First Lutheran School Reopening Plan



Operating Assumptions

The coronavirus remains with us and First Lutheran School will likely not return to normalcy until there is a vaccine or a cure. A return to school will look different. First 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 First Lutheran to function using a Modified Traditional structured response.

Guiding Principles

School will look different than it did before March 13, 2020. To best protect the health of and safety of our students, FLS will abide by recommendations from the 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 as 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 as such communication is key and families are asked to regularly monitor Fast Direct for communication.

Severity of Spread	Substantial Spread and Risk	Minimal/Moderate Spread and Risk			Low/No Spread and Risk
Instructional Model	Distance Learning *	Modified Traditional	Distance Learning*	Hybrid Schedule	Traditional
Response	Short Term Closure- Facilities closed for 13 days or less days OR Extended Closure – Facilities closed for 14 days or more days Facility Deep cleaning occurs	Facilities Open- Implement intensive mitigation strategies, enhance social distancing with self- contained classroom, modified schedules and maximizing social distancing.	Minimal use of Facilities- Follow Practices laid out in the FLS Distance Learning Handbook	Minimal use of Facilities- Staggered in person instruction or Flex Schedule	Facilities Open- Implement preventative practices and proactive health and safety protocols

*School Closures and Implementing Distance Learning

If we are not able to open facilities at the start of the school, year we will hold small group meetings by grade/class for orientation and introduction the week of August 10th for parents and students. Following the plan laid out in the Distance Learning Handbook, we will then continue with Distance Learning until we are able to open our facilities.

If school is closed for more than 5 days (consecutive or nonconsecutive), 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
- Implementing screening procedures upon arrival
- Intensifying cleaning and disinfecting efforts

Social Distancing Strategies

- Only First Lutheran staff will be allowed in the building. Parents or volunteers will not be admitted beyond the office during school hours.
- Schedules in 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 include smaller groups or be broadcast into classrooms.
- Each group of children are in a separate room as much as possible.
- Desks and seating will be spaced out as much as possible
- When necessary teachers will move and students stay in the same rooms.

Drop Off Screening

Screening children and staff - All children and staff will be screened upon arrival. Children and staff who have a fever of 100 or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted. Parents must help be on alert for signs of illness in their children and must keep them home when they are sick. Even if the child does not have a temperature, but they appear sick (cough, runny nose, etc.) the Principal Director has the right to deny the child's attendance for that day or days thereafter.

- Staff will be outside the office for drop-off
- A parent or caregiver will escort students to the drop off

- Please have your child dropped off before 8:15am. If circumstances are such that you cannot, please come to the main office door to be have your child screened.
- Staff doing screening will follow proper hand hygiene and put on personal protective equipment (PPE) including a mask and a pair of disposable gloves.
- Staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), or fatigue, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.
- Staff will take the child's temperature using a non-contact, temporal thermometer.
- Students may be asked some or all of the following questions:
 - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had muscle pain or chills?
 - Have you traveled outside Knox county recently?
- Student will wash hands upon entering the building
- After screening children, staff will remove and discard PPE, and wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Direct any anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever) will leave the premises immediately to seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per CDC guidelines.

• If FLS 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:
 - FLS will provide an isolated space for the ill student to rest while waiting for the arrival of parent/guardian.
 - FLS 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.
 - 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 72 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 with if soap and water are not readily available. Children will be supervised if they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion. Posters describing handwashing steps are near all sinks.

- All children and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - o 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

First 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.
- Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- First 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.
- FLS 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. 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.

Clothing

- Staff and children should bring multiple changes of clothes in the event of fluid contamination.
- Staff will engage in proper hand hygiene if they come into contact with bodily fluids.
- Staff will change the child's clothes and their own clothes if they have come into contact with bodily fluids.
- Any contaminated clothes will be placed in a plastic bag for laundering at home.

Limit Sharing

- FLS 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.
- Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.
- Discourage families from bringing materials/toys from home.

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.
- FLS 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.
- FLS staff members will be responsible for ensuring regular cleaning and disinfection.
- FLS will minimize sharing of equipment as much as possible and disinfect shared equipment between use.

Recommendations for Restrooms

- FLS will increase cleaning frequency for restrooms
- FLS 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.