



September 6, 2021

Dear TLCS Families,

As we get ready to start school Tuesday, September 7th, I know many of you are nervous about sending your child to school. I wanted to reach out and share with you the safety protocols and procedures that we have in place to help keep all students and staff safe.

Blachly School District and TLCS is following the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Education, CDC Guidance and Lane County Public Health recommendations regarding masking, cohorting of student groups, daily cleaning, physical distancing and hand sanitizing/hand washing opportunities throughout the day.

Safety protocols in place for students, staff and visitors coming to TLCS:

- Students, staff and visitors will be required to wear a face covering while indoors during the school day and while on a school bus.
 - At this time, the CDC is requiring that masks be used on all public transportation, which includes school buses.
 - Masks do not have to be worn when outdoors during recess, PE or outdoor learning. *However, 3 feet physical distancing will be encouraged when masks are not worn outdoors.*
 - Masks are not required for preschool students age 2-5, however, if you choose to have your preschool student wear a mask, we will support your choice.
- Hand sanitizing stations are available at each entrance and inside each classroom.
- Three-foot physical distancing will be encouraged whenever it is feasible and not disruptive to learning. This will especially be encouraged when unmasked outdoors.
- **TLCS continues to be closed to all visitors at this time.** Families choosing to drive their student to school, will be directed to the student drop-off area, where they will be screened upon entry. Please remain in your vehicles and parents will unfortunately not be allowed to escort their student to their classroom at this time. Be assured that we have several staff that will be present to assist and accompany your child to their classroom or appropriate location.

What can you do to help?

The ability of TLCS to remain open to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic depends heavily on the willingness of our community to continue to be diligent in following the safety protocols that have been proven to decrease the spread of the disease. Please wear masks when indoors in public areas. Please wash hands frequently. Please don't gather in large groups outside of your family unless you are masked and outdoors.

Additionally, if your child is showing signs of COVID-19, or has been exposed to COVID-19, please keep them home and contact the main office @ 541-925-3262.

- Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, sore throat, dry cough, shortness of breath, body aches and fatigue, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Please read the enclosed flyer on "Five Key Ways to Support Mental Health during COVID-19 Outbreak and Beyond" from Oregon Department of Education. Children feed off the energy of the adults around them.

They often mirror our emotions, words and body language. You do not have to be perfect, but please pay close



attention to what you say and how you say it. Children mimic our body language and emotions. They deserve to have as little stress in their lives as possible.

What will TLCS do if there is a COVID-19 exposure at school?

- TLCS will contact all students and staff that were a close contact to the positive COVID-19 person.
 - Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person for 15 minutes throughout the day regardless of mask status.
 - If you are not contacted, that means you or your child were not a close contact and do not need to quarantine.
- We will work with Lane County Public Health to implement contact tracing and quarantining protocols as necessary. *Please note that quarantine times are set by Lane County Public Health and are subject to change due to additional positive cases and/or additional information gathered by Lane County Public Health during contact tracing.*
- If your child must quarantine due to a positive test or an exposure, we will provide learning packets for them during their quarantine time.

Here are some links to articles that you might find helpful as you navigate sending your child back to school.

From OPB, an interview with Dr. Malaika Little, a Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist addressing Back to School concerns : <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/08/31/oregon-covid-19-cases-back-to-school-in-person-class-pandemic/>

From the CDC Website, Frequently Asked Questions for Parents: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/parent-faqs.html>

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The current Delta Variant of COVID-19 is much stronger and is more contagious than the previous strain. It is affecting kids a bit more severe, however, a tiered approach of vaccination, masking, physical distancing, along with other safety protocols such as disinfection, air circulation, quarantining and contact tracing, we can help slow the spread within our school and community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Brittany Bottensek or Adam Watkins at 541-925-3262. We look forward to partnering with you this year as we navigate these ever-changing times.

Stay safe and healthy,

Adam Watkins
Superintendent