

Christ Lutheran School

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August 15, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the beginning of school. We are in the process of finalizing our plans for the coming school year and I want to share some information and give an update of our progress toward opening in the fall. The environment in which we live continues to change daily and we want to make sure you are informed on the current position. This document is intended to address the current situation regarding COVID-19 policies.

This plan was created in a rapidly changing environment. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee that each item will be fulfilled as currently written. The school board retains the right to make necessary changes at any time.

Our approach to opening has been framed by many documents including:

- ISBE/IDPH – *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year*, June 23, 2020
- American Academy of Pediatrics – *COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry*, June 25, 2020
- DCFS – *RESTORE Illinois Licensed Day Care Guidance*, June 24, 2020

Background Information

- Policies should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for children's and adolescents' developmental stage.
- COVID-19 appears to behave differently in children and adolescents than other common respiratory viruses, such as influenza, on which much of the current guidance regarding school closures is based.
- Although children and adolescents play a major role in amplifying influenza outbreaks, this does not appear to be the case with COVID-19.
- Evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from COVID-19 infection.
- Children may be less likely to become infected and to spread infection.
- Children should wear masks where social distancing cannot be maintained.
- COVID-19 policies are intended to reduce, not eliminate, risks.
- No single action or set of actions will eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.

Opening Approach for 2020-2021 School Year

- We plan to begin school on Monday, August 17th.
- We will be open every weekday with full classroom attendance.
- There are a few E-Learning days built into the 1st semester.
- We will dismiss at 1:00 pm for the first two weeks of school.
- Starting on Monday, August 31st, we will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. every school day (not just on Mondays.) The staff of CLS will sanitize each classroom, restroom, lunch room, etc. every day of the week after students leave.
- Partial attendance/enrollment will not be used at this time.
- Use of Masks on school grounds for students and staff
 - Masks are required to be worn in all classrooms and indoor common areas.
 - All masks should be clearly labeled with students' name.
 - When purchasing masks for your children, be aware no political or inappropriate masks will be allowed.
 - If a student has a medical condition that would prevent him/her from wearing a mask, a doctor's note is required.
- Temperature
 - All staff will have temperature taken upon entry daily.
 - CLS staff will take the temperature of every student upon entry to the school.
 - Late arrivals will be checked at the school office before entry.
 - Anyone (students and staff) displaying a fever of 100.4 must stay home.
 - Anyone (students and staff) that develops a fever of 100.4 or above will be sent home immediately.
 - Anyone (students and staff) who has exhibited a fever cannot return until a minimum of 24 hours fever free without use of fever-reducing medication
- We retain the right to evaluate all situations on a case-by-case basis and send or ask students to remain home when deemed necessary.
- In most classrooms, we will be able to place desks at a distance of 6 feet apart. However, we may have a classroom or two where that cannot be achieved. Therefore, desks will be placed as far apart as feasibly possible. Feel free to call the office for more information.
- We will be practicing "podding", which means keeping the classes as separate as possible throughout the day. Teachers will go to the classroom rather than students moving from room to room.
- We will create one-way hallways to reduce close contact. This includes, but is not limited to, placing physical guides, such as tape, on floors or sidewalks to create one-way routes.
- Playgrounds – An emphasis will be placed on podding students and limiting the size of groups participating in playground time.
- Meals/Cafeteria
 - Classes will use the cafeteria on a rotational basis with podding enforced. If necessary, some children may eat in their classrooms.
 - Utilize outdoor spaces when possible.
 - Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after eating.
- Chapel
 - We are exploring several options for Chapel Service –
Classes will attend chapel in the sanctuary on a rotational basis or view chapel on a smartboard in their classrooms.

- We will follow the numeric attendance guidelines of the current phase.
 - Exceptions will be made for parents dropping off or picking up students before and after school.
 - Parents must wear masks while in the building.
 - Parents may **not** enter classrooms, with limited exceptions.
- The class of any student/teacher diagnosed with COVID-19 will be closed for a minimum of 2 days so that direct/intensive cleaning of the room can take place.
- Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized each day after students are dismissed.
- Periodic cleaning of classrooms throughout the day will take place.
- Periodic handwashing breaks.
- Hand sanitizer inside and outside of classrooms.
- Increased airflow in building.

Items still be being reviewed / developed

- Guidelines for drop-off and pick-up
- Closing procedures
- Before and Aftercare
- Having art, music and P.E. classes

Distance learning

Christ Lutheran School is making significant upgrades to our technology infrastructure and software should the need for distance learning arise again. There are different scenarios during which distance learning could occur:

- COVID-19 or infectious disease, closing either one or more classrooms or the entire school.
- Snow days or inclement weather.

As the situation and circumstances continue to evolve, we will make updates to these and other items as needed to meet the needs of our students, teachers and parents.

We may have different opinions regarding COVID-19 and the policies of the leaders of our local, state and federal government but we all have a common goal: the health and well-being of our children. I ask that all parents and staff work together in a spirit of cooperation, compassion and love. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

God's Blessings,

Terry M. Mooney

Christ Lutheran School

Terry M. Mooney, Principal

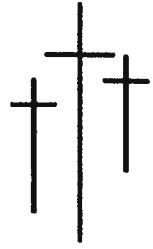
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August 27, 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we worked through our routines these first two weeks of school. The students have been terrific and our procedures have been working pretty well. Also, I want to remind you of a few calendar items:

- 1) This Friday (August 28th) is our first \$2 casual day.
- 2) Starting Monday, August 31st school will be dismissing at 2 PM until further notice.
- 3) There is no school on Friday September 4th. Teachers will be attending technology training sessions..

COVID SYMPTOMS

- Fever over 100.4 degrees F
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

I also want to outline a few scenarios regarding illness so parents have an idea of what to expect. As a reminder, the guidelines do change and our exclusion protocol will remain fluid based on information from IDPH. Christ Lutheran School's current guidelines include:

1. If a student is called in sick with a COVID symptom(s) or sent home with a COVID symptom(s) all siblings will also be sent home. If a parent is ill with a COVID symptom(s) then the student(s) should also stay home. In order to return to school one of the two options need to be completed.

Option 1

1. A licensed medical provider has determined a different illness other than COVID-19 and has cleared the student to return. Licensed medical documentation must be provided to the school stating the student had non-Covid like illness.

OR

2. The student has received a negative test result for COVID-19. Documentation of the negative test result will need to be provided to the school.

Option 2

1. Quarantine at least 10 days from the day you were sent home from school. **AND**
2. Be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication. **AND**
3. No longer have symptoms present.

2. A student who test positive for COVID may not return to school without a letter “release from isolation” from the Peoria County Health Department. Students testing positive should isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and be fever free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours.

3. A student who is considered a “close contact” of a confirmed case of COVID will be sent home and excluded from school and may not return to school without a letter “release from quarantine” from the Peoria County Health Department releasing them from quarantine after 14 days from exposure to the confirmed case. The PCHD will determine who is a close contact. The school may also make the determination to deem someone a close contact which would include the 14 day quarantine.

We realize the guidelines put out by the IDPH are stringent. If a class or grade level has a confirmed case or “close contact” of COVID, we will be sure to communicate any exclusion of students, class or grade level(s) as we receive them from the Peoria County Health Department.

Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to call the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

God's Blessings,
Terry Mooney

12/08/2020

Dear Parents,

I want to thank you for your efforts to help keep Christ Lutheran a safe place for children to learn in person. We have been blessed as we have had very few students who have had to quarantine because of the COVID virus.

We are making an adjustment to our original plan for In-Person learning as we approach Christmas and Christmas Break. In an abundance of caution, we will transfer from In-Person learning to Remote Learning on Wednesday Dec. 16th. Listed below is our plan for the rest of December and the month of January.

Dec 7-11	In-Person Learning
Dec 14-15	In-Person Learning
Dec 16-18	Remote Learning
Dec 21 – Jan 4	Christmas Break
Jan 4	No School – Teacher In Service Day
Jan 5 – 8	Remote Learning
Jan 11- 29	Return to In-Person Learning

Please feel free to call the school office or email your child's teacher if you have any questions.

It is our hope and prayer that you and your family have a safe and Merry Christmas.

God's Blessings,
Terry Mooney