

REOPENING PLAN 2020-2021



Dear Parents,

The last five months have been challenging for the St. Croix Lutheran Academy family along with the countries, states, and communities where our students and families live. As we look to the future, challenges remain. However, we are confident and hopeful as we look to navigate what is ahead of us.

As the calendar nears August, it is a clear sign that the traditional school start is near. Over the past 60+ days, we have been working to make that possible. Our primary focus has been on risk reduction with the goal of serving as many families as possible through face-to-face education. We know we cannot eliminate every risk, but we are using recommended government and industry guidelines as we implement risk reduction measures. Undoubtedly, this is different and will be different for some time.

The reason we are committed to face-to-face instruction is because we believe that a total education is so much more than academics. We believe face-to-face instruction is the most effective form of learning for most middle school and high school students because of the essential relationships developed through the social interactions of students with peers and teachers. So that has been our primary focus. To do so while identifying and mitigating potential risks, comes with some significant adjustments in behaviors, attire, and protocols to start the year. Many of those adjustments are found in the accompanying document.

Overall wellness will be a focus for our faculty, staff, and students throughout the year. Daily wellness checks will both help identify COVID-19 cases and potentially minimize student sick days and missed classes. Focusing on wellness might positively impact attendance and instill healthy habits long past the pandemic.

The last five months have also taught the importance of flexibility. As information is learned at the national and state level, mandates and directives adjust our plans. Flexibility will be needed for a variety of reasons including extended time for cleaning, increased community health risks, or even a local outbreak. The state has given us three different types of scenarios: face-to-face (Scenario 1), hybrid (Scenario 2), and distance learning (Scenario 3). We are prepared to use all three as needed during the year.

In the next week or two, we will assess our ability to offer multiple instructional options (as in scenario 2 and 3) at the same time. It is our goal to serve as many families and students as we possibly can. At the same time, we want to be sure that it is practical for teachers, students, and families. We hope to share those plans with you soon. Please reach out to our principals if you would like more information as it becomes available.

At the beginning of the pandemic I shared that we find comfort in knowing that the one who knows our path walks with us each step of the way. That comfort is as strong today as ever. It is with that confidence and comfort that we move forward towards the 20-21 school year ever Living in the Light!

Dr. Todd Russ, President





FACE COVERINGS AND FACE COVERING EXEMPTIONS

All students and staff will wear a face covering at all times when inside the building except for the reasons listed in Executive Order 20-81. All face coverings must conform to the dress code.

Governor Walz in exercising his emergency powers, issued Executive Order 20-81 on July 24, 2020 mandating face coverings in Minnesota. This remains in place until it is rescinded or the emergency powers are terminated. This mandate extends to all Minnesota businesses and individuals within the state.

As a result:

1. SCLA faculty, students, and staff will be compliant of this mandate and follow the directives found in Executive order 20-81.
2. Face coverings can include a paper or disposable face mask, a cloth face mask, a scarf, a bandanna, or a neck gaiter
3. Temporary removal of face coverings are allowed in a number of situations highlighted in the mandate.
4. Exemptions for individuals are provided within the executive order pertaining to face covering wearing.
 - Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering.
 - SCLA requires an exemption letter from a doctor that clearly states that the individual is exempt from the mandate.
 - Face shields would be the accommodation to face coverings. Face shields may be used as an alternative to face coverings in the following situations:
 - For students who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, behavioral, or medical condition.
 - For teachers of all grades when a face covering would impede the educational process.
 - For staff providing direct support student services when a face covering would interfere with the services provided.



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Students, faculty, and staff are distanced as much as is reasonable.

1. Tape/stickers are adhered to the floor in common areas to enhance physical distancing.
2. Students in hallways will limit physical contact.
3. Classroom and study hall desks face the same direction.
4. Chapel is viewed in both the chapel and homerooms on a rotation.
 - Half of students will sit physically distanced in chapel.
 - Half of students will remain in their homeroom and view the live stream.
 - Singing will be allowed in the chapel but not in homerooms.
5. Lunch tables are spaced six feet apart and seat two people per table
 - Students will be seated in an orderly manner; faculty and staff will direct traffic flow until it becomes routine.



SCHEDULE CHANGES

1. Extended advisory will be temporarily suspended.
2. A three-lunch schedule will be implemented with 1/3 of students at each lunch.



CLEANING

SCLA prioritizes the cleanliness of all school facilities. The maintenance staff has adjusted the cleaning schedule for increased sanitation school-wide.

CLASSROOM

- Using the last three minutes of class, teachers spray desks with sanitizer. After one minute, students wipe their desk using a provided paper towel which will be discarded when exiting.
- Teachers will wipe down surfaces and door handles after each class.
- Alternatives are available for teachers/students who have sensitive skin.
- Students have the option to self-clean their desk upon entering the room.

RESTROOM

- In order to properly clean the restroom facilities as often as possible, there will be no restroom breaks during the first 15 minutes of class. Custodial staff will close bathrooms when they are being cleaned.

LUNCH

- A five minute passing time has been added between classes to allow for sufficient cleaning.



HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)

To prevent the airborne spread of COVID-19, the ventilation system has been adjusted. The academic building HVAC is controlled by an automated energy management system (EMS). This program allows monitoring and adjusting of the amount of fresh air that is pulled into the building.

1. During the pandemic, the minimum fresh air percentage has been increased, and the system will continue to open dampers, as needed. In the winter, tunnel air temperature will be lowered which will cause the EMS system to demand more fresh air. The tunnel air is reheated at each classroom heat supply unit. Note: Additional fresh air may make some rooms warmer and more humid in the summer and colder in the winter.
2. Higher efficiency filters have been installed.



PROCESS FOR PREVENTING AND DEALING WITH COVID-19

We will follow the guidelines on page 4 of this document.



WHAT IF - POSITIVE TESTS/SYMPTOMS

As of August 2020 - If a student, teacher, or staff member exhibits novel coronavirus symptoms during the day, the following takes place:

1. The individual is taken to a sick room/quarantine room until they can go home.
2. The individual goes home until the proper quarantine time has passed.
 - a. **Non-COVID diagnosis that explains the symptoms** (strep throat, norovirus, allergies):
 - Stay home until symptoms have improved.
 - Remain fever free for 24 hours without medication.
 - b. **Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (No Test)**
 - Stay home at least 10 calendar days from the start of symptoms and no fever for at least 3 days (without medication) and improvement of any other symptoms.
 - Siblings and household members are to stay home 14 calendar days.
 - c. **Positive lab test for COVID-19**
 - Stay home at least 10 calendar days from the start of symptoms and no fever for at least 3 calendar days (without medication) and improvement of any other symptoms.
 - Siblings and household members are to stay home 14 calendar days.
 - d. **Negative COVID-19 test, but no other diagnosis**
 - Stay home at least 10 calendar days from the start of symptoms and no fever for at least 3 days (without medication) and improvement of any other symptoms.
 - Siblings and household members are to stay home 14 calendar days.

HELPFUL LINKS

MDH Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs (PDF)

(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf)

COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs (PDF)

(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/socialdistance.pdf).

COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults (PDF)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf>)

Executive Order 20-81 (PDF)

(see Executive Orders from Governor Walz:mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp)

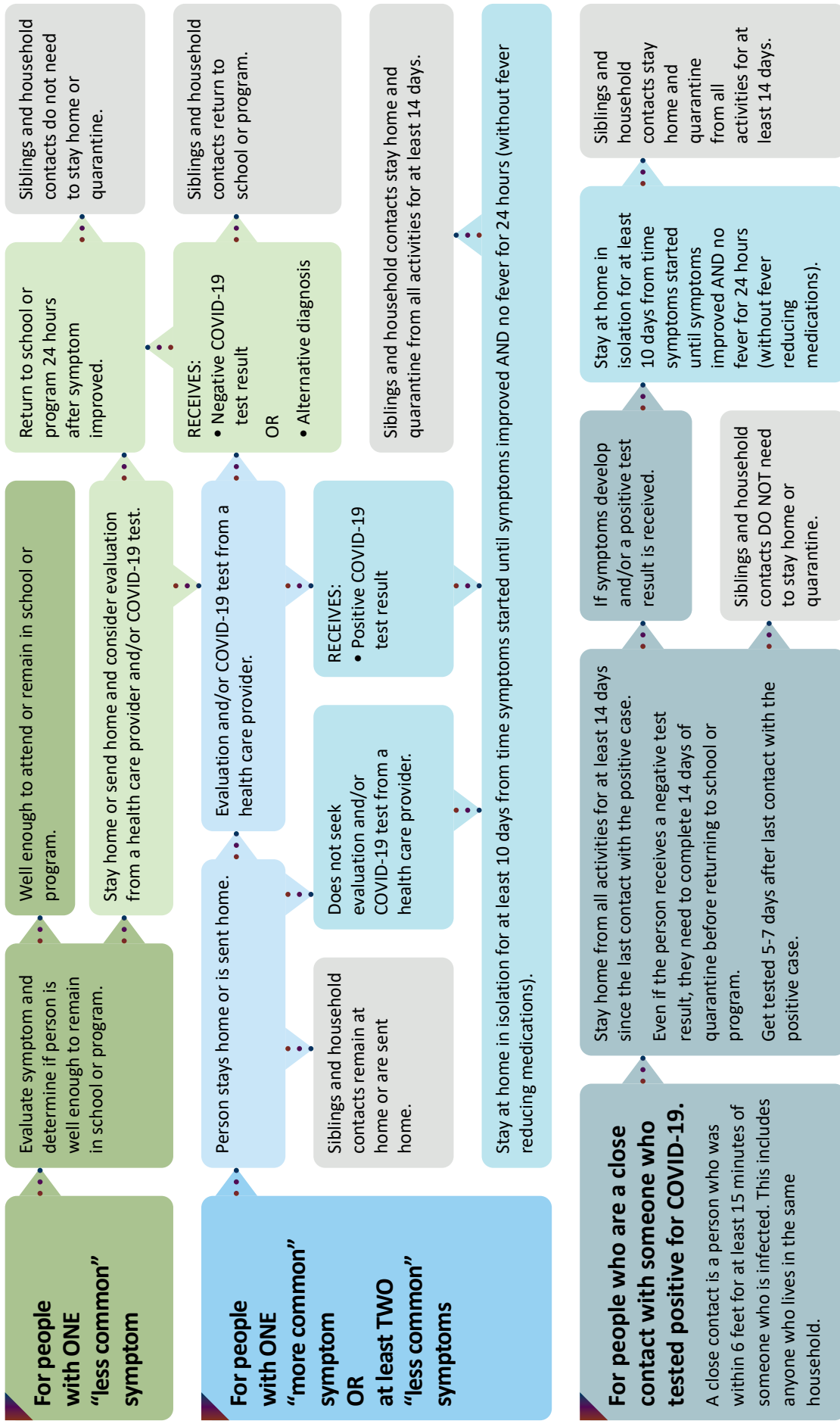
2020-21 Planning Guide for Schools PDF

(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0L_P4qzBSqN1OXedxYBgg76wnSAqG__T8jSHmiJ6VV1iho_22YDcrNIsg)

COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- **More common:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.



DORMITORY ACCESS

Only residents and essential workers are permitted inside the dormitory. Parents or guardians are welcome to enter the dormitory after checking-in with a staff member. No other outside guests are allowed in the dormitory. Face coverings must be worn in the dormitory unless inside student rooms.

STUDENT ARRIVAL

Upon arrival to the dormitory, students will receive a preliminary health screening before checking into the dormitory. Students will have a temperature check and be instructed on dormitory health protocols.

STUDENT ROOM RULES

To decrease transmission, students are not allowed in another dormitory room other than their own.

QUARANTINE PROCEDURE - SELF ISOLATION

Self-isolation for students arriving from outside the United States has been suspended due to updated CDC guidance on 8/11/2020. The dormitory will follow current CDC recommendations for travelers.

STUDENTS OFF CAMPUS

Students who are not in quarantine are allowed to proceed with normal off campus activities. Students are encouraged to wear face coverings and socially distance when off campus.

Face coverings are required:	Face coverings are not required:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside student rooms. • In all SCLA transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside student rooms. • Outdoors when physical distancing is possible. • When eating.

DORMITORY MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

1. Emphasis will be placed on cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing common areas including lobby area, lounges, restrooms/showers, hallways, dining room, and laundry. Proper chemicals will be used following application safety guidelines.
2. All dormitory areas will be cleaned, disinfected and sanitized Monday - Friday, and deep cleaned once per week.
3. HVAC system will be adjusted to allow for increased fresh-air exchange. Students are encouraged to leave dormitory student room windows open to circulate air.
4. Hand sanitizer and appropriate cleaning supplies will be placed in designated areas.

DINING HALL

1. Emphasis will be placed on minimizing touchpoints for students, and maintaining physical distancing when going through the food line.
2. Food service procedures will be restructured to minimize crowding and touching of common items.
3. Cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing the kitchen, serving area, and dining hall area will be a joint effort between kitchen staff and maintenance. Proper chemicals will be used following application safety guidelines. Electrostatic disinfection of touchpoints will be done daily.
4. Food safety and handling procedures including wearing gloves will be followed when preparing, handling, or serving food.
5. Faculty are allowed to use the dormitory dining hall on school nights for dinner.

WHEN A STUDENT EXHIBITS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Students will be isolated and monitored in a separate area of the dormitory. Refer to page 4 for protocol.

The procedures below reflect the guidance of the MDH for summer activities. These may be adjusted as MSHSL guidelines become available in August.

BEFORE PARTICIPATION COACHES WILL:

1. Ensure that the player temperature is below 100.4.
2. Screen each player for cough, shortness of breath, lack of smell/taste or unusual tiredness.
3. Keep a record of temperature and symptoms check.



DURING PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICE OR A CONTEST

1. Face coverings do not need to be worn when actively participating in the activity.
2. Face coverings must be worn by participants not actively involved in the activity. Example: On the bench or on the sideline.
3. Coaches do not need to wear a face covering during the contest or practice.
4. Players must bring their own water bottle and refrain from using drinking fountains or sharing their water bottle with others.
5. During practice coaches must follow the guidelines given by the MDH regarding youth Sports.

AFTER PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICE OR CONTEST

1. Face coverings must be worn in the locker room and on buses.
2. Coaches will be responsible for sanitizing equipment and gear for their sport.
3. All athletes' clothes must be taken home for cleaning. Nothing should be left in the locker room. Locker rooms will be for changing only.
4. Showers must be taken at home.

FACE COVERINGS

1. Face coverings must be worn in the locker room and on buses.
2. Face coverings must be worn in any classroom setting.

WHEN A STUDENT EXHIBITS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Players with elevated temperature (over 100.4) or any symptoms must refrain from participation and follow protocols on page 4.

Symptom Check Questions

- Cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- Lack of smell/taste?
- Unusual tiredness? (unrelated to activity)
- Muscle soreness? (unrelated to activity)

Time spent outdoors provides many benefits. SCLA encourages, as much as possible, outdoor recreation and gatherings. With that in mind, it is important to keep outdoor recreation and gatherings as safe as possible. Therefore, the following protocols have been developed:

1. Organizers will provide the business manager with a copy of a plan for the outdoor activity. The plan should include the following:
 - a. Efficient screening methods for every participant and provision of health status updates to the group when needed.
 - b. Notice that anyone with two or less common symptoms and two of the least common symptoms (see decision tree) consistent with COVID-19 should not engage in group outdoor activities.
 - c. Notice that participants will maintain physical distancing as often as possible (six of more feet)
 - d. Notice that face coverings are required in instances when physical distancing isn't possible and the activity isn't too strenuous.
 - e. Efforts to avoid multiple contact surfaces and sanitize/clean all surfaces and equipment after use.
 - f. Provision of sanitizer and cleaner that participants can request as needed.
 - g. Efforts to minimize the use of multiple spaces.
2. Organizers will request a sanitizing kit from the maintenance staff for every activity.
3. Organizers will reserve space on the master calendar so that maintenance can plan for the activity.
4. If needed, organizers will schedule building access with the maintenance staff.

Questions or clarifications should be directed to the business manager.



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