

**Philosophy:** LACS remains committed to executing a Back-to-School that is grounded in our mission, our core values and that is informed by what the current science is telling us, specific to our local community.

**Facts:**

1. Massachusetts has the 2nd highest vaccination rate in the country ([~73%](#))
2. 80% of LACS staff members are vaccinated (TBD on students)
3. Hampden County, where Springfield is located, is lagging behind ([~58%](#))
4. Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
5. Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, [CDC recommends](#) universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
6. CDC recommends that all children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

**Our Approach:**

LACS will use various mitigation strategies based on the local [CDC determined transmission rates](#) and the LACS vaccination rate. LACS is using 70% vaccination as a cut-off based on [herd immunity status](#).



(applies if someone tests positive in the building and it occurs while unmasked)	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test	asymptomatic no quarantine  If vaccinated and symptomatic 7 day quarantine and negative test  If unvaccinated test and 7 day quarantine and negative test
<b>Outdoors</b>	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	Masks are required when less than 3 ft apart	Masks required	Masks and minimum 3ft required
<b>Sports and Activities</b>	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	No mandatory masks or distance	Masks and weekly testing required when distance is not possible	Masks and weekly testing required when distance is not possible	Sports are canceled
<b>Guests and Partners</b>	Guests and community partners welcome	Guests and community partners welcome	Guests and community partners welcome	Guests and community partners welcome	Guests and community partners welcome	Only LACS community members welcome  Families must follow mask + distancing protocols and are limited to lobby areas.	Only LACS community members welcome  Families must follow mask + distancing protocols and are limited to lobby areas.	Only LACS community members welcome  Families must follow mask + distancing protocols and are limited to lobby areas.

