

Cross Lutheran School Reopening Plan FAQ

Health and Safety FAQ

Q: What does “reopening our schools” really mean?

A: Gathering as a school community is an integral part of Christian education. Our plan is to reopen our school building to students this fall. This means that all students are welcome to return to classes for face-to-face instruction. We have developed an in-depth plan that addresses numerous aspects of the reopening process, and how school will function once reopened.

Q: Will students be safe when school is reopened?

A: Safety is always our top priority. In constructing our reopening plan, we have closely studied guidance from federal and state authorities. We have also used common sense and taken into consideration what is best for children in the big picture.

Q: Will all students be allowed to return to school full time?

A: Yes, provided that our region (Region 4) remains in Phase 4 of recovery or higher. Our plan provides for the return of all students for full-day instruction five days a week.

Q: Are parochial schools required to follow the mandates set forth by the State of Michigan in the MI Safe Schools Roadmap?

A: Yes

Q: Will students and Staff need to wear masks at school?

A: Yes. As per requirements of the state, all students will be required to wear masks in the hallways and other commons areas.

All students in grades DK-5 will not be required to wear facial coverings in their classrooms, unless (1) students do not remain with their cohort class throughout the school day and (2) come into close contact with students in another class.

K-5 students who wish to wear masks inside the classroom at all times may do so.

6th-8th grade students will need to wear masks throughout the day. Masks may be removed for brief periods of time under certain circumstances (such as outdoor play or lunch). However, when masks are removed, students must remain physically distant from one another (at least six feet).

All staff will wear facial coverings when in classrooms, except (1) during meals and (2) unless face coverings cannot be medically tolerated as documented through written and signed verification by a physician.

Q: Do I need to purchase masks for my child?

A: The school will provide a clean mask for your child to wear at school each day during the school day. However, you will need to provide a mask for your child to wear into and out of the building. The school masks are hand-sewn cotton designed to be easily put on and off. They will be laundered by the school with allergy-free, fragrance-free detergent.

Q: Can face shields be used instead of masks?

A: No, per state requirements face shields are not permitted at this time.

Q: Will teachers teach children how to use masks?

A: Yes. We know that students will need training to learn how to properly wear masks. We will spend time at the beginning of the year helping children learn how to safely keep masks in place.

Q: What if my child cannot medically tolerate a mask?

A: If such a medical condition exists, a medical waiver signed by a doctor stating that your child cannot medically tolerate a face mask will be required.

Q: Will students be required to physically distance at school?

A: When students are with their class or cohort, they should remain as far apart as possible, but do not need to keep at least six feet apart.

Q: Should I take my child's temperature every day before school?

A: Yes. A high fever is a key symptom of COVID-19. Parents should take their child's temperature every day before their child is taken to school. If your child has a fever, your child should be kept home from school. You should contact your child's doctor and the school's main office. Similarly, you should ask your child if he/she has any of the other [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, such as a sore throat, coughing, or nausea. If your child complains of these symptoms, you should keep him/her home and contact your doctor and the school office. According to the CDC, a temperature over 100.4°F constitutes a high fever. Please use your best judgement in determining what constitutes a fever for your own child.

Q: How will drop off and pick-up be handled?

A: Parents should not enter the school building when dropping off or picking up. If this is necessary, arrangements need to be made ahead of time and a mask will be required.

When students enter school every day, they will need to wear a face mask from home. At their locker, they will exchange their mask with the clean mask provided by the school. Upon entering their classroom, students will wash their hands with soap and water.

Q: What will happen if my child starts showing symptoms at school?

A: If a student has a temperature above 100.4°F or complains of other COVID-19 symptoms, he/she will be immediately sent to a quarantine area near the office and need to be picked up from school as soon as possible.

Q: What does the plan say about safety and cleanliness requirements for school buildings?

A: Our plan includes very specific requirements for the ongoing cleaning and sanitizing of our school building. Generally speaking, the building will be cleaned very frequently, with a particular focus on high-traffic areas and common surfaces.

Q: How will lunch take place when school reopens?

A: The gym will be used for lunch. Tables will be placed at least six feet apart. Students will sit at tables only with their cohorts, and they will be spaced apart as much as possible. Serving and cafeteria staff will use barrier protection including gloves, face shields, and/or masks. All food will be served to students (including salad bar items) unless the items are individually wrapped/package.

Q: What about recess?

A: If recess is outdoors, masks may be removed, but students will practice physical distancing.

Q: Can I still volunteer at school?

A: We are minimizing the number of volunteers this year in an effort to mitigate risk. If volunteers are needed, we will let you know.

Q: Will Latchkey (before and after school care) be available this year?

A: Yes. Our childcare center will follow LARA Regulations for daycare.

Q: My child and/or another member of my household is in an at-risk group for COVID-19. Should I send my child to school?

A: Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has defined [conditions in which certain people may be more at risk for severe illness through COVID-19](#). If your child or

another member of your household is in an at-risk group, we encourage you to speak to your doctor. Ultimately you should decide whether it is safe for your child to attend school.

Q: Is it okay for my family to travel out of the area during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: We recommend that you not travel out of the tri-county area during the current pandemic. However, if travel is necessary, we encourage you to become familiar with the CDC's Travel Guidelines. If you or a member of your household travels to another country or to a state identified by the CDC as having a surge in COVID-19 cases, you may be asked to wait for 14 days until returning your child to school.

Q: What happens if there is a COVID-19 surge in Michigan and the state imposes more restrictions on schools?

A: If a COVID-19 surge occurs, we will work closely with state and local officials to determine whether we can continue face-to-face instruction (even on an alternate schedule). If necessary, we will return to at-home virtual instruction.

Infection Protocols FAQ

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified several [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, including high fever (above 100.4°F), sore throat, coughing, nausea, headache, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, fatigue, diarrhea and difficulty breathing.

Q: What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?

A: If your child shows [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, you should contact your doctor. Your doctor may ask that your child participate in a COVID-19 test. You should alert your school's main office and not send your child to school. If the symptoms occur during the school day, your child will be immediately sent to the quarantine area by the office and you will be contacted to pick your child up from school.

Q: My child had COVID-19-like symptoms, but tested negative for COVID-19. When can he/she return to school?

A: If your child does not have COVID-19, but has another illness, you should keep your child home until the illness' symptoms disappear.

Q: What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

A: You should immediately contact your doctor for additional instructions. You should also contact your school's main office. You should not send your child to school.

Q: When can a student return to school after receiving a positive COVID-19 test?

A: If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the student must isolate and not return to school until they have met all of the [CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation](#). This includes:

1. Three or more days without a high fever;
2. A reduction of other COVID symptoms by at least 75 percent; and
3. At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Q: What should I do if a member of my household (who is not my child) tests positive for COVID-19?

A: You should immediately contact your school's main office. Your school will ask that you keep your child home for at least 14 days. If your family member recovers from COVID-19 (through meeting the criteria in the previous question) AND your child shows no COVID-19 symptoms for the 14-day period, the school may allow your child to return.

Q: What happens if my child's teacher tests positive for COVID-19?

A: Should any employee have COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, we will follow the same protocols used for students (see above). If your child's teacher becomes sick and is unable to work, the school will provide a substitute teacher.

Q: What happens if another student in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19?

A: The school will make all parents aware that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. All students in the cohort will be monitored closely for COVID-19 symptoms. If more than one student tests positive for COVID-19, it is possible that the entire cohort will be isolated (sent home) for at least 14 days. The school will be given guidance from the Huron County Health Department on this.

Q: Could school be closed down due to COVID-19 this year?

A: We will do our best to ensure a safe and healthy environment in the coming year. However, if numerous cases appear in our school, we may need to close the school building and transition all students to virtual learning for a time. The

school will be given guidance from the Huron County Health Department on this. Parents will be updated regularly should that need arise.

Academics and Programming FAQ

Q: Will my child's classroom look different?

A: We will spread out desks and tables in classrooms as much as possible. Desks and tables will be arranged so that they face the front of the room.

Q: Will students share school supplies?

A: No. Students will not share school supplies (e.g., books, crayons, technology, etc.), including for such subjects as art and music. Exceptions may be made for activities outdoors (such as outdoor PE classes). If it is not possible to avoid sharing supplies, such supplies must be cleaned after each use.

Q: Will schools still offer classes in special subject areas (e.g., art, music, PE, etc.)?

A: Yes:

- **Music:** The music teacher will travel to each class' homeroom for instruction whenever possible.
- **Band:** Students will meet in the band room or gymnasium and will be physically distant.
- **Physical Education:** PE will be held outside whenever possible and students will physically distance as much as possible.
- **Art:** Art will be taught within each classroom by the classroom teacher.

Q: Will students participate in field trips?

A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools will not participate in in-person field trips while the Region is in Phase 4.

Q: I need to meet with a teacher or my school principal. Can these meetings occur?

A: Yes. These meetings can take place virtually via phone or video chat. If needed, a face-to-face meeting may take place, provided masks are worn.

Q: Will school Chapel and Openings still take place?

A: Yes. We will still gather daily to worship together. Students will be seated with their classmates and classes will be spread out from one another. Masks will be worn during these times.

Q: Will there be an online option for instruction?

A: If our Region is moved into Phase 3 or lower, all learning will take place remotely. If we are in Phase 4 or higher, face-to-face instruction will take place in the school building. We are not able to offer an online-only option in Phase 4 or higher.