



Health & Safety Plan for 2021-2022

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide parents, guardians, and caregivers within the Salem Lutheran School Kindergarten through 8th grade community general information that outlines the most up-to-date policies, procedures, and plans that will ensure we meet our vision and philosophy while maintaining a safe and healthy environment to the best of the school's ability in response to COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses.

VISION & PHILOSOPHY

The vision and philosophy of Salem Lutheran School K-8 this year is to provide all students, families, and staff a reasonably safe and healthy school environment while also providing the traditionally excellent and Christ-centered learning experience we have all proudly known and loved for so many years at Salem.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Together, and by the grace of God, we will work through whatever comes our way this year. While we will take measures to keep our campus and your children free of illnesses, the reality is that viruses and other illnesses can spread anywhere. Your cooperation is essential and we thank you for continued partnership and trust. It is your confidence, partnership, tuition dollars, donations, prayers, and encouragement that has sustained our school community throughout the pandemic thus far, and we're thankful for you! We also know that we may not be able to meet the expectations or individual beliefs of every family, but we will do the best we can with the gifts and resources God has given us.

OBJECTIVES

- We will have students on campus for full-day educational programs, five days per week, unless a campus closure is mandated by state or local health authorities, or otherwise deemed necessary by school administration.
- We will ensure that the health and safety of students, families, and staff is a top priority.
- We will work to meet the overall expectations of the school community and culture as best we can.
- We will use logic and reasoning to continuously update our campus and classroom schedules, routines, policies, and procedures in order to keep our campus safe and our students learning on campus.
- We will care for the social-emotional, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of our students, families, and staff.
- We will create a campus environment that allows for flexibility as things change.
- We will use this time as an opportunity to improve for the long-term.

GUIDELINES

The CDC, CDPH, OCHCA, and AAP have provided guidelines for how to reopen schools with the expectation that students will be on campus. As an independent school, Salem governs itself and will continue to make decisions based on the most current research and guidelines, along with what makes the most sense for our school community, as well as in consideration of protecting our organization. School-focused CDC guidelines can be found here: [CDC School Guidance](#). Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics can be found here: [AAP School Guidance](#). According to the AAP, "Policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within schools must be balanced with the known harms to children, adolescents, families, and the community by keeping children at home." In other words, we must be willing to weigh the risk of having our kids in school with the risks of keeping them out of school. Please take time to carefully review this plan, and talk to your child(ren) about how school might look or feel a bit different this year. The CDC has provided information on how to speak about COVID-19 with children; that resource is accessible here: [CDC Talking with Children](#).

PLAN OUTLINE

1. Expectations for Students & Everyone

At Salem Lutheran, we...

- ★ Wash our hands often
- ★ Cover coughs and sneezes
- ★ Eat our own food only, and do not share
- ★ Avoid unnecessary contact with others
- ★ Keep our space and materials clean
- ★ Follow school-wide and classroom health and safety rules
- ★ Tell a teacher when we're not feeling well
- ★ Stay home when showing signs of being sick

2. Daily Health & Wellness Checks

- a. Parents/Guardians are responsible for conducting daily health and wellness checks of their children prior to leaving for school.
- b. Students who register a temperature of 100.4 or higher, or who have exhibited signs/symptoms of COVID-19 will not be permitted to attend school; for the complete policy and procedures, click here: [Protocols for Student and Visitor COVID-19 Symptom Screenings](#).
- c. School staff will be present at morning drop off from 8:10am - 8:30am and will visually assess students' health and wellness as students are dropped off (temperatures will not be taken).

3. Snacks & Lunch: Choice Lunch

- a. Students will eat lunch with their grade level cohorts (e.g. both 3rd grade classes).
- b. Choice Lunch offerings will be purchased a la carte and arrive at the school prepackaged.
- c. Pizza Monday orders will arrive in individual boxes.
- d. All lunch orders will be distributed to students on a lunch cart, rather than through a lunch line.
- e. Students will eat outdoors only, and handwashing will be scheduled for before and/or after meals.

4. Recess

- a. Recess schedules have been staggered to allow for a lesser number of students to be on the playground at any given time.
- b. Playground structures and equipment will be kept clean.

5. Classrooms

- a. Class sizes have been lowered for this school year with an average of 20 students (whereas our capacity allows for an average of 26 students per classroom).
- b. Students will enter and exit the same doors every time (no shortcuts, e.g. Library).
- c. Bathroom breaks will be built into daily schedules/routines to reduce student crossover and allow for scheduled cleanings throughout the school day.
- d. All classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizer stations at the doorway and all classrooms are outfitted with a sink, soap, and paper towels; students will wash and/or sanitize hands throughout the day.

6. Transitions & Hallways

- a. Schedules will allow for passing periods that keep hallways from being crowded.
- b. Students will need to bring their own refillable water bottles to be refilled at our water bottle filling stations in order to avoid having to drink directly from the fountain.

7. Volunteers

- a. Allowing volunteers on campus has always been an important part of the culture of our school; however, we will need to limit the number of volunteers on campus and in classrooms at any given time.
- b. Visitors will be permitted by appointment only, and only two volunteers will be allowed in each classroom at any given time.
- c. Those permitted to volunteer will be expected to abide by all health and safety guidelines, such as wearing a mask, frequent hand-washing and/or sanitizing.
- d. Volunteers working with food will be required to wear a mask and gloves.

8. Routine Cleaning

- a. We will continue with daily, routine cleanings as contracted through our custodial company.
- b. Additionally, the school will use disinfectants on frequently touched surfaces and exterior spaces.
 - i. Frequently touched surfaces include but are not limited to: door handles, light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces, tables, student desks, and chairs.
 - ii. Disinfectant products will be approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - approved list "N" and follow product instructions.
- c. Classrooms will be stocked with child-safe cleaning wipes so that children and teachers can wipe down surfaces and materials as often as necessary.

9. Face Coverings

- a. Masks are required for all individuals (students, staff, and visitors) in indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status
- b. Masks are optional outdoors.
- c. Exemptions to mask requirements:
 - i. Persons with a medical or mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask, including persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
- d. Students must know how to manage the mask on their own; parents/guardians are responsible for educating their children on how to properly wear and manage a face covering.\

10. Students at Heightened Risk

- a. Salem Lutheran School understands that some students may live with pre-existing or underlying medical conditions that heighten their risk when it comes to COVID-19. Parents/Guardians are asked to provide specific guidance along with medical documentation to the school for their student should specific guidelines need to be followed, or should their child need additional considerations.
- b. Salem Lutheran does not guarantee that we will be able to provide all requested accommodations, and may not be the best fit for every student.

11. Training All Staff & Educating Families

- a. All staff will be trained in the following areas, and families will be provided with educational materials related to the following safety actions:
 - i. Enhanced sanitation and hygiene practices, such as hand washing
 - ii. Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings, and an understanding of exemptions
 - iii. Screening practices
 - iv. How COVID-19 is spread
 - v. COVID-19 specific symptom identification
 - vi. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work if staff members have symptoms, or if they or someone they live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19
 - vii. For workers, COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to see medical attention

12. COVID-19 Case Connected to Campus & Triggers for Switching to Fully Remote Learning

- a. The school's response will depend on the specific circumstances of any given occurrence.
- b. Should a student, staff, or visitor report a positive COVID-19 test, depending on the circumstances we may have a 24-hour closure of all impacted spaces, followed by disinfection/cleaning according to CDC guidelines. This may result in the displacement of individuals who may have been impacted.
- c. Should OCHCA recommend a quarantine period for certain at-risk individuals, this could result in a short period of remote learning for only those individuals.
- d. See also [Salem Protocol - Triggers for Switching to Remote Learning](#)
- e. All faculty and staff will be trained to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19, with updated protocols in place for triage, isolation, and care for students showing signs of the illness.
- f. It is understandable that having a case connected to Salem may cause concerns or raise questions. Please know that we take our obligation to balance privacy and community safety interests very seriously, and will share limited information with our community as needed.
- g. It is important for each family to have a child care plan in place should their child or grade level cohort need to switch to fully remote learning for a period of cleaning or quarantine.
- h. Case reporting and contact tracing
 - i. Per AB 86 (2021) and California Title 17, section 250, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
 1. Positive COVID-19 cases or direct exposures must be reported to Mrs. Julie Beckman, Director of Safety & Facilities at jbeckman@salemorange.com or 714-922-1065

13. Important Reminders for Partnering with the School:

- a. If your child is showing signs of any illness, or has been directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please keep him/her HOME:
 - i. Until 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND s/he has been fever free for at least 72 hours, OR
 - ii. A doctor has certified in writing that your child does not have COVID-19 and is cleared to be in school.
- b. Because you have the option to self-quarantine your child for 10 days instead of having him/her tested for COVID-19, Salem will never *require* a student to be tested for COVID-19.
- c. Your child does not need to receive a negative COVID-19 test result in order to return to school after illness if the criteria in the first bullet point are met.
- d. A negative test result directly following a positive test result does not negate the initial positive test result or the need for your child to meet the criteria in the first bullet point before returning to school.
- e. If your child is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, s/he is NOT allowed on campus until a negative result is received; DO NOT send your child to school while awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.
- f. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 within 48 hours of having been at school, we are required to conduct contact tracing and send other students - possibly the entire grade level - home for quarantine.
- g. If your child tests positive for COVID-19 at a doctor's office or clinic, the physician is required to report any positive result to OCHCA, and an agent will follow-up with Salem for contact tracing.
- h. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, we need you to report this to our Director of Safety and Facilities, Mrs. Julie Beckman, so that we can follow proper reporting procedures with OCHCA.
- i. If you have to give your child medication - prescription or over-the-counter - in order for him/her to appear/feel well enough to attend school, then s/he is NOT well enough to attend school.
- j. All communication regarding COVID-19 as it relates to Salem needs to go through Director of Safety and Facilities, Mrs. Julie Beckman at jbeckman@salemorange.com or 714-922-1065. Mrs. Beckman will be able to answer any questions you may have about your child's situation as it relates to his/her attendance at school.