed, and verified by CDC and VDH, to disinfect the schools from the flu, COVID-19, and other viruses.
Facilities Cleaning Plan

● Notices to cleaning crews regarding the importance of daily cleaning procedures including touch surfaces
● Communication to principals
  ○ Custodial leadership support available
  ○ LCPS provided cleaning solutions required
  ○ No Off the Shelf products allowed
● Chlorine and Ammonia based chemicals can cause harmful reaction if exposed to one another
  ○ Safety Data Sheets are required for all chemicals
● Spray bottles deployed to teachers upon request with requisite training confirmation
Facilities Preparedness

  - Cleaning Solutions, Gloves, Spray Bottles, Sanitizer
- Tested electrostatic cleaning methodology to use with potential confirmed cases.
- Facilities Services Custodial Leaders:
  - trained and certified as Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) Forensic Restoration Technicians.
  - participated in a regional discussion with other school systems on how to prepare for COVID-19.
Continuity of Business Operations

- Communicated with all outside organizations that utilize school facilities providing resources related to prevention of COVID-19.

- Participate in county-wide meetings at Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to discuss the COVID-19 response plan for all of Loudoun County.

- Should Central Office close, payroll operations will deploy existing protocol to ensure employees are paid according to schedule.
School Attendance

According to Loudoun County Health Department guidelines:

- There is currently no public health basis for students or staff to stay at home in response to COVID-19, even if they have an underlying health condition.

- If there was not a medical basis to keep a student out of school during influenza season, it would be unlikely that this condition would prevent the student from safely attending school currently.

- Twice removed: There is no recommendation that well family members of people being evaluated for COVID-19 need to remain home. If they become ill, or if the COVID-19 test becomes positive, those recommendations would change.
School Attendance

● Daily review of student and staff absenteeism patterns occurs through the student health services team and HRTD.

● Ongoing communication with the Loudoun Health Dept. when higher levels of absenteeism has occurred due to patterns of respiratory illness.
  ◦ Routine practice includes other illnesses
  ◦ Direction given at time to send letter to parents

● If a school or classroom experiences higher than normal absenteeism due to illness, Facilities is contacted to conduct additional cleaning.
Mental Wellness Support

- We have advised the school-based members of the unified mental health teams to monitor and intervene to support the social-emotional needs of our students.

- School counselors, psychologists, social workers, health office staff, and student assistance specialists are readily available and can help schools prepare for potentially negative events including a public health crisis.

- The unified mental health team members can promoting the use of strengths and resiliency skills in our students.
School Closure Considerations

- Virginia Department of Health current protocol is to notify the division when a known case of TB and other cases of public health concern exists within a school.

- Ongoing collaboration with the Loudoun County Health Dept. to discuss fact patterns related to individuals with known COVID-19.

- Based on specific fact patterns around known Loudoun County COVID-19 cases, the Loudoun County Health Dept. may recommend social distancing to include one or more school closures.
Prohibited Field Trip Travel

- LCPS has suspended all LCPS-sponsored international travel through June 30.
- This includes the upcoming Loudoun International Youth Leadership Summit (LIYLS), which was scheduled to begin on March 20.
- LCPS is taking these steps out of an abundance of caution, and in keeping with recent guidance from the Virginia Department of Health that school divisions should reconsider their travel plans.
Regarding domestic travel, LCPS continues to collaborate with local and state officials and will modify plans as appropriate in the future.

Participation in instructional field trips, athletic trips and other student activity trips is optional.

Schools will provide an appropriate alternative for students who do not participate in an instructional field trip.
Non-LCPS Sponsored Travel

- Non-LCPS travel includes family trips and other independently organized activities.
- LCPS recommends following the CDC guidelines:
  - Non-essential travel to Italy, South Korea, and Japan is not recommended by the CDC.
  - The CDC recommends that travelers from Italy and South Korea stay home and monitor their health for 14 days; travelers from Japan are encouraged to limit interactions with others and monitor their health for 14 days. Any current student or staff member returning from Iran or China will not be allowed to attend school for 14 days from the date of departure. This precaution is being taken to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our schools.
- The CDC has not issued any specific guidance regarding isolation of healthy travelers from countries where no travel alert has been issued, or about domestic travel.
Continuity of Education

- LCPS is exploring options and opportunities to support student learning at a distance, should extended closures be necessary.
  - Staff is considering purchasing approximately 15,000 Chromebooks now, using appropriated but unspent FY20 funds, to complete the rollout of Chromebooks for all students in grades 3-12.
- The VDOE has not published written guidance regarding using online learning as a substitute for required school attendance. This could be revisited if the situation warrants.
- Regardless of whether learning completed at home can be used to fulfill state requirements, LCPS is working to provide opportunities to support students’ continued learning and growth during any extended school closures.
Employee Leave

- No leave is charged to an employee’s leave bank if the employee is instructed to self quarantine or isolate by a government health official.
- If an employee becomes ill, sick leave and FMLA would be available, similar to when an employee contracts the flu or other illness.
- Part-time employees are paid for hours worked (Policy 7022) and do not earn leave (Policy 7710 & 7712).
Keeping You Informed

- The LCPS emergency management team members meet and communicate daily with the Loudoun County Health Department to stay informed of the latest COVID-19 information.

- The LCPS COVID-19 Preparedness webpage has the most up-to-date information and opportunity to submit questions.

- Call the Supervisor for Student Health Office or your child’s school if you have questions or concerns.

- Dr. Goodfriend is scheduled to meet with LCPS principals for an information briefing and question/answer session.
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