



St. John's Lutheran School
Empowering. Enlightening. Enriching.

Reopening Plan

Created July 5, 2020

OPERATING ASSUMPTIONS

The coronavirus remains with us and St. John's Lutheran School will likely not return to full normalcy until there is a vaccine or a cure. A return to school will look different. St. John's families, students, faculty 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 document is based on Illinois operating in Phase 4 as defined by the State of Illinois and City of Chicago. In order to provide for the health and safety of our students, St. John's will follow recommendations from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Chicagoland Lutheran Education Foundation (CLEF). Whatever circumstances we encounter St. John's is committed to provide a quality education in a Christian setting.

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

PHASE FOUR – RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

WHAT THIS PHASE LOOKS LIKE

There is a continued decline in the rate of infection in new COVID-19 cases. Hospitals have capacity and can quickly adapt for a surge of new cases in their communities. Additional measures can be carefully lifted allowing for schools and child care programs to reopen with social distancing policies in place. Restaurants can open with limited capacity and following strict public health procedures, including personal protective equipment for employees. Gatherings with 50 people or fewer will be permitted. Testing is widely available, and tracing is commonplace.

WHAT'S OPEN

Gatherings: Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data and guidance

Travel: Travel should follow IDPH and CDC approved guidance

Health care: All health care providers are open

Education and child care: P-12 schools, higher education, all summer programs, and child care open with IDPH approved safety guidance

Outdoor Recreation: All outdoor recreation allowed

Businesses:

- **Manufacturing:** All manufacturing open with IDPH approved safety guidance
- **“Non-essential” businesses:** All employees return to work with IDPH approved safety guidance; Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
- **Bars and restaurants:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Personal care services and health clubs:** All barbershops, salons, spas and health and fitness clubs open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Entertainment:** Cinema and theaters open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance
- **Retail:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance

HOW WE MOVE TO THE NEXT PHASE

Post-pandemic: Vaccine, effective and widely available treatment, or the elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors.

WHAT COULD CAUSE US TO MOVE BACK

IDPH will closely monitor data and receive on-the-ground feedback from local health departments and regional healthcare councils and will recommend moving back to the previous phase based on the following factors: • Sustained rise in positivity rate • Sustained increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19 like illness • Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities • Significant outbreak in the region that threatens the health of the region.

SCHOOL OPENING

St. John’s is planning to open school as scheduled on August 24, 2020. As stated above it is important that families monitor Fast Direct, St. John’s website and Facebook sites. In addition, parent information meetings are scheduled below.

- Monday August 3, 2020 @ 6:30 PK-3 and PK-4
- Tuesday August 4, 2020 @ 6:30 Kindergarten
- Thursday August 6, 2020 @ 6:30 First and Second Grades
- Monday August 10, 2020 @ 6:30 Third and Fourth Grades
- Tuesday August 11, 2020 @ 6:30 Fifth Grade
- Thursday August 13, 2020 @ 6:30 High School Prep (Grades 6-8)

The meeting will take place in St. John's Fellowship Room (school lunchroom). Enter the building through Door #1 and proceed down the stairs to the Fellowship Room. Please limit attendance to parents. Face masks will be required.

ITEMS BEING ADDRESSED BY ST. JOHN'S

- Social Distancing Strategies
- Health Screening Procedures
- Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES

- Only St. John's staff will be allowed in the building. Parents 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, etc.
- Chapel services will be modified to include smaller groups or be broadcast into the classrooms.
- Desks and seating will be spaced out according to IDPH and ISBE guidelines.
- Students will be in self-contained classrooms with the exception of music, band and art. Music, band and art rooms will be disinfected after each use.
- When necessary, teachers will move and students will stay in the classroom.

DROP-OFF SCREENING

SCREENING OF CHILDREN AND STAFF – All children and staff will be screened upon arrival. Children and staff who have a temperature of 100.4 or above or show other signs of illness will not be admitted. Parents must help or be on alert for signs of illness in their children and **must** keep them home when they are sick. (More specific information on this topic will be shared at the August informational meetings mentioned above). Even if the child does not have a fever, but appears sick (cough, runny nose, etc.) the principal has the right to deny the child's attendance for that day and days after.

- Students will utilize multiple doors for entrance to and exit from the building.
- Faculty and staff will be at the doors to screen and admit students.
- A parent or caregiver should escort their student to the assigned entrance. Families with multiple students will enter the building through the oldest student's assigned door.
- Faculty and staff doing the screening will follow proper hand hygiene procedures and will put on Personal Protective Equipment.

- Faculty and staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which include flushed cheeks, rapid or difficulty breathing, or fatigue, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.
- Faculty and staff will take the child’s temperature using a non-contact temporal thermometer.
- Parents must certify the following
 - The student has not been in close contact with a person having a confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - The student is not experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or a sore throat.
 - The student has not had a fever in the last 48 hours.
 - The student has not been experiencing a new loss of taste or smell.
 - The student has not been experiencing muscle pain or chills.
- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms (answers yes to any of the screening questions) or who has a fever will leave the premises immediately to seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing.
- Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the building.
- If St. John’s Lutheran School learns that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, we will consult CDC, IDPH, ISBE, CDPH guidelines and contact the Chicago Department of Public Health to discuss appropriate management of potentially exposed staff and students, to determine mitigation and next steps.

STUDENTS OR STAFF WHO BECOME SICK AT SCHOOL

If a student becomes sick at school:

- St. John’s will provide an isolated space for the ill student to rest while waiting for the arrival of a parent/guardian.
- St. John’s will contact the student’s parent/guardian to pick up the student as soon as possible.
- A staff person wearing appropriate PPE will monitor the student while waiting for the parent/guardian.
- The areas used by the sick person will immediately be cleaned and disinfected.
- Notify local health officials, staff and families immediately of a possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality as required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Sick students or staff may not return to school until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Those with a fever cannot return to school until their temperature is within normal limits for at least 72 hours without fever-reducing medication.

HANDWASHING AND HYGIENE

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

- All students and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - Arrival and after breaks
 - Before and after preparing food and 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

ST. JOHN'S 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 face.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer, tissues, no touch trash cans.

FACE MASKS AND CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

- Students and staff will be required to wear face masks or cloth face coverings throughout the school day. St. John's understands that it may be challenging for younger students to wear face covering in all day settings such as school. As such, students will be provided age appropriate breaks for removal of face coverings.
- Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
- Students and staff who have a medical reason that would prohibit them from wearing a face covering will be exempt from the requirement but must provide medical proof of such a reason.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PROTOCOLS

- St. John's will be cleaned and disinfected daily following CDC guidelines,
 - **Additionally:**
 - Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected every two hours.
 - Flat surfaces (desks, tables, etc.) will be disinfected after each use.
 - High touch surfaces such as hand railings and door handles will be disinfected regularly throughout the school day.

- Playground equipment will be disinfected after each use.
- The gym, music room and art room will be disinfected after each use.
- Shared manipulatives will be disinfected after each use.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

Drinking fountains will not be used at this time. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school. Water bottles can be filled up at the drinking fountain that allows for no-touch distribution of water.

The Reopening Plan is intended to provide St. John's families with some basic information on how we intend to proceed with the 2020-2021 school year. It is to be used as a guide and is not a comprehensive list of procedures that will be implemented. The recommendations from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE, CDPH and CLEF continue to be dynamic in nature with information changing daily. I encourage you to monitor Fast Direct for more information as it comes available. If you are not signed up for Fast Direct please do so. I strongly encourage you to attend the parent session mentioned earlier in this document. Please direct any questions to me. You can call the school office at 773-736-1196 or email me at principal@stjohnschicago.org

God Bless the remainder of your summer. May He keep you safe and healthy!

Principal Green