



The following are the procedures that will be implemented at Gethsemane Lutheran School during the 2021-2022 school year to keep our students safe and to allow us to have school in our building. These procedures were taken from CDC and DHS guidelines that were sent out regarding best practices for schools.

Gethsemane Lutheran School is taking all guidelines and recommendations from the CDC into consideration. We also want to ensure best practices for your child's education. Some guidelines are not feasible to run Gethsemane effectively. We by no means want to put any child at risk of contracting COVID, but also need to take the best teaching practices into account.

**These procedures supersede the policies stated in our Parent and Student Handbook. Until the pandemic has subsided, these procedures will be in place. Once the pandemic is over, we will return to the policies regarding health and safety in the Parent and Student Handbook.**

#### **Before Leaving for School**

- Please check your student's temperature before leaving for school to verify they *do not* have a fever of 100°F or more. (Do not medicate your student and send them.)
- Perform a visual check on your student for the following conditions:
  - Flushed Cheeks
  - Rapid Breathing/Difficulty Breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Extreme Fussiness
  - Runny Nose
  - Excessive Cough
  - Sneezing
  - Rash
- Faculty and Staff of Gethsemane will perform the same visual and temperature check listed on themselves.

#### **Before and After School Care**

- Parents will enter the building to sign their children out at the end of the day. Before school, the staff will sign them in when they arrive. Please drop your children off at the main school entrance.
- Please only use if necessary, avoid using before and aftercare for playdates.

#### **Drop-off**

- Parents are welcome into the building if they need to accompany their child or speak with staff.
- Communication between teacher and parent/caregiver can be handled through email, phone calls, or a scheduled appointment.

## Entering School

- Students will have their temperature taken at the beginning of each school day. If their temperature is over 100.4°F, they will be required to leave school.
- Any individual with a temperature of over 100.4°F will not be allowed to return to school until 24 hours after the fever has broken.
  - The individual with a temperature over 100.4°F should consider getting tested for COVID.
  - If an individual has a positive test for COVID see **If a Student Tests Positive For COVID** section of the Pandemic Plan.
  - Speak with your child's teacher about the possibility of virtual options for class.
- A hand sanitizer station will be placed at the entrance of the school and students will apply it as they enter the building. There are also hand sanitation stations throughout the building and in each classroom.
- Teachers will do a visual check for the following conditions:
  - Flushed cheeks
  - Rapid Breathing/Difficulty Breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Extreme Fussiness
  - Runny Nose
  - Excessive Coughing
  - Sneezing
  - Rash

## Classroom

- Students will intensify handwashing practices throughout the day.
- Any supplies used collectively will be sanitized regularly.
- Teachers will intensify cleaning and disinfecting efforts on surfaces that are used frequently with EPA approved products.
- Students are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles to school to replace drinking fountains. They should be taken home daily to be sanitized.
- Please do not bring personal items from home, as these are ways for the virus to be transferred. (e.g. stuffed animals, toys, extra devices)
- Mask Requirements in the classroom
  - Indoors: CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals age 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
  - Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised.
  - During school transportation: CDC's Order applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, regardless of vaccination status, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order.
  - Students should be treated with respect whether they are or are not wearing a mask.

### **Lunchroom**

- All lunchroom helpers will wear gloves while preparing and serving food.
- Students will be spread out in the lunchroom to keep the required 3 foot spacing.

### **Recess**

- Recess will proceed with normal routines.

### **Chapel**

- Chapel will be held in church with all students spread out.

### **Pick-Up**

- Students will be walked out to one of two car lines. Those with a last name ending in A-M will come out the main doors of the school. Those with a last name ending in N-Z will exit from the doors by the science room. (Staff will be present to help guide parents to the proper space.)
- As caregivers pull up, students will be excused to go to their vehicles.

### **Middle School**

- The students will use their own supplies and not borrow supplies from a shared desk.

### **If a Student or Member of the Household Has Symptoms**

- Contact either your student's teacher, school secretary, or principal.
  - Share any information from the doctor and the dates of the first symptoms.
- If initial symptoms happen at school:
  - The student will be isolated with supervision.
  - Parents/Caregivers will be contacted for immediate pick-up.
  - Students should be taken to a COVID testing site for analysis.

### **If a Student Tests Positive for COVID**

- Contact either your student's teacher, school secretary, or principal.
- The student will stay home for 5 days after a positive test. After 5 days, they may return to school if there are no symptoms and they test negative after the 5th day. If they still test positive they can continue to test every day and return with a negative test. If they continue to test positive after 10 days, they may return to school regardless of test status.
- If a student is exposed to someone with covid at home or is in close contact with another student, they must be quarantined for 5 days, have no symptoms, and have a negative covid test to return. **\*\*\*If the student is fully vaccinated no quarantine is required, please monitor for any symptoms.**
- The teacher will work with parents to develop a homework plan. Many classes will have students login virtually when home.
- Gethsemane will send home a notice that a student in a particular class or someone in close contact with has tested positive for COVID.
- The class that is affected by the positive COVID case will follow these procedures:
  - Families will be informed of a positive case.
  - Class will continue as normal with the option of virtual learning for families who would like to keep their children home.
  - The class will be separated throughout the school day to minimize contact with other classes.
  - Gethsemane reserves the right to have a classroom begin virtual learning if there is a trend in positive cases.

### **If a member of the Family/Caregiver Tests Positive for Covid**

- Family should contact either your student's teacher, school secretary, or principal.
- If a student is exposed to someone with covid in the household, the student must quarantine for 5 days after the family members 5 day quarantine, have no symptoms, and have a negative covid test to return. Without a negative covid test, students must quarantine for 14 days past the quarantine time. **\*\*\*If the student is fully vaccinated no quarantine is required, please monitor for any symptoms.**
- Other students who may have been in contact due to carpooling/bussing or other close proximity activities should also follow the above rule.
- The teacher(s) of the student(s) will work with parents to develop a homework plan for the children in this family.

All guidelines for Gethsemane Lutheran School are subject to change based upon mandates from the CDC and MDH as well as community spread and spread within our school building.