



COVID-19 Strategic Plan | 2020-2021

In response to COVID-19, Texas Education Agency (TEA) and The Center for Disease Control (CDC) have provided specific guidelines for the Texas schools. While Salem Lutheran School (SLS), as a private school, is not directly guided by TEA, we are expected to develop and follow plans that are “similar” as per Governor Abbott. In an effort to create a school where we can provide an excellent academic environment, we must also take measures that will reduce exposure to illness for both our students and teachers.

Guiding Principles for our Strategic Plan

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented health crisis for schools in our city, state, country, and world. As we plan for the 2020-'21 school year, the health and safety of our students at Salem Lutheran School is our top priority. We are committed to bringing students back to our campus and providing a safe place for them to grow spiritually, academically, and emotionally. The uncertainty of these times does not change the mission and vision of Salem Lutheran School.

- **Our mission:** Salem Lutheran School exists to empower new generations of leaders for service to Christ.
- **Our vision:** Salem Lutheran School will become a culture of faculty, staff, students, and parents who are well (g)rounded in Christ and well-rounded for life to serve God boldly in a world that does not.
 1. Prioritize the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and our school community.
 2. Use researched-based data to develop, implement, and enforce best practices in the area of health and education.
 3. Promote campus practices and policies that reduce the risk of virus transmission and provide flexibility as we respond to unknown variables.
 4. Respect and follow the authority of local, state, and federal guidelines and orders.

There may possibly be situations that necessitate temporary classroom/school closures due to positive COVID-19 cases in a classroom/our community. The school administration has created this plan in the event this should occur. Our goal is to work diligently with our parents and our teachers in preventing this through the mitigation steps outlined in this document.

PROVIDE NOTICE: Communication Procedures

When we are made aware that one of our students or a family member(s) in their home has a “lab-confirmed” positive COVID-19 test result, local health officials will be notified and there will be strategic layers of communication:

Grade Level Case – Communication will be sent to the parents of students in the specific homeroom of the student with a “lab-confirmed” test result. The rest of the grade level will receive communication of a positive “lab-confirmed” test result in that specific grade level.

COVID Case on Campus – The administration will send out communication to our SLS families, informing them of a “lab confirmed” positive case on our campus.

PREVENT: Procedures to prevent the virus from entering the school

COVID-19 Exposure & Symptoms:

“Close contact” is defined as:

- a. Being directly exposed to infectious secretions (i.e. being coughed on without the protection of a face shield or mask); or
- b. Being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes

If either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious, individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test. In evaluation whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we will consider the following symptoms:

- A temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or above
- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection within the past 72 hours
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
 - Low Grade Fever
 - Chills
 - Muscle Pain
 - Headache
 - Sore Throat
 - Loss of Taste or Smell
 - Diarrhea
- In the previous 14 days has had close contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19, or is ill with a respiratory illness
- In the previous 14 days has travelled internationally
- In the previous 14 days has travelled domestically to any area deemed a national “hot spot” for COVID-19

Campus-Wide Adjustments for Prevention

1. Routine health screening of teachers and students
2. Campus-wide education on hygiene, healthy habits, and clinic protocols (school nurse)
3. When a student becomes ill, they must stay at/be sent home and the following procedures should be followed:
 - a. Students must be picked up within 30 minutes of parent notification
 - b. Students may not return to school until after 72 hours without fever reducing medications and/or with a physician’s note to return, in addition to no visible symptoms
 - c. Symptomatic students will be isolated

4. Attendance Policies

- a. No attendance awards will be given for the 2020-21 school year
- b. A physician's note is required for extended absences
- c. Class/grade level credit may be earned through the delivery of the flex-learning model, but will be subject to participation and completion of assignments during the period of absence(s)

5. Increased sanitation protocols campus-wide

- a. Hand sanitizer available in every classroom
- b. Classrooms and common areas will routinely be sanitized using a commercial disinfectant
- c. Water fountains will be replaced by hands-free water bottle filling stations

RESPOND: Lab Confirmed Case in School

COVID-19 on Campus: The protocol will be determined by the local health department and CDC guidelines if a confirmed positive COVID-19 case occurs on our campus.

Possible scenarios listed below:

a) Flex-learning

- a. Implemented when individuals have had a "lab confirmed" positive test or have had "close contact" on our campus as directed by local and state guidelines

b) Campus access will be limited to essential personnel. No visitors will be allowed on campus without permission of the administration

1. For individuals who have come into "close contact" (by our definition stated above) with someone who has a "lab confirmed" positive test, a 14 day quarantine will be required and flex-learning will be available.
2. Individuals who have had a "lab-confirmed" positive test must meet the following criteria before their return to school:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and,**
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

MITIGATE: Daily Campus Procedures to reduce likely spread inside the school

Face Masks: In an effort to continue on campus instruction, Teachers will wear masks and/or face shields throughout the day. We highly recommend all students wear a mask, or gaiter in order to be in line with the current Executive order from Governor Abbott. All students will wear a mask, or gaiter in common areas during transition but will be able to remove them when in the classroom setting at the discretion of the teacher, when 6ft of social distancing is possible or when dividers are in use. On August 26, a week after our first day of school, we will re-evaluate this requirement as we continually monitor and evaluate current data from local and state health officials as well as the current executive orders from Governor Abbott.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up: Parents will use the carline for drop-off and pick-up. No walk-up areas will be allowed until further notice to reduce exposure. During drop-off, students will undergo a health screening before being allowed in the building. Specific details about the drop-off and pick-up procedures (where to drop-off and pick-up) will be announced at final registration.

Campus Volunteers: Campus volunteers will be limited to essential needs on campus. All volunteers will be required to check in at the school office to complete a health screening. Volunteer areas will be restricted to those without direct student access and all campus volunteers will be required to wear a mask for as long as mask orders are in place.

Campus Visitors: No outside visitors will be allowed during lunch time; students will either need to bring their lunch from home or purchase a hot lunch through the school lunch program.

Models of Learning

In Person/On Campus: This will be our typical classroom setting with physical distancing standards.

- a) Students will practice preventative hygiene habits while also employing realistic physical distancing
- b) Students will attend and participate in daily classroom instruction
- c) Students will have routine interaction with teachers and classmates using various areas of our campus throughout the day
- d) Classes will use shared facilities such as the playground for recess and cafeteria for lunch

Flex-Learning: This option is available for students who are required to stay home for a period of time due to illness (or illness in their family), or a specific family situation. To participate in this option, approval must be given from the administration and/or documentation from a physician will be required.

- a) Recordings of daily instruction will be available in an online format
- b) Daily agendas will be provided which will include lessons and required activities (through Gradelink, SeeSaw, and Google Classroom)
- c) All work will be posted and submitted in an online platform (SeeSaw for grades K-3 and Google Classroom for grades 4-8)
- d) Handouts will be provided for lower grade students who are not currently in a one-to-one environment on a daily basis in the classroom
- e) Communication with teachers and peers about activities and assignments
- f) Students will complete work for all core classes, high school credit classes (for 8th grade only), and Religion lessons daily

Remote Learning: This would take place in an instance where the Salem campus would need to be physically closed.

- a) Students will attend/view daily instruction in an online platform (SeeSaw for grades K-3 and Google Classroom for grades 4-8)
- b) Collaboration and Communication via online means with teachers and peers
- c) Students will complete work for all core classes, high school credit classes (for 8th grade only) and Religion lessons daily

COVID Questions or Concerns

Should you have any COVID questions or concerns, please contact Amy Boatman (aboatman@salem4u.com), Paul Stark (pstark@salem4u.com), or Dr. Mary Beth Gaertner (mgaertner@salem4u.com)

All reporting of illness(es) need to be reported to Nurse Moore (amoore@salem4u.com) AND to your child(ren)'s teachers.