

UPDATE

July 24, 2020

AVON OLD FARMS SCHOOL



Avon Safe

Reopening Safely is PRIORITY #1



Avon Safe

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

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Our Implementation Team has developed a range of plans based on different situations and circumstances that may require us to pause or shut down some or all activities. A shutdown may be necessary based on any of the following scenarios:

- A statewide order to close due to any number of factors that are out of our control
- The local public health department recommends a school shut down due to campus outbreak
- Infirmarary bed space, including all licensed infirmarary surge space, has been utilized to its maximum capacity
- An outbreak on campus where our COVID-19 cohort and quarantine spaces are maxed out
- Health Center staffing does not allow for adequate coverage of the school's Health Center facilities
- Faculty/staff absenteeism is too high to carry out the daily operations of the school



Avon Safe is Avon Old Farms School's comprehensive strategy to keep our campus and our community safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. Our COVID Task Force has formulated a Pandemic Operations Response Plan to address multiple considerations including the health, wellness, and safety of our community as well as the continuity of operations of the school with the least impact to our students and faculty during the current pandemic.

This plan has the following primary goal:

PROTECT THE HEALTH & SAFETY OF THE AVON COMMUNITY

- 1. -> Limit the number of illnesses in our community**
- 2. -> Preserve the continuity of essential school functions**
- 3. -> Minimize educational and social disruption**
- 4. -> Maintain robust academic program & institutional well-being**

GOALS

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Avon Safe

Plan for Reopening Initiative



HEALTH CENTER

The following policies, procedures, and guidelines will be in place for the 2020-2021 school year in order to support the health and wellness of our community while allowing us to resume in-person operations.

(These policies and procedures are supported by local, state, and federal guidelines and may be modified throughout the school year based on new information or modified guidelines.)

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Health Screenings



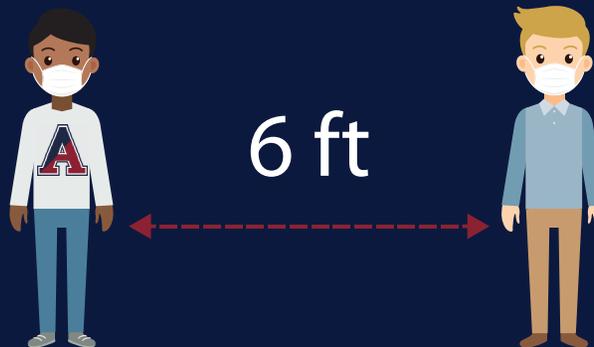
Health Screenings will be facilitated through the SchoolSuite App. All students and employees will be required to submit daily symptom checks. This ensures that those who feel ill or may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19, report to the Health Center, and do not come to campus or attend school activities.

Face Coverings

All of our students and employees will wear face coverings inside all school buildings and when physical distancing cannot be maintained. All students and employees will receive two reusable face coverings provided by the school. Parents/Guardians should plan to purchase and supply their son with an additional 5 face coverings. Additional masks will be available for purchase in the school store.



Physical Distancing



Our students and employees will do their best to keep a distance of six feet from others and refrain from unnecessary physical contact.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Health Care Facilities

In order to provide the required standard of care and to minimize the exposure of healthy students to a potentially infected or sick student, Avon has created two separate Health Center locations this year:

Infirmery: for sick students (current Health Center space)

Wellness Center: for daily medication administration, well-visits, and counseling services (below the current Health Center).

The construction on our new Wellness Center has begun and is on track to be completed in early August. All Infirmery and Wellness Center visits (except for daily medication) will be done by appointment only.



A.) We have increased the Health Center staff in order to accommodate the second Health Center location as well as the additional staffing needs required for testing, isolation, and management of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

B.) Our Health Center staff will continue with training and professional development over the summer and throughout the school year in order to stay up to date on best practices related to COVID-19.

Mental Health

Our Health Center will work closely with our Counseling Center and Dean of Students to provide education, resources, and ample opportunities for mental health support to our students both physically on campus as well as those who are participating online learning. We will offer telemental health services, which will offer a path to continue providing services to our students during this pandemic who may not be physically present on campus. Mindfulness practices, workshops, resilience training, mental health first aid, and other skill-building programs (either as part of Prep4Ward or in addition to) will be implemented for both our on-campus students and employees as well as for those learning or working remotely.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Education



The education of our entire community (students, parents, faculty, and staff) about COVID-19 and its spread is paramount first of all for prevention and second of all, to reduce the risk and the spread of the disease on campus. This education will take place in many different formats, starting with regular summer communications and will include new policies and procedures, the importance of hand hygiene, and other COVID-19 related changes for this school year.

Personal Hygiene

Meticulous adherence to personal hygiene practices, including hand hygiene and proper cough/sneeze etiquette, will be essential for prevention and infection control. We will increase the amount of education provided in these areas. Teaching students that caring for yourself translates to caring for others will be an important focus of character education this year. Students will be monitored more closely when it comes to personal hygiene as well as laundry (clothes, linens, and masks). We will increase appropriate signage related to personal hygiene and provide an adequate amount of hand sanitizing stations.

Communicable Disease Policy

This policy exists in order to ensure the health, well-being, and safety of our residential community and helps to prevent the spread of highly infectious diseases through temporary exclusion from the dormitory, classes, sports, and on-campus activities for students and work for employees. Students requiring longer than 24 hours of supervision in the Health Center will be sent home or to their local emergency contact. All students and employees who have been excluded from school or work for a communicable disease must get clearance from the Health Center prior to returning to school.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Isolation Policy

We have created locations on campus for isolating students who test positive for COVID-19. The current Health Center space will have a total of nine beds (an increase from five) where symptomatic students needing nursing supervision will be temporarily housed until they are picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact. A separate area (also away from other students, faculty, and staff) has been reserved for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 but who are not symptomatic and have been cleared by the school's medical director to go to an isolation area where nursing supervision is not needed. Similarly, those students will be housed in this space temporarily until their parent/guardian or emergency contact

Quarantine

We have created spaces on campus for those students who have been identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 and will, therefore, need to be in quarantine for 14 days. This location will be away from other students, faculty, and staff but supervised by AOF faculty/health center staff. Students required to quarantine will be housed in this location temporarily until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact.

Emergency Contact

This year, all students, both boarding and day, are required to have a designated emergency contact who lives within 300 miles (five hours) driving distance from school. This is a very important mitigation strategy in order to keep us from maxing out our surge space which ultimately allows us to remain open longer.

COVID-19 Team

Rob Whitty, Associate Head of School, is Avon Old Farms School's designated COVID-19 coordinator and works closely with a team of administrators. The team will participate in weekly discussions with other boarding school and college campus coordinators throughout the fall semester to share best practices. Institutions will be required to report a daily census of new positive cases, hospitalizations, and discharges. All PIH (personally identifiable health information) will be excluded from this data. This daily

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

(cont'd from p.7)

reporting will allow campuses to monitor transmission activity across the state. Any positive cases will also be reported to the Farmington Valley Health District by the Director of Nursing, per state reporting requirements.

Antibody Tests

If and when antibody (serology) tests are deemed reliable and it is determined that antibodies confer immunity, these tests may eventually play a role in the diagnosis and determination of individuals at risk for infection.

Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine will be available at no cost to all students, faculty, and staff. Vaccines will be available as early as registration. The flu vaccine is highly recommended for all students and employees who are medically able to receive the vaccine.



Avon Safe

Safety is our #1 Priority



CAMPUS REPOPULATION

The key to success will be starting off on the right track by accepting the personal responsibility needed to keep the Avon community together and healthy.

Avon Safe: CAMPUS REPOPULATION

Move-in

Registration and move-in will occur in smaller groups and over the course of five days to provide a safe repopulation. Specific details, including a schedule, will be available in August.

Pre-Arrival Mandates

The pre-arrival requirements are based on CT State mandates, CDC guidelines, and the CT Independent School Reopening Plan. The combination of these guiding documents/agencies dictate the required procedures.

International

Students coming to the United States from other countries will need to monitor the CDC guidelines for re-entry into the US. Currently, the guidelines require a 14-day quarantine. Students will not be allowed to complete this initial quarantine in their dormitories. (If students/families need assistance with the logistics of this situation, please reach out to Christel Rooney).



Travel from High-Risk States

BOTH OF THESE CRITERIA MUST BE MET PRIOR TO ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS:

1) QUARANTINE:

Per the state of CT mandate: all students traveling from high-risk states as defined by the State of CT (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT>) are required to quarantine for 14 days in a low-risk state before returning to campus. ***This quarantine must take place off-campus.***

2) TESTING:

All students must submit a negative PCR test results prior to arrival.

Pre-arrival test options:

- Have a test administered within 3 days of travel to CT/low-risk state **OR**
- Get tested locally soon after arrival in CT/low-risk state in order to ensure test results can be submitted to the Health Center prior to arrival.

Avon Safe: CAMPUS REPOPULATION

Travel from Low-Risk States

Travel from CT and other low-risk states: All students must submit a negative PCR test result to the Health Center within 7-10 days of arriving on campus. All students must limit their exposure and refrain from high-risk activities following their test administration and prior to their arrival on campus to “do their part” in a healthy and safe start to the year.



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CAMPUS FACILITIES

*Avon is going the extra mile to create a safe campus.
Be assured that we are diligently building clean spaces with maximum air quality
to generate a great and safe experience for all our students*

Avon Safe: CAMPUS FACILITIES

Cleaning/Disinfecting/Sanitizing

- 150 hand sanitizer dispensers have been purchased and will be installed throughout campus.
- We have six electrostatic disinfectors and will use them throughout campus to ensure that areas are properly and efficiently sanitized post-occupancy.
- We have a six to nine-month supply of all necessary cleaning and sanitizing products.
- Cleaning protocols adjust to abide by state guidelines.



Air Filtration

- VanZelm Engineers has verified that our existing HVAC equipment is operating properly.
- All existing HVAC equipment meets ASHRAE standards for indoor air quality and ventilation.
- All HVAC air systems supply and return filters will be changed to MERV 13, outdoor air intake filters will be outfitted with MERV 13.
- Per VanZelm's recommendations, we have purchased 21 air exchange units and will be installing them in areas of the campus that require additional ventilation, such as the quad classrooms. These units will be scheduled to run one hour before occupancy and run continuously until one hour post-occupancy.
- We will verify the proper operation of restroom ventilation systems throughout campus.
- We are installing separation screens between sinks in any restroom on campus that have multiple sinks on a common countertop.
- Each of the dormitories will be retrofitted with air exchange units to increase the flow of fresh air and mitigate disease spread.
- In certain areas of campus such as classrooms, common areas, the Hawk's Next, etc. the floors will be marked to indicate each student's location so that proper distancing can be assured.



Avon Safe

Blended Learning Environment



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

We will continue to emphasize the importance of excellent on-campus, in-person instruction, but that traditional model will be strengthened by creating a blended learning design for current courses in order to offer the best and most flexible model of instruction for both on-campus and online learning.

Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM

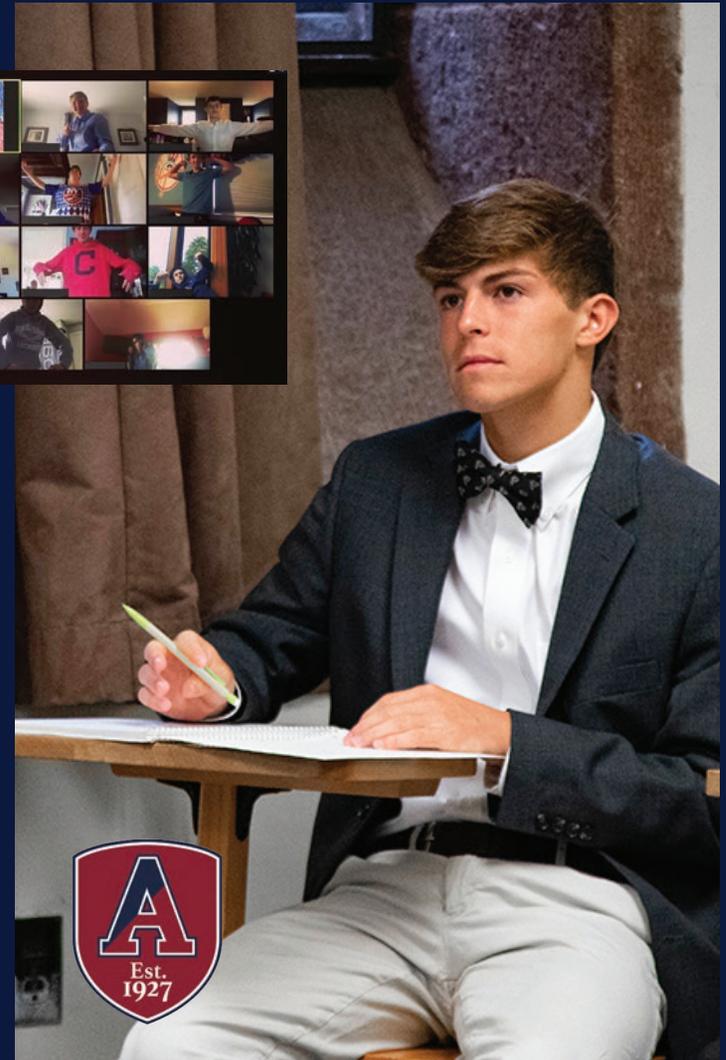
The AOF blended learning model involves an online learning program and an on-campus, in-person program that allows students to move between the two as circumstances require in order to maintain their course of study.



- Our teachers will redesign courses by creating comprehensive online content that aligns with on-campus, in-person instruction.

- Developing online content extends the classroom and will allow for a smoother transition to distance learning should there be a disruption to our on-campus program, while meeting our same high standards of rigor, excellence, our commitment to R.E.A.L. Learning, and best practices for educating boys.

- As part of a blended learning model, our students will develop and refine valuable media literacy and information and communication technology (ICT) skills in addition to gaining knowledge about themselves as students with individual learning styles.
- Blended learning environments fundamentally emphasize relational learning by providing more opportunities for students and teachers to interact.



Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- Online content will not only allow students who cannot or choose not to be on campus to continue their program of study, but will also be available to on-campus learners to provide for more active (activity-based) learning in the classroom
- Online learners will have opportunities to stay connected to the on-campus program through scheduled meetings with teachers and advisors and opportunities to collaborate with on-campus learners whenever appropriate and possible.
- Our teachers are encouraged this fall whenever possible and appropriate to use the campus as an outdoor classroom for class meetings and learning activities, which is consistent with Theodate Pope Riddle's pioneering pedagogy.



- A revised academic calendar includes an earlier start date that will allow for an extended winter break after Thanksgiving and a student-driven, interdisciplinary project-based Character Program for a week in December.

Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Spaces

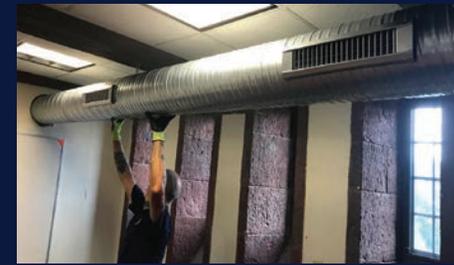
De-densify all existing classroom spaces.

Distance through redesigned classroom and instructional spaces.

Repurpose appropriate spaces for use as classrooms to meet physical distancing guidelines.

Safety Procedures

Establishment of safe classroom protocols to include new entry/exit procedures to maintain safe physical distancing and additional cleaning and disinfection procedures.



Air exchange units are being installed in quad classrooms to increase fresh air flow.

All class participants (students and instructors) must wear face masks and students will be encouraged to face the same direction as much as possible.

Additional personal hygiene measures will be required for more interactive teaching environments.

Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM IMPORTANT DATES



School Calendar 2020-2021

August	26	Wednesday	Monitors & Big Brothers Report: 1:00 p.m.
	27	Thursday	Day Student Registration: 11:00 a.m.
	28	Friday	International Student Registration: 9:00 a.m.
	29	Saturday	Freshman (Domestic) Registration: 9:00 a.m. New Sophomore & Junior Registration: 1:00 p.m. New Senior/PG Registration: 3:00 p.m.
	30	Sunday	New Student Orientation - On Campus
	31	Monday	Returning Boarding Student Registration: 9:00 a.m.
September	1	Tuesday	<i>Classes Begin - First Academic Quarter Begins</i>
October	9	Friday	<i>First Academic Quarter Ends</i>
	12	Monday	<i>Second Academic Quarter Begins</i>
November	20	Friday	<i>Second Academic Quarter Ends/First Semester Ends</i>
December	7 -11	Monday - Friday	Character Program - Online
January	4	Monday	Students Return - Repopulation plan to follow

Avon Safe

Safety is our #1 Priority



ATHLETICS

Even though fall interscholastic competition has been canceled due to the pandemic, Avon Old Farms still strongly believes in the value of athletics...physical, mental, moral, and social.

For this reason the Athletics Department has custom created a very robust and diverse program focused on making this fall season extremely exciting and beneficial to each student, further enhancing his Avon experience.

Avon Safe: ATHLETICS

In response to the cancellation of all Founders League interscholastic competition, Avon has a vast array of flexible options to allow for participation and competition. We are planning on offering the following athletic training opportunities/afternoon activities this fall.

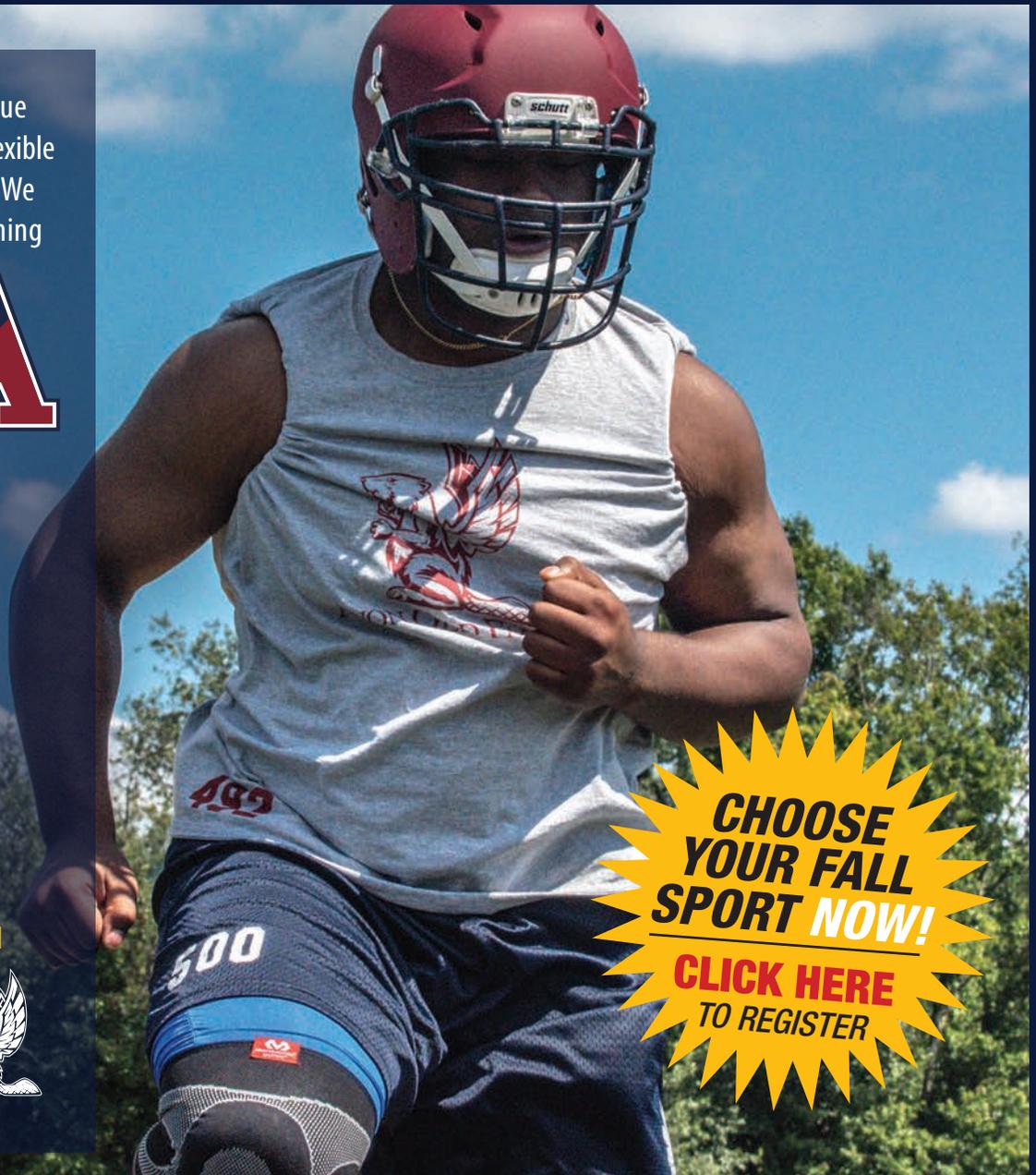
(Availability will be based on student interest.)



- Cross Country
- Football
- Soccer
- Rec Soccer
- Basketball
- Rec Basketball
- Hockey
- Squash
- Swimming
- Wrestling
- Baseball
- Rec Golf
- Lacrosse
- Tennis
- Drama/TV
- Robotics
- Fitness
- Intramurals
- Yearbook
- Rock Band
- Nimrod
- Outdoor Ed
- Boxing
- Mt Biking
- Yoga/Mindful
- AIP

A reminder that impact testing is a requirement for all students and must be completed prior to arriving on campus before you will be allowed to train.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



**CHOOSE
YOUR FALL
SPORT NOW!**

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

ANNOUNCED
July 15, 2020

Founders League Statement Regarding Interscholastic Competition



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and after many discussions prioritizing community health, safety and well-being, the Founders League has unanimously, and with great regret, decided to cancel all Founder League interscholastic competition for the 2020 Fall season.

Following guidelines set out recently by the State of Connecticut Higher Education/Residential Education and K-12 Independent School COVID Task Forces regarding social distancing, the use of PPE and other safety measures designed to mitigate the risk of transmission, we are focusing on the issue of safety and student well-being in trying to find commensurate ways to undertake team sports and interscholastic athletic competition.

Avon Safe

Safety is our #1 Priority



STUDENT LIFE

We are committed to establishing policies and procedures which will maintain the health and safety of our community while providing a rich, fulfilling experience.

Avon Safe: STUDENT LIFE



Over the course of the summer, we have developed plans to implement programs which will strengthen our community and improve upon the experience of our students.

Every aspect of student life will be considered carefully to ensure that students minimize the chances of becoming ill.

And, of course, we are committed to maintaining our strong sense of community.

Social Contract

The School's "Social Contract" is a partnership with our students, parents, and community members. This understanding is a holistic approach, which is designed to provide a foundation for the health and wellness of our school community as we enter into the fall semester and beyond. By agreeing to the social contract, students and community members commit to abide by the health standards as defined in the revised Student Handbook, which will be available in early August.

Closed Campus

In order to build a strong foundation for the academic year, the school will be limiting weekend requests and day passes for at least the first three weeks of school, through September 19, 2020. The School will then examine external factors, disease prevalence, and individual requested leaves to determine the risk and possible impact on the community.

If a student chooses to participate in an off-campus activity that is determined by the School to be of high risk or would impact the community, the student will be directed to become an online learner for two weeks and then return to school per the direction of the Dean of Students Office.

Avon Safe: STUDENT LIFE

Meals

We will create staggered meal times and, in many cases, multiple dining options so students can safely enjoy healthy food options with appropriate physical distancing.

Community

While we may not be able to gather in the chapel for all-school morning meetings and for Sunday evening Vespers services, we will have more time and opportunities for smaller subsets of our community to assemble.

(For example, we will have more time for dormitory meetings, club meetings, and grade-level meetings which, we expect, will enrich the bonds between these groups.)

Social Activities

During the fall, we will use our beautiful campus to hold large gatherings and outdoor, school-wide activities. We have improved outdoor lighting so the boys can enjoy activities in a safe space. During the winter time, we will use the field house to conduct school-wide activities with appropriate safety precautions.



*COVID-19 presents us with an awesome challenge and we understand that we need to consider everything that we do, where we do it, and how we do it. Nonetheless, we are confident that we will not only overcome the obstacles presented by this challenge, but emerge a stronger school and even tighter community. **That is a promise!***

Avon Safe: ENROLLMENT & TUITION

Please contact **Chris Webb** if you have any questions about your enrollment.
webbc@avonoldfarms.com or **860-404-4132**

Online learning will be available to students who cannot or choose not to be on campus in order for them to participate in the academic program.

The cost is \$11,250 per quarter

If you are interested in pursuing this mode of learning, or have questions about your situation, please contact:

Domestic Students: **Chris Webb**, webbc@avonoldfarms.com

International Students: **Christel Rooney**, rooneyc@avonoldfarms.com

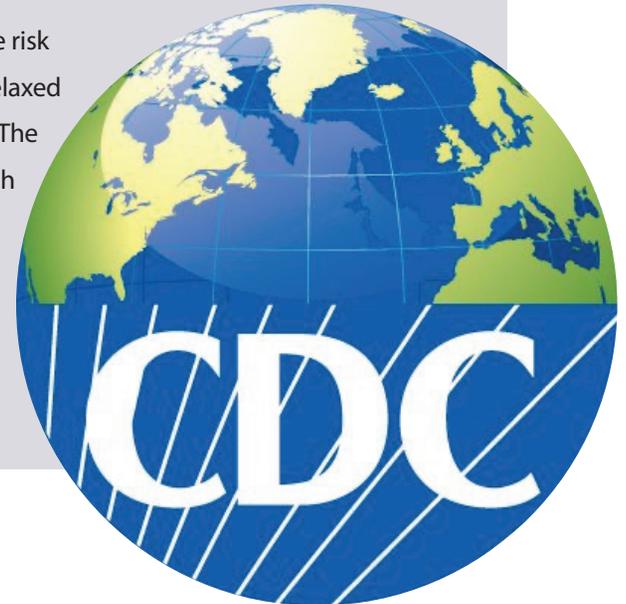
In the event that we are required to transition to online learning, we will provide a refund that reflects cost savings associated with our closure.



GUIDANCE

The health and safety decisions surrounding our plan to return to campus are guided by the standards of care, guidelines, and protocols set forth by agencies that are experts in medical science and public health such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD). These decisions have also been and will continue to be guided by leading professionals in the medical field, our medical director, and both local and state-wide medical working groups that focus specifically on health and safety in the boarding school environment.

This **COVID-19 Pandemic Operations Response Plan** provides considerations to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection and a recurrent surge of infections as physical distancing measures are relaxed and our campus and community plan for the physical return of our students, faculty, and staff. The risk of subsequent waves of infection remains until we achieve sufficient herd immunity through vaccination or actual infection and recovery, and this plan allows for a return to more restrictive mitigation measures if necessary. Until sufficient herd immunity is achieved or a vaccine is developed and widely available, physical distancing, testing, isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing are our best strategies to control the spread of the virus.



Avon Safe

We can't wait to see the boys this fall!



AVON OLD FARMS
SCHOOL