



WASHINGTON LATIN

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

A Classical Education for the Modern World

SY 2022-23 LEA Health and Safety Plan

LEA Name: Washington Latin PCS
LEA Contact: Mr. Peter Anderson
LEA Type: Middle School; High School
Date Generated: 07/29/2022

Background and Purpose

[DC Health's most recent \(June 13, 2022\) Health and Safety Guidance for Schools](#) provides guidelines for LEAs to develop comprehensive health and safety plans. This plan provides the public with information on how Washington Latin will support the continued safe operation of school buildings, including guidelines on masking, social distancing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, and appropriate response to a positive COVID-19 case or surge in cases.

Face Masks

Latin will monitor the status of community spread in DC as well as spread within the school and set rules for masking in accordance with the existing state of transmission. In general, in times of Low community spread, Latin will likely be mask-optional both indoors and outdoors; in times of Medium community spread Latin will likely strongly recommend or require indoor masking, and in times of High community spread Latin will likely require indoor masking and possibly outdoor masking as well. Unless directed otherwise by the Department of Health or similar authority, our LEA reserves the right to change masking rules at the discretion of school leadership, especially in anticipation of COVID surges. All such rules will apply to school transportation, and both students and adults (including bus drivers) will be expected to follow whatever rules are in place both on school premises and at school-sponsored off-campus events unless otherwise specified.

When required, masks must properly cover the nose and mouth and individuals who do not comply with this requirement may be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by school administrators. Students unable to wear face masks throughout the day may be provided with mask breaks with appropriate social distancing, possibly outdoors. Families and educators will work with students to practice wearing masks safely and consistently. Face masks with clear mouth panels will be available for those who need to communicate with individuals who are hard-of-hearing. At times of Medium or High transmission, visitors to the school will be limited, and anyone entering the school (except those too young or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance) will be required to wear a mask properly covering their nose and mouth at times when masking is required.

To ensure easy compliance with this policy, any visitor or member of our community who arrives without a face covering or has a lost or damaged face covering while attending a school activity, will be provided a new one. The school will keep an ample supply of PPE, including masks, during times when face coverings are required at schools.

During periods when masking is mandatory on campus, students not wearing a face mask as appropriate will first be given a verbal and/or visual reminder to put their masks on promptly and properly. Students refusing to do this will be separated from any larger group and reminded of the importance of masking for the good of the community. Continued resistance to masking will be referred to administrators or counselors as appropriate, and barring extenuating circumstances or incapacity, students may be asked to leave campus if they continually refuse to wear proper face coverings when required. Note that such removal would be a last resort, and before removing students from campus,

parental support would be solicited. During mask-mandatory times, adults faculty members who refuse to wear a face covering will be similarly reminded of the importance of masking for the good of the community and may be subject to further disciplinary action from supervisors in response to continued resistance. Visitors refusing to properly wear a face mask will be asked to leave the campus or to wait somewhere outdoors if meeting a student or adult member of the school community.

Social Distancing

Where possible, classrooms will continue to be organized to support students remaining at least 3 feet apart from one another (measured head-to-head) with teachers at least 6 feet from students and each other. Each school will attempt to structure in-person gatherings to meet distancing and capacity requirements/limits set forth by DC Health guidance for such gatherings. Schools will also likely continue using separate arrival locations for Middle and Upper School students with designated supervisory faculty members at each entrance and have staggered lunch periods for different grades. As appropriate, each school will encourage outdoor lunch and/or use individual three-sided dividers for students when eating and drinking during lunchtime. Administrators will continue to monitor lunches, arrival, and dismissal closely and remind students verbally about safety requirements. Any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities will be designed to allow for proper distancing and other COVID mitigation strategies, and faculty members leading such activities will confer with the school’s COVID Point-of-Contact (POC) to ensure community safety.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Washington Latin has invested extensively in resources to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Our policy is to encourage frequent, proper handwashing strategies by faculty and students with soap for at least 20 seconds. We currently include hand sanitizer that contains at least 70 percent alcohol throughout the campuses. All students and faculty will have the opportunity to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or, if not readily available, to access hand sanitizer at the following times:

- Before and after eating;
- After going to the bathroom;
- After blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing.
- Before and after PE class
- When entering and exiting school buses and vans
- When entering and exiting the building

In addition, Latin will encourage all faculty and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue when not wearing a mask and to throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or if soap and water is unavailable, use hand sanitizer. Teachers and cleaning crew/day porter will do daily supply checks and each school will have ample supplies of appropriate products on hand. All commodes have also been equipped with toilet lids and signage to close the lid before flushing.

Maintaining Clean and Healthy Facilities

Washington Latin’s cleaning personnel has been engaged in enhanced procedures since the start of the pandemic. The cleaning schedule below has been established and will be maintained if conditions warrant:

		Throughout the day	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Classroom (note that students have personal supplies of white boards, markers, textbooks, etc. -- cleaning is for any	Floors of classrooms		X		
	Student desks, chairs	X			
	Teacher desks, chair	X			
	Walls and white boards		X		

supplies in classroom in addition to those)	Manipulatives, textbooks, etc.		X		
	Pens, pencils, white board markers, crayons, markers	X			
Hallway/Stairs	Fixtures (switches, knobs, buttons)	X			
	Railings		X		
	Lockers (if used)			X	
	Floors of hallways		X		
Office and Common Area	Pens, pencils, phones	X			
	Fixtures (switches, knobs, buttons)		X		
	Chairs	X			
	Copiers, etc.	X			
Bathrooms	Surfaces	X			
	Floor		X		
	Fixtures, handles, switches, faucets	X			
Outdoor Space	Balls and other outdoor athletic or recess equipment	X			
Other	Cafeteria equipment and surfaces	X			

Latin will continue to follow CDC and OSSE guidance on how to disinfect and clean when a member of our community either develops symptoms of COVID-19 while in school or tests positive. The protocols include cleaning/disinfecting any areas where the sick individual has been, allowing all cleaning/disinfecting solutions to sit undisturbed if indicated in manufacturer’s instructions, opening windows and doors to increase air circulation while cleaning, and, leaving the area unoccupied as long as possible following cleaning. Cleaning crew members will wear masks and gloves, and additional PPE as appropriate. Latin will ensure that appropriate disinfection and PPE supplies are available and that our janitorial and cleaning crew members are using them consistently and properly.

Ventilation and water systems

Latin upgraded our HVAC system with MERV13 filters in early 2020 and has consistently performed regular filter changes and other HVAC maintenance. We have also continued to do our usual regular water checks – including checks for Legionnaire’s Disease – throughout the pandemic as well and have participated in the PCSB lead checking

program for all our drinking water sources.

Response to a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Case

Latin will continue to follow DC Health and OSSE guidance for appropriate inclusion and exclusion of individuals based on COVID status. If an individual develops COVID symptoms while at school, we will bring the symptomatic individual to an isolation area for a rapid COVID test. If the test is positive, we will alert parents to come and get the child (or send the individual home if an adult); if the test is negative and symptoms are not related to other potential communicable diseases that require exclusion, the individual will be allowed to stay at school, but may be asked to mask and/or to test again in two days. If symptoms are noticeable enough to warrant testing, the individual may be asked to go home regardless of the rapid test result.

To ensure that we maximize onsite, in-person instruction, we will not exclude students and staff with COVID-like symptoms if they have provided written or verbal guidance from a medical professional that such symptoms are chronic (such as seasonal allergies) and unrelated to COVID. In the case of someone being confirmed as COVID positive, any identified close contacts will be tested and those who are unvaccinated will follow the protocols of Latin's Test to Stay program, including testing every other day for five days, remaining masked even if school policy at that time is mask-optional, remaining separated from others while unmasked during lunch, and other precautions. Identified close contacts who are vaccinated and symptom-free will also be asked to test initially and again on Day 5 and remain masked for 10 days pending negative test results but are not subject to the other ongoing requirements of Test to Stay.

Latin will continue to use a robust suite of layered communications to alert students and adults identified as close contacts of anyone who tests positive. Our avenues of communication regarding all COVID procedures and policies include e-mails, texts, interactive Zoom meetings/webinars, recordings to be watched at the viewer's convenience, as well as personal phone calls from the COVID POC and other Senior Administration to families and faculty. These communications consistently protect the privacy of the individuals involved while alerting families and staff to mitigate spread. Latin will also follow guidance from DC Health Contact Tracers regarding appropriate return to campus for individuals considered close contacts.

Our COVID-19 point of contact is Martita Fleming, Director of Operations. She has been in regular contact with families, staff, contractors, and vendors since March 2020 and has reported positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health as appropriate across that time. Ms. Fleming has participated in extensive training and consulted widely with local, regional, and national experts. In addition, Latin has four other employees, across both campuses, who have trained as contact tracers and a contracted nurse who serves as a support for all COVID-related matters.

Our LEA will comply with all OSSE and DC Health related guidance in planning for responding to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases. We will comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE's guidance.

To meet the needs of our diverse community, details on these and many other non-COVID topics are available in Spanish, the required language as indicated on student/Family Home Language Surveys. The Communications Director who works very closely with our COVID-19 POC is bilingual in Spanish and all written communications are provided in Spanish as needed for Spanish-speaking families. Several other staff members are available to assist with both written and verbal translations of communications as needed. In addition, sign language interpreters have been provided for our hard-of-hearing families at all on-line forums (just as they were for in-person activities prior to the pandemic).

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

Latin makes rapid testing kits available to all individuals upon request without limitation, both for in-school and at-home administration. We will continue to require testing of any symptomatic individuals, plan to continue weekly testing of asymptomatic unvaccinated individuals, and to test anyone identified as a close contact to someone who tests positive, regardless of vaccination status. Currently, Latin's vaccination rate among both faculty and students is over 90%, and the LEA continues to encourage vaccination among the remaining unvaccinated individuals by hosting and publicizing vaccination sites and by discontinuing required weekly testing of fully vaccinated individuals.

Latin will continue to require Test to Return testing at the beginning of the school year and after extended breaks (defined as periods of time when at least 75 percent of the school community is away from school premises for five or more days).

Students with Disabilities

Students at Latin in need of extra support generally work directly with a designated member of our Student Support Team. These faculty members will consult with families on their caseloads to ensure complete understanding of the school's COVID protocols and surface any concerns. Students will be expected to participate fully in in-person learning in their regular classrooms with all appropriate accommodations per existing IEPs, 504 plans, etc. Where a family or student has concerns about understanding and complying with COVID protocols, any member of the Student Support Team may engage Latin's COVID POC or other administrators in the conversation and may suggest additional accommodations (e.g., designated mask breaks in appropriate locations, use of alternative hand sanitizer for students with sensory reactions to school- provided products, etc.). Latin will attempt to allow any reasonable accommodation that is consistent with prevailing COVID health and safety practices and compliant with DC Health, PCSB, and OSSE protocols/regulations.

Training, Technical Assistance, and Monitoring

Individuals who have been previously trained as contact tracers and COVID safety monitors will continue to function in those roles, as needed, in the 2022-23 school year. We will also continue to have the support of our COVID nurse, a valued partner in our work of keeping the campus safe through regular verbal reminders to students and adults about social distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene and other COVID protocols. Our administrators and others will continue to monitor compliance with COVID protocols among faculty and students and to provide reminders and follow-up as appropriate. Our Principals and Head of School will continue to work closely with the COVID POC to surface and address any COVID safety concerns.

Ongoing Communications

The school has consistently provided information on policies and procedures to students, families, and the general public since March 2020. We plan to continue to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures with students, families, visitors, and others through on-site signage, newsletter updates, back-to-school webinars, and orientation events. To meet the needs of our diverse community, details on these topics will be available in all languages that our community requires as indicated on student/Family Home Language Surveys. As we have done with all parent-facing activities for the past several years, Latin's team of designated Spanish- language interpreters will help translate written materials and provide translation in person, and we will engage sign-language interpreters for families requiring this service.