**Faith Lutheran School Fall 2020-2021 Protocols**

The COVID pandemic of 2020 has been unprecedented in our lifetime. While most people who are infected will only experience relatively mild illness, this virus has been deadly for many people. Anyone who is infected can spread the virus and children are not immune. While most children are thought to be less affected by the virus, they have the ability to transmit the virus to those people who may not survive if infected, such as the elderly and those with chronic health problems. As Christians, we are directed to love our neighbors and protect those members of our community who may be susceptible to serious COVID illness.

Faith Lutheran School (FLS) Staff and School Board recognize the inherent danger of returning to in-person activities for the 2020-21 school year in the presence of the COVID pandemic. However, we also understand that education of our children must continue. In order to minimize the risk of COVID transmission between our staff, students and their families, FLS will be implementing the following plan for the 2020-21 school year based on CDC guidelines for school reopening. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

The goal of FLS is to have in-person classes and activities for the 2020-21 school year. With prayer, planning, and participation of students, parents, and staff we will do our upmost to achieve this. If the number of active cases withing Adair County increases significantly, the COVID-19 Plan will be reassessed as needed to keep our students and staff safe.

**Entry Screening**

No students, parents, or staff are permitted to enter FLS buildings who are ill with symptoms consistent with COVID. No students, parents, or staff should come to FLS, if a member of their household is sick with COVID-19. All people will be screened upon entry. See attached FLS COVID policy for screening details. Until further notice, parents will not be allowed to enter school classroom areas and playground without staff approval.

**Masks**

Face coverings over the mouth and nose have repeatedly shown to be effective at reducing the spread of respiratory droplets that may contain viral particles.

All people (students, parents, and staff) kindergarten age and older MUST wear a mask or face covering inside the church and school buildings and on the outdoor campus when they will be withing 6 feet of one another. Face mask information is available at

https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/face-covering:guidance.pdf

**Class Bubbles**

Even with masks, there is increased risk for viral spread within each class group. To minimize spread within the classroom, desks will be spaced 3-6 feet apart and each student’s supplies will be kept separate and not be shared between students. To minimize spread between classes, each class will stay within its own bubble and be kept separate from the other classes for activities such as recess and lunch.

**Cleaning**

Hand washing and surface cleaning will be emphasized within each classroom. Children will be directed to wash hands or use hand sanitizer after out-of-classroom activities and clean surfaces within their classrooms as needed during the day and at the end of the day. All classrooms are thoroughly cleaned each evening.

**If Someone Gets Sick**

Despite our best efforts, someone may get sick. If a students of staff member develops symptoms during the school day, they will be immediately isolated from others. If a child develops symptoms, a staff member wearing an N95 mask will stay with the child until their parent or guardian is notified and picks the child up from school. Children who have mild symptoms will be offered distance education until they can return to school.

If a staff member or child gets sick with COVID, then those within the class bubble will be notified of a positive case and directed to monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Their classroom will receive enhanced disinfection upon discover of COVID case. Temporary closing of a classroom or cancellation of a class will be made on a case-by-case basis based on current CDC guidelines.

**When to return to FLS**

* Out time is expected to be approximately 10-14 days for a positive COVID case. Current evidence suggests most people stop shedding active virus by 10 days, if they have had only mild illness. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html> individuals testing positive for COVID may return to FLS after 10 days if they have been asymptomatic for at least 3 days. If symptoms persist for longer than 7 days, then they must wait until they have been symptom free for 3 days.
* Individuals testing positive for COVID who are asymptomatic, may return after 10 days from the date of their positive test if they remain symptom free.
* Individuals, who have had a significant exposure to an active COVID case outside of their home, should not return until 14 days after exposure, assuming they remain symptom free. They may return earlier if they have a negative test dated not earlier than 5 days after exposure. A significant exposure is being within 6 feet of an active COVID case while unmasked for at least 15 minutes. More information about what counts as an exposure is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavisus/2019-ncov/php/public-health;recommendations.html>
* Students, parents, and staff who have a household member who has been sick may return to FLS, if they are symptom free and the household member has been completely symptom-free for at least 72 hours (3days).

**Travel**

Students, parents, and staff who have traveled to areas of high COVID case density should quarantine at home for 7 days prior to returning to FLS. Case density is available at **https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/us-map**