

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
90900	138503000	La Tierra Community School

How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	N	The Mask Policy was rescinded in March 2022
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	N	LTCS no longer uses podding or cohorts on campus as of March 2022
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	<p>LTCS students and staff will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands often throughout the day during the 2021-2022 school year. Not only is this an effective method to slow the spread of COVID-19, but it is also effective at preventing other illnesses that can become prevalent in our school. Students may be offered hand sanitizer by school staff at certain points throughout the school day, such as before and after lunch, before and after recess, upon returning from the restroom, and before using devices.</p> <p>Additionally, LTCS will encourage proper respiratory etiquette. Covering coughs and sneezes are an important way to stop the spread of germs. Students will be encouraged or reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze and immediately throw used tissues away. If no tissue is available, students will be asked to sneeze or cough into their elbow, not their hands. Students should wash or sanitize hands immediately after blowing their nose, sneezing, or coughing.</p>



<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p><i>Cleaning, Sanitizing, & Disinfecting</i> Guidelines from public health agencies encourage institutions to consider the important differences between cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, and recommend the best chemicals to use and how to apply them. La Tierra’s plan includes frequent cleaning of high touch areas, daily sanitation measures, and deep cleanings as needed. We will continue to use the CDC guidelines, along with other occupational and environmental recommendations, to learn the safest and most current practices in school facilities. Classroom staff will continue to be provided sanitizer and clean rags to sanitize desks and high touch areas periodically during the school day.</p> <p><i>Ventilation</i> LTCS will improve ventilation as much as possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. Below are a few ventilation strategies from the CDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring in as much outdoor air as possible. ● Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation. ● Filter and/or clean the air in the school by improving the level of filtration with air filters in every classroom.
---	----------	---

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Contact Tracing & Quarantine When notified of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19, LTCS school administration will conduct a case investigation and will contact trace to identify any close contacts of the positive individual. Close contacts of a positive individual will be required to quarantine. School administration will provide quarantine guidance and timelines to students, families, and staff who are required to quarantine. This quarantine guidance will be based on the latest guidance provided by AZDHS in their “Release from Isolation and Quarantine” document. If guidance is provided from a public health agency, such as the CDC, AZDHS, or YCCHS, about previously infected individuals being excused from quarantine, LTCS will follow that guidance. LTCS will provide flexibility and support to students who are absent due to COVID-19 and will work with families to keep their student caught up in their class(es).</p>
--	----------	--



<p>Diagnostic and screening testing</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Health Screenings A critical way to keep COVID-19 off of our campuses is for students and staff to stay home if they are sick or have been exposed to COVID-19. Therefore, families must screen their children at home every morning prior to sending them to school. Screening for symptoms includes asking students how they feel, assessing if they are experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and taking the student’s temperature. If a student is exhibiting any sign of illness consistent with COVID-19, the student and any siblings must be kept home. Families need to follow up with the school office for further direction on isolation, quarantine, and COVID-19 testing. LTCS will provide flexibility and support to students who are absent due to COVID-19 and will work with families to keep their student caught up in their class(es). LTCS will offer rapid COVID tests on campus to any student with suspected COVID-19 due to symptoms with parental consent.</p> <p>If any household member is exhibiting illness or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, families must keep their students home and call the school office for guidance. Additionally, if any household member is awaiting COVID-19 test results, all students in that family need to be kept home. This only applies if the household member is being tested due to illness or symptoms. This does not apply to situations where a household member may be routinely tested by an employer, school, or for travel requirements. If any household member tests positive for COVID-19, all students need to be kept home and the school office should be notified immediately to provide further guidance.</p>
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Vaccines — Any person 5 years of age and older is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. La Tierra estimates that about 85% of our staff are vaccinated. Additionally, students 5 and older have started to receive the vaccine. La Tierra encourages families to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others from contracting COVID-19.</p>

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	The LEA Distance Learning and Mitigation Plans include accommodations in place for continuity of services and health and safety support
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	For the 2021-22 school year, LTCS will continue to operate under the guidance of Yavapai County Community Health Services (YCCHS), Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Education (ADE), Yavapai County Education Service Agency (YCESA) and other governmental agencies.

How the LEA will ensure **continuity of services**, including but not limited to services to address **students' academic needs** and **students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs**, which may include **student health and food services**

How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

La Tierra's Plan for continuity of services is outlined below including supports beyond in person instruction including hybrid instruction and remote learning when designated by health officials based on the community spread of the pandemic. The LEA is prepared to operate in either hybrid or distance learning environments with learning devices for each student, fully equipped online curriculum and instructional class time through virtual environments. All student support services and on-site support services would be available to students during distance learning, including on-site learning room and counseling services.

Students' Needs:



Academic Needs

At this time, LTCS will be offering full In-Person learning for all students. All efforts will be made to keep all students coming on campus full time. This model means all students are attending their classes on campus. This model is what we might call “normal” pre-pandemic instruction and will best meet the academic needs of our students moving forward,

La Tierra will NOT be offering any form of Distance Learning at this time.

Any decision to move to an instructional model other than full in-person will be made in consultation with YCCHS and approved by the LTCS Governing Board. Below are possible triggers that may indicate a need to move to a Distance Learning Model.

Possible Triggers:

- Indication of COVID-19 spread in a school as evidenced by case investigations.
- Significant increase in community metrics indicating a high prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.
- Introduction of a COVID-19 variant that presents a high risk to our students and staff.
- Other unforeseen COVID-19 circumstances that pose a threat to the health and safety of our students and staff.



<p>Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs</p>	<p><i>Social Emotional Support Considerations</i> At LTCS, social and emotional supports have always been a critical component of our education vision. Our highly qualified counselor and other dedicated staff are ready to help students with social and emotional needs. However, as families, staff and community members face many new challenges throughout this pandemic, LTCS is very aware of the uncertainty and trauma that COVID-19 is creating for our students and staff. We believe that social and emotional learning and support (SEL) should be a top priority.</p> <p>In the 2020-2021 school year, LTCS staff noticed many social emotional needs of our students including anxiety, grief, fear, self regulation, and difficulty adjusting to on-campus procedures. Therefore, LTCS will have our Counselor on campus 2 days per week to see students during the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>La Tierra Community School and its leaders view social and emotional learning as the process through which students and adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and manage emoLons • Feel and show empathy for others • Set and achieve positive goals • Establish and maintain positive relationships • Make responsible decisions • Handle challenging situations constructively <p>We are examining our current specifically designed programs to help support social and emotional learning for our students, educators and families. Integrating these practices can occur by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting feelings of autonomy, relatedness, and competence • Providing opportunities to practice recognizing, understanding, labeling, expressing, and regulating emoLons • Taking advantage of teachable moments that occur naturally throughout the school day. <p>Our students will be returning to school with a range of experiences from throughout the pandemic. We want to acknowledge that not all students are coming back with the same feelings and emoLons and will have various issues and coping abilities.</p>
<p>Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)</p>	<p>None at this time</p>
<p>Staff Needs:</p>	
<p>Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs</p>	<p>Multiple avenues are meant to check in on staff Social, Emotional and Mental Health, including weekly PLC and staff meetings, one on one meeting with the Directors and staff surveys.</p>
<p>Other Needs</p>	<p>None at this time</p>

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



The LEA must regularly, but **no less frequently than every six months** (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), **review and, as appropriate, revise its plan** for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services **through September 30, 2023**

Date of Revision	March 23, 2023
Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan:	This plan was brought before the La Tierra Community School Governing Board at a public meeting where it was reviewed and public comments were welcomed. This plan was approved by the Governing Board.

U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

(1) LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

- (a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—
- (i) how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
 - (A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.
 - (B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/podding)
 - (C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
 - (D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
 - (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
 - (F) Diagnostic and screening testing.
 - (G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
 - (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
 - (I) Coordination with State and local health officials.
 - (ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
- (b)(i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section Start Printed Page 212022001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
- (ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account
 - (iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.
- (c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).
- (d) An LEA's plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (ARP Act)



- (i) in an understandable and uniform format;
- (ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; an
- (iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent