

# EMERGENCY OPERATION PLAN UPDATE

## Handling Covid moving forward

By Trish Yerges

The La Grande School District has updated its Emergency Operation Plan to reflect the current guidelines for dealing with cases of COVID throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Assistant Superintendent Scott Carpenter, who is involved in creating the Emergency Operation Plan for the district, has updated the plan to provide appropriate responses to any cases of COVID among the student population.

“First, if you suspect you have COVID, get tested,” Carpenter said. “We have test kits that we can help students with or they can see their medical provider or contact the Center for Human Development to get tested. Then call the school if you have a positive response to the test.”

Parents can find the COVID Response Plan at the district’s website ([lagrandesd.org/covidmanagement](http://lagrandesd.org/covidmanagement)) and read the protocols that schools will follow in response to a COVID outbreak.

There are three different tiers to the district’s response plan that the State requires. The first is the Emergency Operation Plan, which is a macro plan for how the district responds to emergencies. This plan was developed over the course of multiple years, and the first version came out in 2020. A second subsequent version came out in 2021, which continues to be the district’s up-to-date plan.

“Below that, we have a Communicable Disease Plan, and

we updated that this past July by looking at updated Center for Disease Control guidelines and incorporating their new guidelines into that document,” he added.

Lastly, current State guidelines require a School Management Plan, and that will be completed prior to the deadline of August 26.

“That plan is reviewed by our medical committee, including members from the Grande Ronde Hospital, the Center for Human Development, the local public health department, our school nurses and other team members, who are very familiar with the medical protocols and medical science,” Carpenter said.

The district’s goal this year is to have in-person school every day on site and make school as normal as possible.

Administration is looking forward to offering students opportunities in extracurricular activities and sports, involvement in Career-Technology-Engineering programs and internships and just experiencing a regular school day. Carpenter said that they want the kids to enjoy their experiences at school.

“If there are spikes in COVID, we will respond throughout the year as they arise,” he advised. “We have a committee and medical team to review those circumstances and determine when we need to increase our mitigations. We will always do the least impact for the best results.”

Of course, families will be advised throughout the school

year if circumstances call for more guarded measures at school. “The Superintendent and I are planning on various public releases to keep people updated like we did last year,” he said. “We will do Town Hall virtual meetings and then load them onto the website as a resource.”

School health is a shared responsibility, but often the first line of defense starts at home with observant parents. Are you trying to determine if your child is too sick to come to school? Then visit the district’s website at [lagrandesd.org/covidmanagement](http://lagrandesd.org/covidmanagement). Click on the icon called “Is my

child too sick for school?”

This same webpage will have contact information for all of the school nurses under the icon, “Counseling Resources”. Of course, parents may always contact their child’s school principal for fast responses about your child’s sickness and whether your child should stay home.



### Updated COVID Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines

#### When should my student stay home?

|                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Student experiencing 1 or more primary symptoms for COVID – Confirmed or Unconfirmed Case<br><b>(Individual is SICK)</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 days isolation from symptoms onset</li> <li>24 hours fever-free and symptoms improving</li> </ul> |
| Confirmed Positive Case – Positive Test<br><b>(Individual is SICK)</b>                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 days isolation from symptoms onset</li> <li>24 hours fever-free and symptoms improving</li> </ul> |
| Close Contact to a positive case at home or school or community <b>AND</b> experiencing no primary symptoms<br><b>(Individual is NOT SICK)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine required</li> </ul>                                                                   |

#### Important Updates:

- Student/Staff are required to “stay home if they are sick” under these new guidelines.
- Previous exposures/illness or vaccination status do not alter or adjust requirements above.
- With new highly transmissible variants it is highly likely individuals will get reinfected periodically regardless of prior exposures or vaccination.

#### What are considered primary symptoms?

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| <b>Primary Symptoms for COVID-19 Variants</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temp of 100.4F degrees or higher</li> <li>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li> <li>Persistent, irregular, or uncontrollable cough</li> <li>New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Definition of “Up to Date” Vaccination Status</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth 5–50 years are recommended to <b>receive all recommended vaccine doses, including a booster.</b></li> <li>Individuals 50 years and older OR some people 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are recommended to <b>receive all recommended vaccine doses, including 2 boosters.</b></li> </ul> |

For more information on booster timelines, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

#### How should my student access learning when they are home sick?

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| <b>Learning During the Required COVID Isolation Period (5 days)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact your student’s teacher by phone or email.</li> <li>Get connected to the teacher’s classroom updates.</li> <li>Get connected to the teacher’s Google Classroom.</li> <li>Complete assigned coursework and activities.</li> <li>Turn in all completed coursework via Google Classroom, when student returns, or within the school absence policy timeline (max. 5 additional days after illness.)</li> </ul> |
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