

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



Entity ID	CTDS	LEA NAME
90900	138503000	La Tierra Community School Inc.

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	
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	N	
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	<p>LTCS students and staff will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands often throughout the day. 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>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>
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	<p>Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting 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>LTCS will improve ventilation as much as possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.</p>

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Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	When notified of a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19, LTCS school administration will send an exposure letter home to the class that was affected notifying them of possible exposure. The letter encourages parents to use heightened monitoring of their student for a 10 day period following exposure. Per updated guidance from the AZDHS there is no longer a recommendation of quarantine for close contacts of a positive individual. Current guidance recommends the close contact wear a mask for 10 days from the date of exposure. While there will not be a requirement for students who are close contacts to wear a face covering, it will be recommended to families. 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).
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	We do not provide testing but may provide information regarding where testing is available. LTCS will monitor for COVID-19 symptoms in students by doing visual screenings and sending any student who appears to be ill or complains of illness to the office. Per LTCS health and wellness policy any student with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home immediately.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Any person 6 months of age and older is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 5-11 are eligible to receive a booster shot 5 months after their initial vaccination. La Tierra encourages families to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others from contracting COVID-19.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	LTCS continues to provide accommodations for children with disabilities, and has been following the guidelines in our mitigation plan, student IEPs, and 504 plans.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	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.

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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?

At this time, LTCS will be offering full In-Person learning for all students. **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.

Students' Needs:

Academic Needs	At this time, LTCS will be offering full In-Person learning for all students. Teachers and administrators regularly assess and monitor the academic progress of each student to identify students in need of extra support provided through Tier II and Tier III interventions.
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	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. Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, 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 continue to have our Counselor on campus 2 days per week to work with students.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)	Disposable masks are available to students as needed. LTCS has resources available to families seeking additional information and support.

Staff Needs:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs	Multiple avenues are used to check in on staff members social, emotional, and mental health, including weekly PLC, staff, and leadership meetings and one on one meetings with administrators.
Other Needs	Staff are supported by school leaders on a case by case basis when needs arise.

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 | **August 16, 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:	LTCS holds regular governing board meetings, stakeholders are involved in the planning and revision process for health and safety measures. Members of the public are welcome to provide input and are given multiple avenues to do so, including public comment, surveys, and direct contact with administration.
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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—
 - (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