



SPLS Back to School 2020-2021 Plan

Overview

St. Paul's Lutheran School has developed this Back to School 2020-2021 Plan for reopening our school and continuing to nurture our students spiritually, emotionally, and academically for the 2020-2021 school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan provides an approach with actionable steps that will be taken before students and employees return to school buildings, along with school actions that will be taken given the possibility of varied levels of community spread of COVID-19 throughout the 2020-2021 school year. This plan is built with consideration for the guidance and recommendations of health officials and local leaders to prioritize the health and safety of students and staff as we return to SPLS for the 2020-2021 school year. While careful consideration has gone into the construction of this plan, school leadership recognizes that the plan must be fluid to allow SPLS to respond to potential changes in local health-related regulations.

The Back to School 2020-2021 Plan is grounded in the identity of St. Paul's Lutheran School, as defined by our Mission:

SPLS Mission

We teach God's Word through a loving, Christ-centered education while assisting families in equipping students to follow Jesus.

Sent to Serve

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28



SPLS Back to School 2020-21

This plan provides a flexible framework to address challenges that may develop throughout the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the possibility of varied levels of community spread of COVID-19. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, guidelines provide responses that SPLS has adopted to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members. All details are not listed in this document. The individual classroom teacher may provide more classroom specific details. As more scientific information is discovered, this document may be updated to reflect the most current research.

CDC

The CDC has provided recommendations to help with prevention that will be put into practice at SPLS. These preventions are handwashing, staying home when sick, and environmental cleaning and disinfecting. Facemasks will be encouraged to be worn by students.

COVID Symptoms

COVID-19 Positives have reported a wide range of symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include:

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell.

This is not all-inclusive. Please refer to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for more information.

We are asking families to help with monitoring these symptoms and if any are present, to **stay home**.

Precautions Taken

Physical Distancing

All classrooms will be set up to social distance with our furniture within the space of our classrooms. Students will be spaced as far apart as learning environment spaces allow.

Face Coverings

All faculty and staff will be required to wear face coverings while around people.

Students will be required to wear a mask if showing signs or symptoms while they move



to the sick room. Students will be encouraged to wear masks for the school day. Face masks should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or unable to remove the face mask without assistance. Please work with your child on how to properly put on and take off their mask. Classroom teachers will do the same using the [CDC guidelines](#).

Wearing your face covering:

- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

Please do not use bandanas or other loose-fitting coverings. Masks with valves are discouraged due to the valve opening when the person exhales.

For more information on Face Coverings, please visit, [cdc.org](https://www.cdc.org)

Proper Hygiene

SPLS will continue to work to educate the students in proper hygiene, specifically hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes correctly. We will also have hand sanitizer throughout the building, but this does not replace proper handwashing. We will have scheduled handwashing for everyone in the classroom.

Proper Cleaning

Each classroom will have a spray bottle with the proper bleach-water solution and towels for regular wipe downs throughout the day. Bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day after class bathrooms. The building will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.

Arrival/Dismissal (Entering School Building)

Arrival

Before coming to school, SPLS asks that the parent/guardian complete a self-check (provided) on each child. Upon arrival, students will have their temperatures checked and will be asked to sanitize their hands. They will be encouraged to go directly to their classroom. Preschool/Prekindergarten students should enter using the Southeast door by the parking lot. K-8 students should enter using the corridor door by the parking lot. Drop-off will begin at 7:40 AM. SPLS will not have a walker room to start the year. We ask that parents do not enter the building during this time to help limit any potential spread.



Dismissal

Students will be dismissed the same way that we have done so in the past while lining up with more distancing between classes.

All that are able will be asked to wear face coverings when entering and exiting the building.

Please do not plan to pick-up students from 3:10-3:20 PM as we prepare for regular dismissal of students.

Transition

When students are transitioning through the building they will be encouraged to wear a mask. We will work to limit the number of classes transitioning through the building at any time through scheduling.

Before and After School Care (procedures continue to be developed in a way that is consistent with school guidelines)

Before School Care: 6:00-8:00.

After School Care: 3:20-6:00.

In the Classroom (Teaching and Learning)

In-Person

We are excited to have students back in the classrooms. All grades will stay with their class throughout the day and have primarily their homeroom teacher (middle school as an exception). All students will be forward-facing and distanced as space allows. There will be a sanitary location for students to store their masks when not being worn.

Students are strongly encouraged to wear their masks in the building all day. Faculty and staff will be wearing face coverings when there are other people within 6 feet.

Students will limit shared supplies and will keep them nearby. If regular SPLS resources are used, they will be cleaned upon completion of use. All students will need to bring a full water bottle to school each day. Drinking fountains will not be used for direct use.

There will be regularly scheduled hand washing, bathroom breaks, and recess for the students. The scheduled times will help minimize the number of students in the hallway.

Music, PE, Art

Shared supplies will be cleaned after each use. Emphasis will be placed on distancing during these specials classes.



Lunch

Most classes plan to eat lunch in the classroom. **For those who order lunches, they will be delivered during the classes scheduled lunchtime to the classroom.** If your child brings lunch, please pack the needed utensils for eating, and *please do not pack lunches that need to be microwaved and are difficult for children to open.* Any birthday treat to share that is brought in must be store-bought individually prepackaged.

Parents/Building Visitors

We are asking that parents not enter the building during drop off or pick up. During the day, parents entering the building will be asked to self-check symptoms, enter through the Main Street entrance, wear a face mask, and go directly to the office to check-in. If you need to pick up your child early from school, please call the office at least 15 minutes prior to arrival, enter the building using the Main Street entrance, and sign your child(ren) out. If a student reenters the building, they will have their temperature checked and allowed to return to the classroom.

What if a Positive Case

The administration will serve as the point of contact for the local health department.

Anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 will be taken to the sick room. Parents will be contacted for pick up of students.

A student who is confirmed positive, or is in close contact with a household family member who has tested positive, or has had a positive contact which is defined as being within 6 feet of a confirmed positive for longer than 15 minutes will be asked to remain out of school and stay in quarantine until:

1. 10 days have passed since the first symptom, **24** hours fever free without medication and symptom-free
or
2. ~~10 days have passed, symptom-free and two negative results greater than 24 hours apart~~
or
3. Symptom-free students will be able to return to school when the 14 days have passed when all members in the household are symptom-free



According to current Lafayette County Health Department guidelines, a person will be exempt from quarantine for three months after that person tests positive for COVID-19 and has been released from quarantine OR after a person tests positive for COVID-19 antibodies. However, if a large portion of a class or the classroom teacher test positive, school resources may not allow for individual students of that class to physically attend school.

Teachers are considered to be essential workers in Lafayette County and may be released from their quarantine, so long as they show no symptoms, to continue teaching.

Please contact the office prior to returning to school if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

Families will be provided online resources and teaching will be available while at home. SPLS will work to continue to provide an excellent education for all students.

[Children's Mercy Hospital Guidance for School Reopening](#)

Communication with families will continue. Remember, families will need to keep their children home when they are not feeling well.

Please note, Lafayette County Health Department ultimately determines the extent of quarantine due to COVID-19. SPLS will follow their guidelines in that regard.