



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLAN

FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

BIBLICALLY-BASED EDUCATION, MARKED BY ACADEMIC,
EXCELLENCE IN A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT.



CONTENTS

2	MISSION AND PURPOSE		
3	INTRODUCTION	8	SCHEDULE
4	BASIS FOR LCS REOPENING	9	ACADEMICS
5	PLANNING TASK FORCE	11	SPIRITUAL FORMATION
5	FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY	12	STUDENT LIFE
6	PHYSICAL PLANT/FACILITIES OVERVIEW	15	SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
		16	HEALTH
		18	SUMMARY

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb. 10:23-25.



Martin Luther, the igniter of the Great Reformation in 1517, was as much an education reformer as he was a church reformer. And like the early church fathers who placed the Bible at the center of their school’s curriculum, Luther said:

“Above all, in schools of all kinds the chief and most common lesson should be in the Scriptures....But where the Holy Scriptures are not the rule, I advise no one to send his child. Everything must perish where God’s word is not studied unceasingly. When schools prosper, the Church remains righteous and her doctrine pure. Young pupils and students are the seed and source of the Church. If we were dead, whence would come our successors, if not from the schools? For the sake of the Church we must have and maintain Christian schools”. Martin Luther, quoted in F.V.N. Painter, Luther on Education (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1889), p. 168.

Faith. Hope. Love. An unbroken and unbreakable 1,900-year legacy of Christian Education. God, His word, our prayers and the gathering together of the saints. These are the timeless and unchanging spiritual principles, from God, through His word, and passed from generation to generation by a great cloud of faithful teachers that compel the reopening of our school for the 2020-2021 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

MISSION

To open Liberty Christian School for the 2020-2021 school year on time and for on-campus learning as safely and fully as possible.

Liberty Christian School provides a Biblically-based education, marked by academic, excellence in a nurturing environment. Students are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live committed Christian lives.

PURPOSE

To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ through private Christian Education, as an in-person gathered community of teachers, administrators, staff, parents and students to God’s glory, our joy and for the benefit of all connected with Liberty Christian School. LCS seeks to fully educate and equip the next generation to impact the world for Christ.

INTRODUCTION

The goal of Liberty Christian School’s back-to-school plan is to provide re-entry that fosters the overall health of the students, staff, and community that we serve. The plan is based on evidence that is currently available and will be monitored as new information or situations arise. We hold as true that not opening our school would have a negative impact on the spiritual, mental, behavioral, and developmental health of our students. We trust that this plan will provide a framework for safety and operations when Liberty Christian School reopens on September 1, 2020.

There are many federal, state and local guidelines available when it comes to making decisions on how to best mitigate the risk and protect our school and community. LCS has carefully considered many of the available guidelines and will lean most heavily on the fulfillment of our school’s mission with a balance of health, safety, and common sense.

FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS:

‘Schools are fundamental to child and adolescent development and well-being and provide our children and adolescents with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits....These recommendations are provided acknowledging that our understanding of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic is changing rapidly.’

FROM THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, ONTARIO, CANADA:

“Not opening schools in September would continue to have a negative impact on the mental, behavioral and developmental health of children. We hope these recommendations help provide a framework to keep everyone safe when school doors reopen.”

Developed by experts from SickKids and Unity Health Toronto, with input from scientists at the University of Toronto and SickKids’ Family Advisory Network, the recommendations include important topics such as screening, hand hygiene, physical distancing, use of non-medical masks, and more.

BASIS FOR LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL REOPENING

Multiple reports from around the world indicate that children account for less than 5-10% of infection. According to the Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 Data Dashboard, of 40,669 COVID-19 cases reported as of July 11, 2020, 11% were in children aged 0-19 years; 1% of hospitalizations and 0% of deaths are reported in this age group.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/DataDashboard>

Children are less susceptible to COVID-19 infection and may be less likely to transmit the virus to others. There is also strong evidence that the majority of children who become infected are either asymptomatic or have only mild symptoms, such as cough, fever, and sore throat. While serious disease requiring hospitalization is known in children, including multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), this is relatively rare and is generally treatable. Severe disease requiring intensive care admission occurs in a small minority of pediatric cases, particularly among those with certain underlying medical conditions, but the clinical course is much less severe than in adults and deaths are non-existent in Washington.

The community based public health measures (state-wide lockdown, school closures, stay at home orders, self-isolation etc.) implemented to mitigate COVID-19 and “flatten the curve” have significant adverse health and welfare consequences for children. Some of these unintended consequences include decreased vaccination coverage, delayed diagnosis and care for non-COVID-19 related medical conditions, and adverse impact on children’s behavior and mental health. Increased rates of depression, trauma, drug abuse and addiction and even suicide can be anticipated. Several organizations including the American Psychological Association (APA) and World Health Organization have highlighted concerns about the potential impact of lockdown on family discord, exposure to domestic violence, child abuse and neglect. Thus, the impetus to reopening schools is to optimize the health and welfare of children, not for the purposes of allowing parents to get back into the workforce or to facilitate re-opening of the economy. As mentioned, it is critical that we balance the risks of COVID-19 in children, which appear to be minimal, with the harms of school closure which is impacting their physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental health. It should be recognized that it will not be possible to remove all risk of infection and disease now that COVID-19 is present in our communities. Mitigation of risk, while easing restrictions, will be needed for the foreseeable future. Consistency is essential for our students and it will be important to ensure that once children return to school, our schools stay open to the extent possible. Furthermore, children rely on structure and schedule for stability, which supports the need for a daily school model.

PLANNING TASK FORCE

Liberty Christian School recognizes that guidance for dealing with COVID-19 is constantly changing and has assembled a Planning Task Force that has been meeting on a weekly basis throughout the summer months to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. We have board, administration, teacher, parent, student, and areas of expertise (health, legal, childcare) representation on the task force.

The Planning Task Force has followed these guiding principles as they developed the Back-to-School Plan for 2020-2021:

- *We are first and foremost mission minded in our focus and will use the LCS Mission Statement as the basis to guide our plans and protocols to be open next year. We desire to do this with a solid Christian testimony. Safety & sanity - finding the tension and balance between these two as we work toward our mission.*
- *School policies should be flexible and nimble in responding to new information, and administrators will refine approaches when specific policies are not working. Flexibility by all stakeholders is necessary.*
- *It is critically important to develop strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and throughout the community, communicating as needed with Benton Franklin Health District, and recognizing the differences between LCS and other local school districts and school sites.*
- *Policies should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for our students' developmental stage.*
- *Special considerations and accommodations to account for our vulnerable populations as our resources enable us, with the goal of safe return to school. Pediatricians, families, and the school should partner together to collaboratively identify and develop accommodations, when needed.*

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

While medical experts agree that the risk to the individual child is very low and reasonable precautions are being taken, there is risk that a child could become infected while attending Liberty Christian School and infect others.

No one knows the interactions of their child better than the parents. We are asking that the parents make the ultimate decision and accept the responsibility that enrolling their child at Liberty Christian School is appropriate. Please prayerfully consider whether or not you would like to have your child attend our school and that the steps that we are taking as a community are in the best interest of your family.

*By enrolling and attending LCS for the 2020-2021 school year, you are acknowledging an “opt-in” to this Back-to-School Plan.

PHYSICAL PLANT/FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Guidelines have been reviewed from state and local agencies and health departments, CDC, and others.

- The building and grounds have been checked with reference to airflow, physical barriers, signage, traffic flow, classroom layout, etc., informing the protocols and procedures laid out in the Back-to-School Plan
- Playground/Recess schedules and flow have been reviewed.

ACCESS

All visitors and parents will check-in through the main office entrance. Symptom check and face covering will be required.

All staff and students will check for signs of illness before or at entry each day.

LCS is developing a symptom check process with the intent of having parents pre-check their children before the school day begins to expedite daily drop-off procedures and getting the school day started as efficiently as possible. This could take the form of a Google form, FACTS/RenWeb form, or mobile phone application. Symptoms will also be monitored/checked at the entrances to the building during morning drop-off- elementary, secondary, and main entrances. Staff and students with any illness must stay home.

SYMPTOMS THAT WILL BE CHECKED INCLUDE:

- Consistent cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing (not related to allergies, asthma, etc.)
- Fever of 100.4°F or higher
- Sore throat
- Chills, muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Congestion/running nose – not related to seasonal allergies
- Unusual fatigue

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL DETERMINE AND HAVE THE FINAL DECISION IN ADMITTING OR SENDING HOME A STUDENT FROM SCHOOL IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS "YES."

- Does anyone in your household have any of the above symptoms?
- Has your student been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?
- Has your student had any medication to reduce a fever before coming to school?

CLEANING, DISINFECTING, SANITIZING:

Teachers/Staff will teach/reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and the age-appropriate use of face coverings.

Classrooms- Teachers and students will disinfect classrooms during school with an emphasis on high-touch areas such as desk surfaces, door knobs, etc. Periodic cleaning will be done at transitions during the day, such as the transition between instructional times, recess, and lunch.

Bathrooms- Maintenance staff will be cleaning every day, including the use of an electrostatic disinfecting machine sprayer.

Common Areas (halls, entries, shared spaces, drinking fountains, computer labs, locker rooms)- Maintenance staff will use disinfectant cleaner and electrostatic sprayer machine on a daily basis, following CDC guidance.

Shared Supplies, Art Materials, Musical Instruments, Computers- Sharing will be kept at a minimum. Students and teachers will be disinfecting classroom items when they are finished with using them for the hour.

Hand Sanitizing Stations

- Every elementary class has a hand sanitizing station mounted to the wall.
- Secondary classrooms will use pump dispensers.
- Every entry to the building will have a sanitizing station.

Personal Protective Equipment- All students, staff, and visitors must have a face covering with them while on campus. Students and guests are asked to provide their own; the school is required to provide a face covering to staff if they choose not to use their own. Disposable masks are available for staff and students who forget them.

SPACING (DESKS, LINES, ENTRY, ETC.):

Classrooms are set up to accommodate the physical distancing requirement of 6' when all students and the teacher are seated at the beginning of an instructional period. It is understood that during the course of an instructional period there will be movement around the classroom and there will be times the 6' spacing may be broken.

Gym, playground, shared spaces- student will be spread out into smaller groups and cohorts as appropriate. Lunches will be in classrooms and physical distancing will be maintained in the MPR, with some secondary classrooms opened. As weather permits, some lunches and instructional time will be outside at the discretion of the staff.

TRANSPORTATION

Drop off and Pick Up- Parents stay in vehicle and students will go directly to classrooms. Students will be dismissed at staggered times. See Schedule section below; more details will be sent out with back-to-school information closer to the start of school. *Unless a student is signed up for a sport, tutoring, Patriot Club, or any extracurricular after school activity, they must leave campus at dismissal time.

SIGNAGE

Signs will be placed throughout the facility. Examples include:

- 6 ft physical distancing prompts
- Traffic flow directional signs
- Hand washing/hygiene reminders

SCHEDULE

ELEMENTARY

- Students stagger arrival time from 7:40-8:00 -go straight to classrooms
- School hours remain the same 8:00-2:55
- Staggered dismissal times
- Recess adjusted to limit number of students on playground
- Lunch adjusted to recess schedule if needed
- Extra time between specials for cleaning as needed
- Chapel expanded to 3 sessions depending on student count
- During possible temporary remote learning times, class schedules will remain as consistent as possible

PATRIOT CLUB BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Patriot Club will be open for K-6th students from 6:30-7:45am and 3:00-6:00pm. Protocols used during the Patriot Camp Summer Program will continue to be followed. Communication will be sent out by the Patriot Club Director prior to the start of school.

SECONDARY (7-12)

- Student arrival is already staggered - students go straight to classes
- Students arriving before 7:45 must be physically distant in hallways
- School hours remain the same 8:00-3:15
- Lunches split - MS / HS
 - Based on available space in MPR, students will also use classrooms or outside for eating
 - Gym will have limited availability due to elementary PE classes
 - Students eating outside will need to maintain physical distance protocols
- Passing between classes will need to be staggered to accommodate fewer students in hall
- Chapels will be split between MS and HS -
 - When meeting in church there will be room for physical distancing
 - When church is unavailable, may have small group meetings in classrooms
 - if gym is needed, will need to adjust time due to elementary PE classes
- Student use of locker rooms will be staggered to accommodate acceptable number of students to remain physically distant
- Dismissal of 7th period classes will need to be staggered to reduce congestion in hallway
- Should a need for temporary remote learning occur, class schedules will remain consistent with in-school times.

STAFF

- Devotions will be in MPR for distancing twice a week
- Staff meetings will be email as much as possible - meetings will be in MPR and separated by departments or grade levels
- Professional development days may be set up in gym for greater space
- Lunch breaks may need to be in classrooms or rotated in staff lounge

ACADEMICS

*As a supplement to traditional, in-class instruction, we will be utilizing the online learning platforms listed below as tools to communicate, enhance in-person instruction, and prepare for the potential need to pivot to remote learning.

GRADE LEVELS

K₄

- Online learning platform: Seesaw
- Academics:
 - Literacy/language rich active learning environment
 - Foci: Building a loving community, Bible, and Social/Emotional/Character Learning Routines and consistency in environment

Kindergarten

- Online learning platform: Seesaw
- Academics:
 - Literacy/language rich active learning environment
 - Foci: Building a loving community, Bible, and Social/Emotional/Character Learning
 - Content areas: Focus on targeted learning objectives mastery
 - Routines and consistency in environment

Elem 1-3

- Online learning platform: Seesaw
- Academics:
 - Foci: Building a loving community, Bible, and Social/Emotional/Character Learning
 - Routines and consistency in environment - leading toward age-appropriate independence
 - Content areas:
 - Focus on targeted learning objectives mastery with focused, essential WA State standards - Reading, writing, math, and inquiry
 - Whole class and individual student needs met with intentional, targeted instruction, formative assessments, and adjustment as necessary.

GRADE LEVELS

Elem 4-6

- Online learning platform: Google Classroom & apps that integrate or are linked for ease of access
- Elementary teachers should strive to put all assignments for all subjects in one “Google Classroom” for ease of access.
- Academics:
 - Foci: Building a loving community, Bible, and Social/Emotional/Character Learning
 - Routines and consistency in environment - leading toward age-appropriate independence
 - Content areas:
 - Focus on targeted learning objectives mastery with focused, essential WA State standards
 - Close the COVID gap in academic areas
 - Whole class and individual student needs met with intentional, targeted instruction, formative assessment, and adjustments as necessary

MS 7-8

- Online learning platform: Google Classroom & apps that integrate or are linked for ease of access
- Academics:
 - Focus on targeted learning objectives mastery with focused, essential WA State standards
 - Close the COVID gap in academic areas
 - Whole class and individual student needs met with intentional, targeted instruction, formative assessment, and adjustments as necessary

HS 9-12

- Online learning platform: Google Classroom & apps that integrate or are linked for ease of access
- Academics:
 - Focus on targeted learning objectives mastery with focused, essential WA State standards
 - Foci: Critical thinking, collaborative thinking, mastery of the learning objectives
 - Goal: Close the COVID gap in academic areas
 - Whole class and individual student needs met with intentional, targeted instruction, regular formative assessments, and instructional adjustments as necessary
 - Intervention plans developed for students struggling with course content with support from Kelley Steele, Academic Counselor

Other

- Parent training and support in Seesaw and Google Classroom
- Students trained in Digital Literacy/Citizenship at the beginning of the school year

Online Teaching (Resources)

- LCS is a Google Suite school but K4-3 will use Seesaw
- LCS community should become comfortable with the online learning platforms in the event that a temporary pivot to remote learning needs to take place
- LCS community should plan to stay consistent with “in school” class schedules in the event that a temporary pivot to remote learning needs to take place
- Due dates for assignments during a possible remote learning period will be consistent with “in-school” times. (i.e. due during normal school hours)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Chapel/Assemblies: see notes in Schedule section.

- Smaller groups will assemble to accommodate physical distancing guidance as needed. Weather permitting, some chapels/assemblies will be conducted outside.
- Chapels/assemblies will be for students and staff only. Parents and guest will not be permitted until health guidance and physical distancing restrictions are loosened/changed.
 - Elem K4-2
 - Grades 3-6
 - Grades 7-8
 - Grades 9-12
- Virtual chapels will be provided as needed by staff and local pastors
- Elementary chapels will continue current practices - special care when using student volunteers to sanitize between chapels
- Secondary chapels may do more small groups as needed
 - When meeting at the church, will provide assistance for cleaning.
 - When meeting at school will use bleachers rather than chairs.
 - May use video worship to reduce set-up and equipment use.

Service/Outreach/Missions

- Initially, service projects will remain on campus or be approved on a case-by-case basis for individuals.
- Outreach / missions will be limited to current community recommendations.
- Will emphasize virtual/digital connections with mission organizations.

Community/Church Engagement

- Most churches in the community offer on-line teaching and services.
- Extra effort to connect students to local youth groups.
 - Youth pastors invited to chapel and Bible classes.
 - Sharing messages in Bible class, or Google classroom.
- Community connections will resume as allowed by health department.

STUDENT LIFE

Clubs and Social Activities

- Each club is being reviewed to assess the feasibility of being offered.
- After school clubs will be limited in participation due to physical distancing.
- More information will be given on various clubs with back-to-school information.
- Secondary social events will be reviewed to assess the feasibility of being offered

Sports

*Many of these protocols are taken from Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities from Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC).

- General Procedures:
 - Screen for Signs of COVID-19
 - All coaches and athletes screened prior to workout; includes temperature check
 - Any person with symptoms will be not allowed to participate and should contact primary care provider
 - People at risk for severe COVID-19 should consult with their medical provider regarding participation in athletic activities
 - Hydration
 - All athletes will must bring their own water bottle
 - Water bottles must not be shared
 - Hydration stations will not be utilized
 - No touch bottle filling stations acceptable
- Facilities- Cleaning and Ventilation
 - *See facilities cleaning plan

* Athletic activities are not allowed in Phase 1 or 1.5. Very limited activity (workouts less than 5 people) can happen in Phase 2 but contests are not allowed.

- Specific to Phase 3
 - Gatherings for Phase 3
 - No gathering of more than 50 people at a time inside or outside
 - Indoors, there must be enough space for physical distancing
 - Workouts should be conducted in pods of students with the same 5-10 students always working out together
 - Attendance should remain under 50% capacity of the venue
 - Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment for Phase 3
 - Lower risk sports practices and competitions may resume
 - Competitions should be limited to local geography
 - Modified practices may begin for Moderate practices may begin for moderate risk sports
 - There should be no shared athletic towels, clothing, or shoes
 - Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing and washed after every workout
 - All equipment should be cleaned intermittently during practices and contests
 - Hand sanitizer should be available at all contests and practices
 - Athletic equipment should be cleaned between each use
- Specific to Phase 4
 - Gatherings for Phase 4
 - Gathering sizes over 50 individuals, indoors or outdoor
 - Indoors, there must be enough space for physical distancing
 - When not directly participating in practices or contests, care should be taken to social distance
 - Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment for Phase 4
 - Moderate risk sports practices and competitions may resume
 - There should be no shared athletic towels, clothing, or shoes
 - Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing and washed after every workout
 - All equipment should be cleaned intermittently during practices and contests
 - Hand sanitizer should be available at all contests and practices
 - Athletic equipment should be cleaned between each use

Current Sports Seasons as directed by WIAA as of 7/21/20

<u>SEASON 1</u>	<u>SEASON 2</u>	<u>SEASON 3</u>	<u>SEASON 4</u>
<p><u>SPORT</u> CROSS COUNTRY</p> <p><u>START WEEK</u> 9/7/2020</p>	<p><u>SPORT</u> GIRL'S BASKETBALL BOY'S BASKETBALL</p> <p><u>START WEEK</u> 1/4/2021</p>	<p><u>SPORT</u> VOLLEYBALL</p> <p><u>START WEEK</u> 3/1/21</p> <p>-----</p> <p><u>SPORT</u> FOOTBALL</p> <p><u>START WEEK</u> 2/22/21</p>	<p><u>SPORT</u> SOFTBALL BASEBALL GOLF</p> <p><u>START WEEK</u> 4/26/21</p>

- Low Risk Sports
 - Cross Country and Golf
- Moderate Risk Sports
 - Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball
- High Risk Sports
 - Football

Events

- At this time, Student activities such as the ACSI Speech Meet and ACSI Spelling Bee are canceled. The school will be informed of plans for in-person or virtual events by ACSI and will determine LCS participation at that time.
- Off campus field trips are canceled at this time.
- Back-to-School
 - Video and virtual presentations will be used as appropriate.
- Meet the teacher – planned with staggered times
- Compass Student Orientation
 - Limited activities and time
 - Small group activities
 - Staggered times

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

During this pandemic, LCS recognizes the need for support in the following areas and will use our resources as we are able to provide that support and refer parents and students to other resources and services as appropriate.

- Academic/Learning Challenged
 - Extra support provided by leadership, staff and coaches
 - Tutoring as needed specific and individualized intervention /assessment plans in place
 - Additional staff support assigned as needed
- Economically Challenged (may include technology and other supplies)
 - Provide chrome books as needed
 - provide paper/pencil accommodations
- Students without Home Support
 - Teacher connections
 - Small cohort of students on campus
 - Connections with churches
- Stress in Families (child abuse, domestic abuse, other types of stress)
 - Communication and personal connections
 - Assistance with stressors (i.e. jobs, child care, fear, illness, resources)
 - Connections with churches / campus pastor and other pastors
- Socially/Emotionally Needy (in need of counseling)
 - Assessments done first few weeks
 - Academic course work gradually introduced
 - Intentional relationship /community building activities
 - intentional SEL strategies taught to teachers and supported by leadership
 - Prayer, patience and professional help as needed
- Students who are disconnected (not responding to current efforts)
 - Parent connections
 - Home visits
- Crisis Counseling
 - Professional resources will be recommended
- Staff Issues
 - Mental Health
 - Weekly check-ins by leadership
 - Prayer meetings (virtual if needed)
 - Daily devotionals
 - Support as needed for
 - HR Issues
 - Support with own children

HEALTH

Personal Protective Equipment

Face Coverings continue to be a controversial topic. LCS is using the following Biblical framework as we navigate their use:

- We are to love our neighbors and care for those who are vulnerable (Mark 12:31; James 1:27)
- We are to honor those who govern (Exodus 20:12; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17)
- We are to recognize that those who are “strong” are called not to exercise their rights at the expense of those who are “weak,” but rather, to “pursue what makes for peace and for mutual building up” (Romans 14:13-19; 1 Corinthians 8:9)
- We are to bear one another's burdens, and demonstrate humility, gentleness, and patience towards one another, in love (Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:2; 1 Cor. 13)
- We are to walk in wisdom toward outsiders (Col. 4:5; 1 Peter 2:12)

With these scriptures in mind, we have spent much time determining the proper application of the current guidelines, mandates, proclamations, and rules being sent out by multiple agencies. Following are the highlights of current practices we are planning at LCS:

- Staff will need to wear face coverings when we are working closer than 6' together with students. As long as you maintain the 6' buffer, they may be removed “when wearing a face covering reduces the effectiveness of teaching or interferes with instruction.” (p.26, *Reopening Washington Public Schools 2020 District Planning Guide*). Classroom layouts will provide an adequate buffer space for instruction and room to spread out the student desks.
- When staff are working alone, no face covering is required.
- In most cases, a face shield may be worn by the educator while leading instruction in lieu of a face covering/mask.
- There are certain exemptions from wearing a face covering, including medical conditions and social/emotional reasons.
- Students will be required to wear a face covering when arriving at school, helping to ensure that a face covering is accessible at all times. Students will be highly encouraged to wear them, but we will not be removing a student from class and instruction if they refuse to wear a face covering. They will need to be worn during class transitions and times where the 6' physical distancing cannot be maintained. In the guidance, there are multiple exceptions for students. Also, students may choose to wear a face shield in lieu of a face covering/mask. K4 is exempt from wearing face coverings.

Sick Policy

Due to the current health crisis, LCS will enforce the following illness protocols:

- Students must stay home if they have a temperature of 100.4° F or higher. *Please do not administer medication to reduce your child's temperature before coming to school.
- Students will be sent home if they have a fever or are exhibiting symptoms of illness (examples: consistent cough, runny nose, diarrhea, and/or vomiting, new loss of smell or taste).
- Students will not be allowed to have over-the-counter cough drops or medicine at school unless prescribed by a doctor.
- To limit exposure, sick children will be isolated in a contained area and parents should pick up as soon as possible.
- Staff will follow strict policies to ensure the health and safety of those in the building.

In the event that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID:

- Parents or staff members are required to immediately contact the school to inform administration upon a diagnosis of COVID.
- Based upon factors including the recommendations from Benton Franklin Health District, the student's last attendance at school, and/or interaction with other students or staff, the administration will make a decision on how best to proceed. This may include transitioning to an online platform for two weeks, during which time a thorough sanitization would take place. The administration, with input from the Health District will determine how best to continue after the two weeks of online learning is completed if there are more confirmed cases.

Miscellaneous

- If a family member of a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is exposed, that person is required to be quarantined for two weeks before returning to school.
- Students or staff that travel outside of the United States may be required to quarantine for two weeks before returning to school.

SUMMARY

This document provides guidance surrounding the reopening of Liberty Christian School as it relates to the measures to mitigate risks and operate in carrying out our mission. As discussed, the risks of infection and transmission in children, which appear to be minimal, need to be balanced with the harms of school closure which is impacting their spiritual, emotional, physical, and mental health.

On balance, it is recommended that children return to school and that the messaging around this clearly articulate the rationale for the recommendations outlined in this document in order to help reduce the fear and anxiety in parents, children and school staff. In our view, a daily school model is best as it allows for consistency, stability, and equity.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

Finally, it is important to note that these recommendations reflect the evidence available at the present time and may evolve as new evidence emerges and as information is gathered from other jurisdictions that have opened schools already.

References:

- [Association of Christian Schools International](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [University of Toronto, Hospital for Sick Kids](#)
- [ChurchWest Insurance Services](#)
- [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [Benton Franklin Health District](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Washington Federation of Independent Schools](#)

**All policies are subject to loosening or tightening parameters as more information and guidelines are released by Benton Franklin Health District, Washington State Department of Health, CDC, and other agencies.*

Rev. 7/24/2020