



# Levels of Mitigation

## COVID-19 Operations Guidance for District Schools

Using guidance from DHEC received on July 29, 2021, District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties has created Five Levels of Mitigation Guidance for the operations of schools. Each level is intended to help schools communicate, prepare and implement mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

### BLUE - LEVEL ONE (Open - No Mitigation)

- Operate according to normal policies and procedures

### GREEN - LEVEL TWO (Open - Low Mitigation)

Low community transmission & low positive case rate on District COVID-19 Dashboard (Less than 5%)

- Encourage mask wearing
- Encourage social distancing to the extent possible
- Encourage hand washing and respiratory etiquette
- COVID health room protocols remain in place
- Symptomatic students and staff will be required to wear a mask while in the health room/athletic trainer's office.
- Students and staff self assess daily per the [self screening checklist](#)
- Visitors with clear educational or medical purpose allowed and strongly encouraged to wear a mask
- Volunteers with clear educational or medical purpose allowed and strongly encouraged to wear a mask
- COVID cleaning and disinfecting procedure in place for building and buses
- Field trips limited to day trips and close geographic area with consideration of community transmission. Masks required on buses.
- Quarantine students at 3 feet or closer proximity (if a cluster occurs, stricter quarantine may be required).

### YELLOW - LEVEL THREE (Open - Moderate Mitigation)

Moderate community transmission & moderate positive case rate on District COVID-19 Dashboard (5%-9.99%)

Level Two protocols in place, with the following additions/changes:

- Utilize a consistent seating arrangement in the cafeteria or other common indoor area
- Visitors limited to front office areas
- Field trips suspended. Special consideration to be given to athletic events, as well as high school students that need to attend internships and complete class assignments off campus.
- Quarantine students at 3 feet or closer proximity (if a cluster occurs, stricter quarantine may be required).

### ORANGE - LEVEL FOUR (Open - High Mitigation)

High community transmission & high positive case rate on District COVID-19 Dashboard (10%-15%)

Level Three protocols in place, with the following additions/changes:

- Increase COVID Exclusion criteria for students and staff
- Visitors not allowed
- Volunteers not allowed
- Avoid students congregating in common use areas
- Quarantine students at 3 feet or closer proximity (if a cluster occurs, stricter quarantine may be required). 14 day quarantine in effect.
- Consider putting high risk sports and extracurricular activities on hold
- Consider abbreviated school day and/or weekly schedule to allow for more intense sanitation
- Consider use of optional screening testing program

### RED - LEVEL FIVE (Buildings Closed, Distance Learning)

- Students will receive distance learning and buildings will be closed by Governor mandate or Superintendent

## ADDITIONAL DISTRICT GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

- Daily reporting of District [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to continue. The Nursing Supervisor will alert the Superintendent of increasing trends as needed.
- Athletics will follow guidelines put forth by the [S.C. High School League](#).
- Mitigation Guidance based on the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC): [COVID-19 Interim Guidance for K-12 School Operations](#).

These COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, parents and guardians, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels:

1. Vaccination
2. Mask use
3. Physical distancing
4. Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
5. Staying home when sick and getting tested
6. Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks
7. Ventilation
8. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
9. Cleaning and disinfection

## QUARANTINE UPDATE

Fully vaccinated people and people verified (positive PCR or antigen test) to have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms, do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. Individuals may voluntarily choose to provide documentation of their full vaccination status to eliminate the need for quarantine. Fully vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and it is important for them to wear a mask at school until 14 days after exposure or they receive a negative test result. \*Per DHEC [COVID-19 Interim Guidance for K-12 School Operations](#)

**DISTRICT COVID-19 RESOURCES: [WWW.LEXRICH5.ORG/COVID19](http://WWW.LEXRICH5.ORG/COVID19)**