

## RLS Covid-19 Preparedness Planning for 2020-2021 School Year

We have learned a lot at RLS about preparing for unforeseen events this past school year. Our Reopening Task Force, made up of 12 Resurrection staff and Board members, 8 RLS parents, many of whom are in the Health or Education fields, and 7 community experts, again many of whom are in those two fields, have made recommendations to the Board for safely reopening RLS in August. We thank them for their tremendous efforts for our school ministry.

God is good! If ever there was a time to be grateful for smaller class sizes, this is it! Our small classes not only allow us to provide an excellent education for your child, it also allows us to operate our school differently than other larger schools. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services released guidelines for reopening public schools in North Carolina requiring schools to create three plans.

- Plan A: Minimal Social Distancing campuses open with enhanced health and social distancing protocols.
- Plan B: Moderate Social Distancing with a blended learning model requiring schools to reduce the number of people in the building (half). Some students will learn at home while others remain on campus with enhanced health and social distancing protocols.
- Plan C: Remote Learning Only (as we did our “Distance Learning” the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year.)

Our scenario is different from public schools because we have fewer students. Realistically, even if the county goes to their Plan B, that is our starting point. Because of our small community, we are better able to easily pivot to meet the needs of the time. For students who are not able to physically attend school, there will be a distance learning plan in place from day #1.

### RLS “Healthy Together Plan”

To make it easier for parents, RLS has worked with trusted health authorities to implement best practices for a three-phase system. We call it our “Healthy Together Plan” and will utilize a Green-Yellow-Red system.

Green is operating as we have always operated in past years with no modification.

Yellow will be on-campus learning with modifications.

Red will be distance learning only, no on campus learning.

Based on the current information and our experts’ health recommendations, our plan is to open on August 19 under the “Yellow Scenario”. We understand that the situation is fluid and will make adjustments as needed. A Family Agreement to these protocols will be required from each family to attend RLS this school year and will be available later in July.

## Green Scenario

--RLS will operate under normal conditions with full use of all facilities. This includes:

- No modifications for social distancing required.
- Standard cleaning procedures.
- Students will learn virtual platforms in school in case of a scenario change.

## Yellow Scenario

--RLS will operate with modified conditions with limited use of facilities.

The goal for this phase is to keep students on campus as safely as possible. Students will continue to learn virtual platforms in school in case of a scenario change. This currently looks like this:

**Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure:** *“Social distancing is a key tool to decrease the spread of Covid-19. Social distancing (physical distancing) means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home,” according to StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12), June 8, 2020.*

- RLS will cap classes at 15 students for the 2020-2021 school year. Exceptions will be made in limited circumstances. If a class was already above this number prior to the pandemic, they will be moved to a larger classroom. This limit was determined by measuring the room sizes and applying best practices for distancing the students and faculty in the rooms.
- Staff and students will follow modified hallway patterns that include spacing guides.
- RLS will discontinue activities that bring together large groups that do not allow for social distancing and will instead incorporate virtual events.
- Students will remain in their homeroom “bubble” or group throughout the day. Protocols will be in place to prevent bubbles from overlapping, such as restroom and playground usage.
- Enrichment classes and electives will be modified or moved to reduce exposure.
- We will continue to offer a modified music program following the recommended safety guidelines.
- End of day carpool will be adjusted for social distancing.

**Face Coverings:** *“Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) if feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Consider cloth face coverings for younger children if it is determined they can reliably wear, remove, and handle masks following CDC guidance throughout the day. Individuals should be reminded frequently not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands,” according to StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12). Face coverings can include a mask, a clear shield, a cloth bandana, or a neck gaiter, etc.*

- A teacher will have a face covering at all times when working within six feet of anyone. When socially distanced, the teacher will not be required to wear a face covering.
- Students will wear face coverings in public places where they cannot be socially distanced and/or where other bubbles (groups) may be, or when working closely with another person.
- Students will not be required to wear a face covering when they are within their bubble, such as in the classroom and out at recess.
- Although face coverings are not required at all times (see above), they are highly recommended.

**Protecting Vulnerable Populations:** *Individuals who are considered high-risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 or are required to remain physically distanced from school due to health protocols.*

- Please contact the office if accommodations are needed for your student.
- RLS will be providing distance learning for this population.

**Cleaning and Hygiene:** *Enhanced cleaning and hygiene are helpful in reducing the spread of disease.*

- Daily cleaning and disinfecting procedures have been set for teachers and janitorial staff.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols throughout the school day will be implemented with additional training for teachers, staff, and students.
- Teachers will incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activities.
- Teachers will allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.
- Hand sanitizers and wipes will be readily available.
- We will ensure the ventilation system is working properly and efficiently.
- Students must bring a water bottle instead of drinking directly from the fountain.

**Monitoring for Symptoms:** It is our top priority to keep our RLS family safe. It's Healthy Together! *“Conducting regular screening for symptoms and ongoing self-monitoring throughout the school day can help reduce exposure. Staff and students should be encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath. If a student develops symptoms throughout the day, they must notify an adult immediately,” according to the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)*

- In the vehicle while in the carline, parents will respond to the screening questions found on the back of their carpool card, then RLS staff will take the temperature of the students. (See Attachment: “Handling Suspected, Presumptive or Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 Flow Chart and Protocol”)

- If 100.4 fever or positive answers to any screening questions is determined, no one from the vehicle will be allowed to enter the school building and will instead utilize the distance learning protocols.
- To minimize the risk, only RLS students, staff, and essential visitors, may enter the school building during the school day.
- The symptom screening checklist will be used to evaluate students throughout the day as needed. (See Attachment: “Symptom Screening Checklist”)
- Teachers and staff will follow the same procedures in order to enter the building.

**Handling Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of Covid-19.** (See attached tables, “Positive Screening Protocol: At School or Transportation Entry” and “Positive Screening Protocol: During the School Day” provided by StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit, K-12.)

- Teachers will determine whether a student appears sick. Symptoms on the checklist will be monitored carefully and parents will be contacted.
- Designated staff members will evaluate the child’s symptoms.
- If a child is determined to be sick, he or she will be isolated and wait in the designated sick room.
- Parents will be called and expected to pick up their child right away.
- Staff and students will stay home if they test positive for Covid-19 or are showing symptoms until they meet criteria for return (see attached “Positive Screening Protocol” tables).

**Coping and Resilience:** *“The outbreak of COVID-19 can be stressful for many. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Schools can play an important role in helping students and staff cope and build resilience to support the well-being of the community,” according to StrongSchoolsNC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12).*

- RLS will provide educational resources for staff and parents on signs of mental stress.
- RLS will encourage staff, students, and families to talk with people they trust about their concerns about COVID-19 and how they are feeling.
- As always, Pastor Blanke is available for anyone seeking pastoral care.

**Communication:**

RLS will be timely, intentional, proactive, informative, and direct in our communication. Weekly updates will be communicated through “The Lion’s Tale Weekly” and through the school website. Questions may be directed to our Healthy Together email hotline at [healthytogether@rlscary.org](mailto:healthytogether@rlscary.org) .

**Red Scenario**

**--RLS will operate using distance learning only.**

Based on your feedback and after much professional development, we have learned a lot about utilizing best practices in distance learning. RLS has improved our distance learning program to better meet the anticipated needs of our families. It will look different than last year's emergency remote teaching and will include the following:

- Students will utilize distance learning platforms appropriate for their age group.
- Students will follow a designated schedule and attendance will be taken.
- Clear expectations with a distance learning contract for the parents, teachers, and students will be utilized.
- Teachers will utilize live instruction combined with recorded lessons and teacher office hours.
- Offline assignments will also be provided so students are not "staring at a screen" for seven hours a day.
- Streamlined communication from teachers, staff, and administration will be a priority.

**Additional Considerations:**

*Athletics, After Care, Before Care, Band & Choir:*

Athletic Director Robin Hester will share information concerning Fall athletics as we receive guidance from the state and local authorities. We are studying how we can safely offer before and after school care, but those plans are still evolving. Vocal arts and band guidelines are very restrictive at this time, and we are looking for solutions that will safely enable our students to participate in these activities.

*Calendar:*

RLS plans to begin the 2020-2021 school year on August 19th. We are hopeful that we will be able to adhere to this published calendar for the entire school year. Adjustments to the calendar may be necessary depending on this evolving health situation. The recent past has shown us that we will need to be flexible in our scheduling this year. We may need to utilize inservice and holiday dates for in-person instruction. We will give as much notice as possible if this is to occur.

Thank you for your attention to this document and please realize we are in a situation where things may change. More updates will be forthcoming throughout the summer, especially as we get more guidance from the Governor and state and local authorities.

In Christ's Service,

RLS Board of Directors  
July 1, 2020

**(Last Edited: July 1, 2020, 11:30 am)**