

Trinity Lutheran School

Reopening Plan



Operating Assumptions

The coronavirus remains with us and Trinity Lutheran School will be taking necessary precautions to protect the sanctity of life. A return to school will look different. Trinity Lutheran families, students, and staff will need to be flexible and nimble, understanding that the priority of protecting the health of our students may require changes in procedures, sometimes with minimal notice.

The Reopening Plan laid out in this booklet is based on moderate or mild community spread allowing Trinity Lutheran to function using a modified structured response.

Guiding Principles

To best protect the health and safety of our students, TLS will abide by recommendations from the Lafayette County Department of Health and other knowledgeable governmental agencies. Whatever the circumstances, we remain committed to providing a loving Christian environment which supports the whole child.

While it is our goal to prepare and plan as best as we possibly can, all plans are subject to change based on government, CDC, and Health Department recommendations. Please note situations may arise where adjustments must be made quickly. Communication is key and families are asked to regularly monitor Fast Direct and textcaster for communication.

Severity of Spread	Substantial Spread and Risk	Minimal/Moderate Spread and Risk	Low/No Spread and Risk
<i>Instructional Model</i>	<i>Distance Learning *</i>	<i>Modified Traditional</i>	<i>Traditional</i>
Response	<p>Short Term Closure- Facilities closed for 13 days or less days</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Extended Closure – Facilities closed for 14 days or more days Facility Deep cleaning occurs</p>	<p>Facilities Open- Implement intensive mitigation strategies, enhance social distancing with self-contained classroom, modified schedules and maximizing social distancing.</p>	<p>Facilities Open- Implement preventative practices and proactive health and safety protocols</p>

Voluntary Distance Learning Options

TLS is prepared to offer voluntary distance learning to all enrolled students. This would include online and virtual instruction, required textbooks, and other necessary actions. If this is something you'd like to consider, please reach out to the school.



*School Closures and Implementation

If school is closed for more than 5 consecutive days (or more consecutive), we will transition to distance learning. These closures can be the result of illness, weather, etc. Our goal with Distance Learning is to maximize instructional opportunities.

Our School is addressing these specific items:

- Implementing social distancing strategies, should the need arise
- Implementing screening procedures upon arrival
- Implementing safety measures to better protect against the spread of germs.
- Intensifying cleaning and disinfecting efforts (all will be approved by the CDC and local health departments).

Social Distancing Strategies

- Only Trinity Lutheran staff will be allowed in the building. Parents or volunteers will not be admitted beyond the office during school hours.
- Schedules will be staggered to minimize the overlap of grades in common areas such as the gym, playground, or cafeteria.
- Chapel services and assemblies will be modified to meet social distancing guidelines or be broadcast into classrooms.
- Each group of children are in a separate room as much as possible. All classrooms have their own heating and cooling units fitted with bio agent and pathogen removing filters.
- Desks and seating will be spaced out as much as possible
- When necessary teachers will move and students stay in the same rooms until further notice.
- Student will wash hands upon entering the building and prior to entering the classroom.
- If TLS learns that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, we will consult CDC guidelines and contact the local health department to discuss the appropriate management of potentially exposed staff and students, and to determine whether school should immediately cease in-person gatherings, close for additional cleaning, or otherwise change protocols.

Students or Staff who Become Sick at School

- If a student becomes ill while at school:
 - TLS will provide an isolated space for the ill student to rest while waiting for the arrival of parent/guardian.
 - TLS will contact the student's parent/guardian to pick up the student as soon as possible.
 - Staff person, wearing PPE, should stay with the student while awaiting parent/guardian's arrival.
 - TLS will close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection.

- Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Sick children and staff will not return to school until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation,
- Those with fever cannot return to school for 48 hours or proof of wellness

Handwashing and Hygiene

Staff will wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and will assist children in doing the same. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available. Children will be supervised if they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion. Posters describing hand washing steps are near all sinks.

- All children and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - Arrival and after breaks
 - Before and after preparing food or drinks
 - Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
 - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
 - After using the toilet
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - After playing outdoors
 - After handling garbage

Trinity Lutheran School will:

- Teach and reinforce washing hands and respiratory etiquette among students and staff.
- Practice frequent handwashing and advise students and staff to avoid touching their face.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Install alcohol based hand sanitizing stations at entrances, common areas in the school, and classrooms.



Face Masks and Cloth Face Covers

- The use of face coverings will be dependent on a variety of factors. We understand that face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school.
- Face coverings **may** be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) when feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.
- Masks will be required by all parties when receiving one / one instruction (provided by our resource teacher/foster grandparents, etc).
- TLS will provide one mask per student, however, students are encouraged to have a mask with them in their backpacks, if possible.
- Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Trinity Lutheran will provide information to staff, students, and students' families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.

- Note: Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Children younger than 5 years old
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfecting

- *Cleaning* is physically removing dirt, debris, and sticky film by washing, wiping, and rinsing.
- *Disinfecting* kills nearly all germs on a hard, non-porous surface when applied correctly. Prior to disinfecting, cleaning must be completed. Note: Disinfecting is different than sanitizing.
- *Sanitizing* is the reduction of bacteria to safe levels as set by public health standards. It is required for any surface that comes in contact with food.
- The following will be disinfected at least daily:
 - Playground equipment
 - Door and cabinet handles
 - Sink handles
 - Shared objects (e.g., toys, games, art supplies) should be cleaned in between uses.
- TLS is taking steps to ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Our classrooms also have their own cooling and heating systems, preventing cross contamination between classrooms. We will not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk (e.g., allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Materials, Toys, and Manipulatives
 - Toys and objects that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.
 - Cloth toys will not be used.
 - Toys and objects that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by bodily fluids will be set aside until they are cleaned by hand with water and detergent, rinsed, sanitized with disinfectant, rinsed again, and air-dried.
 - Staff will not share toys and manipulatives with other classrooms, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved to another classroom.
 - Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfecting procedures.



Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains should not be used at this time. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles labeled with their name from home, or the school will provide cups that are disposable or labeled with student's names.

Limit Sharing

- TLS will keep each student's belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or areas, or have them take their belongings home each day to be cleaned.

- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment etc. assigned to a single student) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student.
- It is encourage that students bring snacks from home do so in pre-packaged boxes/bags as well.
- Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
- No toys or items from home, other than those on the school supply list.

Recommendations for Cafeteria

- All food service workers should wear a face mask or cloth face covering.
- Frequently wash and sanitize of all food contact surfaces and utensils.
- Workers must practice frequent hand washing and glove changes before and after preparing food.
- Serve food using gloves.
- Children should be seated with at least 6 feet of distance in between each other.
- TLS will stagger meal times to provide adequate physical distancing. When possible, students and staff will be encouraged to eat meals in the classroom or outside
- Encourage staff to sit with and talk to children (from an appropriate distance of six feet), serving as role models and offering support and normalcy.
- All kitchen/cafeteria/dining areas will be cleaned and disinfected after use and prior to a new group of students entering for meals.

Recommendations for Gym and Playground

- Face masks should not be worn while engaged in physical activity.
- Physically distancing will be encouraged with non-contact sports and activities.
- According to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and other credible health resources, COVID-19 is not spread through sweat. However, surfaces touch by multiple people and that are dirty will be cleaned prior to disinfection.
- TLS custodial staff members will be responsible for ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection of classrooms and shared spaces.
- Students may be asked to wipe down their desks at the end of each day (grade 1 and up).
- TLS will minimize sharing of equipment as much as possible and disinfect shared equipment between use.

Recommendations for Restrooms

- TLS will increase cleaning frequency for restrooms
- TLS will place a trash can by the door if the door cannot be opened without touching the handle, so restroom users can cover the handle with a paper towel and easily dispose of it afterward.
- There will be signs instructing students and staff on how to wash hands after using the restroom.

Recommendations for Bus

- All riders will have assigned seats

- Families will be seated together
- TLS Driver and monitor will see that students are social distanced as possible.
- TLS strong recommends that all riders wear a mask. The health department encourages mask usage in enclosed spaces (like the bus).
- Bus safety and protocols are still in place for all riders (see handbook).

Summary

Trinity Lutheran School will be making reasonable decisions to ensure the safety of all of those under our care. This is a dynamic document, simply meaning that changes may occur throughout the year based on recommendations offered by the CDC and the Lafayette County Health Department. Please know that we trust wholly in our Father God, but must also use the knowledge we have to help protect the lives He has entrusted to us.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and support and we wade into these unknown waters. Blessings and health to all,

x _____

Signature (acknowledgment of covid-19 precautions)