



LBA 2020-21 Return to School Guide

Subject to change, visit <http://go.lba.fyi/return> for updates / Last Update 2/12/2021

Introduction

The Lord has been faithful to our school over the last 35 years, and we are very thankful that our students, staff, and parents have been able to enjoy the excellence that LBA offers in a safe and healthy environment. To see a message from our principal about our return, just [click here](#).

We'd like to thank our families for their patience as we've invested the time that's been necessary to collect information and develop this plan. We've researched recommendations and requirements and solicited feedback from teachers, staff, parents, students, business leaders, health professionals, legal experts, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health, the Warren County Health Department, the American Association of Pediatrics, and others to develop this guide.

Here are our priorities:

1. To demonstrate God's love to each other ([John 13:35](#))
2. To submit to our governing authorities ([Romans 13:1](#))
3. To provide a high level of customer service ([1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#))
4. To keep our staff and students safe ([Psalm 91](#))

Liberty Bible Academy will continue to serve our families with a commitment to our mission and the safety of each student in mind. We will continue to encourage our students in their relationship with Christ and equip them to fulfill God's calling for their lives, and we will pursue our goals through biblically integrated lessons, creative programming, and the authentic development of a loving and caring environment for all of our students.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your partnership. We love our LBA family!

Re-opening Instructional Model

We always strive to make LBA a safe environment for students, from the moment they begin their day until the time that they return home. And while there are always inherent risks in a collective educational experience, we will endeavor to provide the same degree of safety that we always provide, even in the midst of this unprecedented time.

Liberty Bible Academy opened its K-12 campus for in-person instruction five days per week beginning on August 13, 2020 and its Preschool for in-person instruction five days per week on August 31, 2020. This decision was in compliance with authorities and in response to the preferences and feedback of the majority of our families and students.

Because of budget and staffing limitations, LBA only offered in-person instruction when we returned to school. LBA did not initially offer a remote learning instructional option, a rotating attendance model, or a “hybrid” instructional plan.

Remote Learning

If a class or cohort is required to move to remote learning, as directed by the Governor of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Health, the Warren County Health Department, the CDC, or another comparable authoritative body, then LBA will transition from in-person instruction to remote learning for that class or cohort only during that time period. In-person instruction at LBA will resume for that class or cohort, with the necessary precautions and safety measures, as soon as possible.

If a short term closure of the school building is required by an authoritative body, LBA will transition from in-person instruction to remote learning for the entire school only during that time period. In-person instruction at LBA will resume promptly when the appropriate and required measures have been taken.

Family Waivers

All families are required to sign and submit the [Family Waiver](#) before returning to LBA for the 2020-21 school year. If your preferences change after submitting this waiver, please submit a new waiver to indicate your new preferences.

Transportation

LBA strongly recommends that any families that rely on busing from another local school district (e.g. Mason, Kings, Lakota, etc.) reach out to that district to inquire about specific requirements to participate in bus transportation this year, including guidelines for facial coverings, social distancing, and behavior. As always, please inform the LBA office of your arrangements as soon as possible.

Schedule Adjustments

The following schedule adjustments were made upon our return to school:

- **Aftercare** - We currently offer Aftercare until 5:30pm, but we are limiting our numbers and implementing additional safety protocols.
- **Beforecare** - Because of increased safety requirements, LBA will no longer offer a Beforecare program for students in grades K-12, although students may report to classrooms as early as 7:30am. Beforecare for Preschool will still be offered, with increased health and safety measures, from 7:30am to 8:30am.
- **Chapel** - For the time being, our students and staff will remain in their classrooms for chapel, meeting instead through a closed-circuit internal remote platform.
- **Cohorts** - As much as possible, schedules and class locations will be adjusted so students can stay in the same room with a consistent group of classmates. This will allow us to eliminate variables and limit exposure for all staff and students.
- **Drop Off** - Students may arrive at the front entrance starting at 7:30am. LBA staff will take their temperature and they will be asked to sanitize their hands before they proceed to their classroom/designated area. School begins promptly at 8:00am for K-12 and 8:30am for PreK. Parents will not be permitted into the building during Drop Off or Pick Up.
- **Extracurricular Activities and School Events** - Certain activities and events may be canceled or held virtually, as needed. More information will be provided as we get closer to each scheduled activity or event.
- **Hallways** - Transition times will be staggered to reduce the number of students in the hallways at one time and decrease the potential for exposure between cohorts.
- **Lunch** - Lunch will continue to take place in student classrooms.
- **Orientations** - Orientations and Back to School events for parents and families will be held remotely.
- **Recess** - Recesses will be shorter, more frequent, staggered, and in more controlled spaces to reduce exposure between and within cohorts of students.

Healthy Hygiene

The Ohio Health Department has provided the following guidelines and best practices for all staff, students, and visitors:

- Wash or sanitize hands upon arrival, before and after eating, after coughing or sneezing, after being outside, and before and after using the restroom.
- When washing hands, apply soap and rub thoroughly for 20 seconds, then use paper towels to dry hands thoroughly. Staff will model and practice proper hand washing, especially for preschool and elementary grades, and will use class restroom visits as an opportunity to reinforce and monitor proper hand washing.
- Avoid hand-to-face contact as much as possible.
- Use tissues to wipe the nose and cover coughs and sneezes inside a tissue or elbow.
- Hand sanitizers will continue to be available in all classrooms. Hand sanitizing stations will also be installed at every entry way.

Cleaning Protocols

LBA has always had a high standard for cleanliness and thorough cleaning measures in place. We are committed to implement even more rigorous measures this year, including:

- Regular cleanings throughout the day, in addition to every evening.
- Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected daily, and protocols for periodic disinfection throughout the day have been implemented in each classroom, including disinfection of door handles, light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces, tables, desks, and chairs.
- Our water fountains are currently closed. We have installed water bottle fill stations near the restrooms. Faculty, staff, and students are asked to bring either a full reusable water bottle or disposable single-use water bottles. Please write the name of the student or staff on the bottle to assist in minimizing transmission.
- Students are be allowed to enjoy the use of the playground, but rotations for use have been established. Each class has its own playground equipment (e.g. balls, jump ropes, etc.) to minimize sharing between different cohorts.
- In classrooms, teachers limit shared objects as much as possible. When practical, students have their own materials (crayons, scissors, pens, pencils, etc.). When shared objects are used, they are cleaned and disinfected.
- Classroom doors and windows are propped open when possible to encourage air circulation. The HVAC system has also been optimized to provide ample circulation of fresh outdoor air.
- All cleaning products have been approved for use against COVID-19 by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Distancing Guidelines

LBA also added the following protocols to our in-person learning environment:

- Measures have been taken to avoid congestion in common areas, to reduce interactions between different grade levels or cohorts, and to evenly distribute trips in the hallways, restrooms, playground, and other shared spaces.
- Desks and student seating have been spread out as much as reasonably possible within each classroom. Sneeze guards have been installed in many classrooms as an extra level of protection for students and staff. Teachers and staff reinforce standards for students maintaining distance and reducing shared use of materials as much as practicable.
- In compliance with the Transitional Pandemic Requirements from the Ohio Department of Education, preschool classrooms are currently limited to 9 students.
- To reduce potential exposure and risk to our staff and students, LBA discourages volunteers and visitors, including parent visitors, in the building at this time.

Face Covering Policy

LBA's Face Covering Policy is in compliance with federal, state, and local government requirements and recommendations and will be updated as those requirements change:

- Staff are required to wear a face covering.
- Face coverings are currently required for all students in grades K-12, and recommended for PreK students, who do not have a medical condition or disability, [per order of the Governor of Ohio](#). To qualify for the medical/disability exemption, a family must provide the office with a doctor's note. For students who qualify for a face covering exemption, face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin can be considered as an accommodation.
- At minimum, facial coverings should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin. Face coverings should not be divisive, offensive, political, or inappropriate. Face coverings may be removed, with permission, while actively eating or drinking or actively exercising or playing sports.
- LBA will do its best to accommodate family preferences when they don't conflict with federal, state, local, and school requirements and recommendations. Families will have an opportunity to indicate and explain their preference on the Family Waiver. Parents should also work with LBA staff to identify any strong family preferences, solicit feedback about their student's ongoing use at school, and help implement reminders to the student while at LBA, as needed.
- LBA recognizes that different members of our community have different perspectives. We expect all community members to respect each other, and will train staff and students accordingly.

Checking for Signs and Symptoms

In order to continue in-person instruction in an uninterrupted manner, it is vital for LBA to vigilantly monitor symptoms and proactively address any potential risks that we become aware of. LBA has the following protocols in place:

- **Stay-At-Home Policy** - Individuals are expected to stay home from school if they have a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or if they exhibit other symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Individuals should remain home until symptom free for 24 hours.
- **Symptom Checks** - Assigned staff conduct temperature checks with a no touch thermometer and look for other symptoms of COVID-19 before individuals are permitted to enter the building.
- **COVID-19 Exposure** - If an individual has been directly exposed to or in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they are expected to stay home for a 14 day quarantine period.
- **Travel Advisory** - At the recommendation of the [CDC](#) and the [Ohio Governor](#), individuals returning from international travel or from states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher will be required to stay home for a 14 day quarantine period.

Visitors

To reduce potential exposure and risk to our staff and students, LBA discourages volunteers and visitors, including parent visitors, in the building at this time.

- If a visit is necessary, please call ahead or use the doorbell/intercom to explain your visit.
- Visitors who are permitted to proceed into the building must have their temperature taken and wear a face covering for the entirety of their visit.
- Parents are not permitted to enter the building during Drop Off or Pick Up.

Protocols for Positive Tests

If a faculty member or student tests positive for COVID-19, the following measures will be taken, as directed by the Warren County Health Department:

- Any individual testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 14 days (or the duration of time required by the county health department and/or medical health professional). No individual who has tested positive will be permitted to return to school without clearance from a doctor, the health department, or verification of a subsequent negative COVID-19 test result.
- The privacy of any individual testing positive will be maintained in accordance with FERPA requirements.
- Any individual known to be in close proximity to a person who tested positive will be notified of the potential exposure and instructed to monitor themselves closely for the development of symptoms.
- Depending on the circumstances of the positive test, entire classes or cohorts may be required by the Warren County Health Department to move to remote learning for at least 14 days.

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

[1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#)