



MOUNTAIN VIEW

Lutheran School

Reopening Plan for 2020-2021 School Year

Mountain View Lutheran School
9550 West Cheyenne Avenue
Las Vegas, NV, 89129

Board of Directors Approval w/ Revisions: July 21, 2020

Per Section 1 of "Declaration of Emergency, Directive 022" dated June 9, 2020 by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak regarding the re-opening of private schools in the State of Nevada and the directive that "...private schools shall communicate their plans to their school communities, including parents and staff, and present their plans for the 2020-2021 school year" and also that "(P)ivate schools shall present their plans for approval in the manner prescribed by their governing body at least 20 days before the first day of the 2020-2021 school year", following is the plan for re-opening Mountain View Lutheran School (MVLS).

The focus of this plan is to minimize individual and public health risks. If a concern arises involving a community member who might be or is a confirmed positive case for COVID-19, we MVLS will follow the guidance recommending we contact the Southern Nevada Health Department and work with them to determine next steps, which could include temporary closure for some/all campus activities.

Due to the fact that this plan was not available at the time of enrollment of all students for the 2020-2021 school year, the Board of Directors of MVLCS is allowing families who choose to disenroll their student(s) to be fully refunded any payments (tuition and fees) made towards the 2020-2021 school year in full. **The deadline for such an opportunity is end of business day (5 p.m.) on Monday, August 3.** Any withdrawal after the distribution of this plan and its availability to possible enrollees is not eligible to receive a refund of any payments for the 2020-2021 school year.

Resources utilized in the drafting of this document include:

- *Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings*
- *COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry* (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- *Leading with Hope: A Guide for Catholic Schools*
- *COVID-19: Recommendations for School Re-Opening* (SickKids Foundation, Canada)
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Southern Nevada Health District
- Emergency Directives, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak
- Sample plans from various Lutheran schools
- Stakeholder input, including local medical experts and legal counsel

Given the best available information to this date and as taken from the website for the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, following are the known signs/symptoms of an individual who may have COVID-19:

- Fever of 100.4° Fahrenheit (initially less prevalent in children) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Should any government entity mandate changes that impact this plan, MVLCS will, at a minimum, comply with said directives. Similarly, this plan is open to revision by the Executive Staff for implementation, as necessary, to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

The following document summarizes the plan for school re-opening focusing on health and educational concerns. The plan is organized into the following categories:

1. Screening
2. Protection of staff and at-risk persons
3. Hand hygiene
4. Cloth Face Masks
5. Ventilation
6. Physical Distancing
7. Environmental Cleaning
8. Immunizations
9. Waiver
10. Communication

1. Screening

In order to better prevent the spread of infection, students and staff who have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home.

To help reduce the risk of symptomatic individuals from entering the school and to reduce the risk of communal spread, any symptomatic student or member of staff should contact medical professionals who may advise any of the following from the non-exhaustive list: stay home, notify School Office, stay away from others, and monitor symptoms.

- School staff will be provided with information on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children to allow for appropriate action if symptoms develop during the school day.
- Children with symptoms of a respiratory tract infection should stay home until cleared by a medical professional.
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for daily screening before arriving at school to be considered clear for entry. Following is a sample screening questionnaire that could be implemented, to which if any of the answers is “Yes.”, the child should stay home and the school be immediately notified:
 - Does the child have a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - Does the child have shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - Does the child have a new fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher) or chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - Has the child come into close contact (within six (6) feet) with someone who has a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the past fourteen (14) days?
 - Does the child have any of the following symptoms that cannot be attributed to another health condition?
 - Fatigue
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Sore Throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Headache
 - Diarrhea
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Nausea or vomiting
- Additionally, students will have their temperature taken before entering the building. If a student has a temperature reading over 100.4° Fahrenheit, he/she will be screened a second time for confirmation of the high reading. Parents/Guardians will then be contacted.
- If a student presents COVID-19 symptoms, the family will be called for immediate pick-up of the child. The child will be isolated as best as possible in such a way that privacy and respect are maintained as best as possible until the parent arrives. The child cannot return until able to present a doctor’s release.
- All faculty and staff are to also be included in the screening process.

2. Protection of Staff and At-Risk Persons

It is extremely critical that Staff set a good example for students and others by being vocally supportive and hopeful, speaking well of all in their various situations, and modeling behaviors around all aforementioned protocols as well as the following.

- Physical distancing of school staff from children will be emphasized as practically as possible.
- Staff will be required to wear a face mask in public spaces and when outside.

3. Hand Hygiene

Routine and proper hand hygiene is critical in limiting transmission.

- Proper handwashing is to be practiced upon arrival at the building. Use of hand sanitizer is to be only when use of soap and water is not available.
- Children will be taught and positively encouraged and reminded how to properly clean their hands by washing thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and water, and to try to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth as much as possible.
- Children will be taught and positively encouraged and reminded how to properly sneeze or cough into a tissue that can be immediately discarded, after which the student will properly wash her/his hands. If a tissue is not available, children will be reminded to cough/sneeze into their elbow/sleeve.
- There will be signage in all classrooms and bathrooms serving as reminders to children to perform proper hand hygiene.
- Each classroom will develop a schedule for proper hand hygiene, above and beyond that which is normally recommended (e.g. before eating food, after using the restroom, after playing on the playground and/or sharing play items, etc.).
- There will be hand hygiene opportunities (hand sanitizer dispensers and/or sinks with soap) available throughout the building, with the goal being to always have hand sanitizer available in each classroom in addition to the sinks.
- Paper towels will be available for drying and are to be immediately discarded in waste baskets.

4. Cloth Face Masks

- A cloth face mask covering the individual's nose and mouth will be required for all elementary students and adults in the building. Said masks are to be apolitical and in keeping with the beliefs and philosophy of MVLCS.
- Exceptions include those with medical conditions making it difficult to breathe or those with a disability that prevents them wearing a face mask or covering or other medical reasons. Exemptions for individual students will be allowed provided they are stated by a medical doctor via notation to the school office. The reason for the exemption is not required.
- Students and staff can provide a doctor's note that they are exempt, in accordance with exemptions listed in Section 7 of the mask mandate (Emergency Directive 024):
 - Individuals who have a medical condition or disability that prevents them from removing a mask without assistance.
 - Individuals when eating at an establishment that offers food service.
 - Individuals engaged in outdoor work or recreation.
- Some activities may limit the use of face masks/coverings and will not be required for health concerns related to difficulty in breathing (e.g. playground and physical education).

5. Ventilation

Adequately ventilated classrooms are expected to be associated with less likelihood of transmission compared with poorly ventilated settings.

- More frequent replacing of the filters in the building's HVAC system will occur.
- The filters used will be the thickest possible to best filter the air w/o overstressing the system.
- The HVAC system is an open-loop system, meaning air is being constantly brought into the building from outside the building and not recirculated in the building.
- Classroom doors opening to the interior hallway will be left propped open.

6. Physical Distancing

Close interaction, such as playing and socializing, is central to child development and should not be discouraged; however, physical distancing is to be implemented where practical and possible.

- Furniture in classrooms will be spaced apart as far as reasonable. When students are not able to be physically distanced, a physical barrier will be utilized.
- Large gatherings (e.g. Chapel, Morning Assembly and the like) will not occur in the same setting; however, the purpose of the event will be able to occur remotely.
- Students will have staggered lunch periods and will be spaced throughout the gymnasium.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged but not required during outdoor activities (e.g. recess).
- The playground structure will be off limits to encourage adequate physical distancing.
- Parents and permitted visitors (e.g. vendors, various officials and the like) will be discouraged from entering the building, with the requirement that their temperatures be checked prior to entry and a mask worn for entry, and will not be admitted beyond the School Office area.
- The elementary hallway will be designated one-way with signage.

7. Environmental Cleaning

- A regular cleaning schedule throughout the school day will be continued with its heightened emphasis on high touch surfaces.
- There will be a reduction in surfaces needing to be touched during the school day (e.g. no touch waste containers, doors to classrooms propped open and the like).
- The guideline of not sharing food or water bottles or other will be reinforced. Water fountains will be not allowed to be used; children are to bring their own water bottles.
- Equipment used will be made of cleanable materials able to be cleaned and disinfected.
- Children will be responsible for acquiring and maintaining their own cache of classroom supplies (e.g. pencils, markers, erasers, and the like) and not share them. When not practical or possible, such as in Computers, shared supplies will be properly sanitized.

8. Immunizations

- Existing immunization requirements will be maintained. Though not required for attendance, it is highly encouraged families be vaccinated this Fall for influenza (flu).

9. Waiver

- All parents will be required to sign a waiver prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

10. Communication

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators should notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- If a student presents COVID-19 symptoms, the family will be called for immediate pick-up of the child. The child will be isolated as best as possible in such a way that privacy and respect are maintained as best as possible until the parent arrives. The child cannot return until able to present a doctor's release.
- If a staff member presents COVID-19 symptoms, he/she is to be sent home immediately and cannot return until able to present a doctor's release.
- If a staff member or student tests positive or if they come into contact with anyone who has tested positive, SNHD will immediately be notified for guidance.
- If a staff member or student tests positive or if they come into contact with anyone who has tested positive, the school community will be notified in a manner that is respectful and keeps confidential the individual's situation. Further direction to the school community will be given as guidance is received and considerations made by MVLCS Board of Directors with input of the Executive Staff.