



# Resurrection Lutheran School Healthy Together 2021-2022

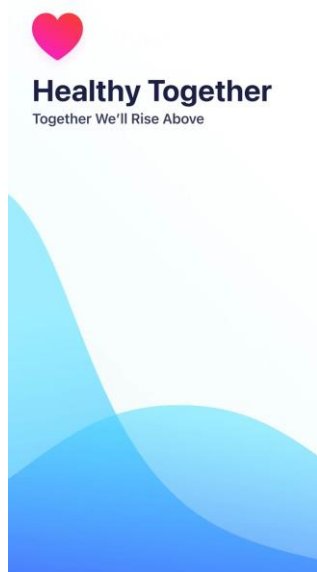
(Last revised August 23, 2021) Attachment A updated 01/07/22

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran School! Below you will find information that will serve as a guideline for the 2021-2022 school year. This document will be revised periodically as we continue to monitor the latest information, best practices and professional guidance throughout the course of the school year.

As a vital mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church, RLS remains committed to providing an academically rich, Christ-centered educational experience. Resurrection Lutheran School faculty, staff, and Board look forward to working in partnership with you to provide the best possible academic experience for our students. Thank you in advance for your support and encouragement.

## PROMOTING VACCINATION

Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations. Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe illness, including hospitalization or death. A growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are also less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. In most settings, people who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic.



## REOPENING PROCEDURES

Our goal is to remain "Healthy Together" throughout the entire school year. The following guidelines will be in effect at the start of the school year and will continue to be updated as new information becomes available. In addition to being best practices, we

see these actions as an opportunity to care for one another. Like last year, we appreciate you taking precautions at home to promote safety in our school.

## GENERAL PROTOCOLS

### **MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS:**

It is our top priority to keep our RLS family safe. Staff and students will be required to self-monitor for symptoms according to the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12).

*The presence of any of the symptoms below generally suggests a student, teacher, or staff member has an infectious illness and should not attend school, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. For students, staff, and teachers with chronic conditions, symptom presence should represent a change from their typical health status to warrant exclusion from school. Occurrence of any of the symptoms below, updated in alignment with the CDC, while a student, teacher, or staff member is at school suggests the person may be referred for diagnostic COVID-19 testing.*

- *Fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)*
- *Sore throat*
- *Cough (for people with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)*
- *Difficulty breathing (for people with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)*
- *New loss of taste or smell*
- *Diarrhea or vomiting*
- *New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever*

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MINIMIZING EXPOSURE:**

*Physical distancing means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your household and is a key tool to decrease the spread of COVID-19 according to StrongSchools NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12), August 10, 2021.*

- RLS will maintain at least 3 feet of distance between students in classrooms to the greatest extent possible. (e.g., desks spaced 3 feet apart).
- RLS will maintain at least 6 feet of distance between adult staff and students to the greatest extent possible (e.g., teacher delivers classroom instruction from at least 6 feet away)
- 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 small cohort groups throughout the day. Protocols will be in place to limit mixing between cohort groups as much as possible. Cohort groups are defined as early elementary, upper elementary, middle school.
- We will continue to offer a modified music program following the recommended safety guidelines.
- RLS will minimize opportunities for sustained exposure between students, teachers, staff, and visitors in areas they may congregate.
- RLS will provide frequent reminders for students, teachers, and staff to stay at least 6 feet apart when feasible.

### **FACE COVERINGS:**

The Resurrection Lutheran School Board voted on August 2, 2021 on our policy as it relates to face coverings and other protocols relating to the pandemic for the 2021-2022 academic school year. **While our governing body and administrative team will re-evaluate on a continuous basis throughout the school year, a decision has been made to require face coverings for students, faculty, and all visitors while inside during the school day. Masks will not be required outdoors.**

Our goal is to remain in person and take actions to keep our school community safe. We will expand our bubbles to include larger cohorts, slowly introduce parent participation and begin to “normalize” the school experience for our students as the situation evolves. We will consider how we can take advantage of outdoor learning space whenever possible. This will require us to be flexible and patient with each other as we discover new ways to expand outdoor areas for lunch, interactive lessons and frequent mask breaks. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support as we begin another year of uncertainty. We are counting on you to “shine your light” in the brightest possible way!

Please take a moment to review the latest edition of [StrongSchoolsNC, Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\), Interim Guidance](#) as this will be our guiding document. (excerpt below)

#### ***Cloth Face Coverings***

*The following guidance reflects the latest CDC recommendations on masks. When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important indoors and in crowded settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. • Indoors: Mask use is recommended for all people including students, teachers, and staff in K-12 settings. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask. Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, 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 who are not fully vaccinated.*

**All schools should:**

Require all children and staff in schools K-12th grade to wear face coverings consistently when indoors. Schools K-12th grade should make mask use universally required (i.e., required regardless of vaccination status) given that most of the student population in those grades are not yet eligible for vaccination.

**VISITORS:**

- To minimize the risk of exposure, we will begin the school year by limiting access to the school building to students, teachers, and essential personnel.
- As the school year begins, we will not allow parent volunteers inside the school. However, there will be other ways for parents to participate in their child's school life. Teachers will be in communication with you about outdoor opportunities.
- Parent meetings will be conducted virtually or outside regular school hours.

**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.
- Students must bring a water bottle instead of drinking directly from the fountain.

**HVAC SYSTEM:**

- HVAC systems have been set to circulate fresh air and air filters have been added to each classroom return vent.

**HANDLING SUSPECTED, PRESUMPTIVE OR CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19:**

*"Positive Screening Protocol: At School or Transportation Entry" and "Positive Screening Protocol: During the School Day" provided by StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit, K-12.*

**Symptoms:** Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, should stay home, and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. Staying home when sick is essential to keep infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. For students, staff, and teachers with chronic conditions, symptom presence should represent a change from

their typical health status to warrant exclusion from school. Occurrence of any of the symptoms below while a student, teacher, or staff member is at school suggests the person may be referred for diagnostic COVID-19 testing or evaluation.

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Sore throat
- Cough (for people with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Difficulty breathing (for people with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

**Diagnosed:** People presumed to have or are diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home until they meet the criteria for return to school. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools and preventing spread to others.

**Exposed:** It is also essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent close contact to someone with COVID-19. However, as of 7/9/21, CDC added an exception to the need to quarantine in the close contact definition, excluding students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or clinically compatible illness) where:

- both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; and
- other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting.
- This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting

See attachment A - Return to School Scenarios

## **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.

### **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE:**

Morning Care will be available from 7:45 am-8:15 am on Monday- Friday.

After School Care will be available from 3:00-5:00 pm Monday -Thursday. After school care will NOT be offered on Fridays.

We are planning to divide students in two age groups. Each group will have an adult leader and the appropriate number of junior leaders. Staffing will be determined based on the number of students registered. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate drop in requests this year.

During after school care hours students will be encouraged to work on their homework. However, we will spend as much time as feasible outside. Picnic tables and outdoor workspace will be available for those who prioritize homework completion. Computer time will be limited, and physical play will be promoted.

### **ATHLETICS:**

Mask guidelines for fall athletics- please know and understand that these guidelines may change based on any updates by the governor, state, CDC, etc.

- Outdoor athletics (XC, soccer)- masks are recommended, however, they are NOT required to be worn at any time.
- Indoor athletics (volleyball)- masks are required to be worn during play or when engaged in physical activity. Masks are required when not actively engaged in practice or play such as sitting on the bench during a game.
- Spectators- spectators are welcome but must abide by the above mask guidelines. Recommended, but not required for outdoor athletics where physically distanced; required for indoor athletics.

Please Note- we will be required to follow any guidelines/protocols put in place by our opponent's campus we are traveling to and the facilities we are renting. Although the above guidelines are put in place, all athletes will be required to have a mask on hand (make this a part of their equipment/attire bag) just in case our opponents and/or facilities we are traveling to require masks to be worn as they may have their own and, in some cases, stricter policies.

### Recommendations

All coaches, athletes, spectators, and other participants wear a face covering when outdoors and less than 6ft away from others.

Designate and arrange specific equipment for use that is properly spaced at 6 feet apart.

Group activities should be spaced six feet apart.

Consider workouts in groups/pods of individuals with the same group to limit exposure should someone become sick.

### Requirements

Remind individuals not to shake hands, give high fives, or fist pumps before, during, or after the game or practice.

Coaches, officials, and others should modify communication and avoid up close face to face communication.

Wash/sanitize hands immediately prior to and following events (sanitizer will be provided).

Limit sharing of equipment.

Disinfect all shared equipment (cleaner will be provided).

Remind individuals to bring their own water bottles, and that those water bottles are not shared.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

RLS will be timely, intentional, proactive, informative, and direct in our communication. Weekly updates will be shared through "The Lion's Tale Weekly" and through the school website.

### **DISTANCE LEARNING:**

Distance learning strategies will be assessed by the administration on a case-by-case basis. In circumstances that warrant a physical shut down, RLS will operate in a distance learning only mode, no on campus activity.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (2021-2022)

What are the technology requirements should RLS go to a distance learning scenario?

*Students will need to have a device running Chrome OS. We primarily use Chromebooks at school, so that is ideal. But any device that can run Chrome OS and be dedicated to one child would be best.*

RLS embraces a very hands-on approach. How will this be managed virtually?

*Live-streaming, Google Meet and other virtual resources will be explored throughout the year.*

Will RLS offer extracurricular activities this year?

*It is our intention to offer fall and spring athletic opportunities. We will continue monitoring the situation.*

Will my student need to wear their mask during outdoor recess?

*Masks are not required while outdoors.*

May I send in a class treat for birthdays ie; cookies, cupcakes?

*Yes, you are invited to provide store bought, individually wrapped birthday treats for the entire class.*

What is the playground protocol?

*Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the playground.*

What are the restroom protocols?

*JK-2nd will use restrooms located in their classroom. Upper Elementary (3-5) will use downstairs girls/boys restrooms. Stalls and sinks will be designated by grade to reduce cross contamination. Middle School (6-8) will model this protocol on the second floor. We will limit the number of students that can be in the restroom at any given time.*



## RETURN TO SCHOOL SCENARIOS (upd 01/07/22)

### Attachment A

Adhere to the following criteria for allowing a student or staff member to return to school: See CDC antigen algorithm for interpretation of antigen tests

#### Management of COVID cases and contacts:

- Exclusion from school for positive COVID cases and close contacts is **required** following the specific criteria and exemptions listed in the table below.

Exclusion Category	Scenario	Criteria to return to school
Diagnosis	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with an <b>antigen test</b> but <b>does not have symptoms</b> of COVID-19 and is not known to be a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.	<p>If the person has a repeat PCR/molecular test performed in a laboratory within 24 – 48 hours of their positive antigen test, and that PCR/molecular test is negative: the positive antigen test can be considered a false positive and the person can immediately return to school;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>If the person does not have a repeat PCR/molecular test, or has one within 24 – 48 hours and it is also positive, the person can return to school 5 days after the specimen collection date of the first positive test, as long as they did not develop symptoms. The person <b>must</b> continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others.</p> <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p>
Diagnosis	Person has tested <b>positive</b> with a <b>PCR/molecular test</b> but the person does <b>not</b> have symptoms.	Person can return to school 5 days after the specimen collection date of their positive test as long as they did not develop symptoms. The person <b>must</b> continue to mask for an additional 5 days to minimize risk of infecting others.

<p><b>Symptoms</b></p>	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has tested positive with an antigen test or PCR/molecular test</p>	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul> <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p> <p>The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the first day of symptoms to minimize the risk of infecting others</p>
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<p><b>Symptoms</b></p>	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested for COVID-19 nor has visited a health care provider. Therefore, the person who has symptoms is presumed positive for COVID-19 due to the presence of a clinically compatible illness in the absence of testing.</p>	<p>Person can return to school when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been at least 5 days after the first day of symptoms; AND</li> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.</li> </ul> <p>The person is not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.</p> <p>The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the first day of symptoms to minimize the risk of infecting others</p>
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<p><b>Symptoms</b></p>	<p>Person has symptoms of COVID-19 but has received a negative test for COVID-19* or has visited a health care provider and received <b>an alternate diagnosis</b> that would explain the symptoms of COVID-19 *In a person with symptoms, a negative test is defined as either (1) a negative PCR/molecular test or (2) a negative antigen test if the person has a low likelihood of SARS-CoV-2 infection (e.g., the person has no known or suspected exposure to a person with COVID 19 within the last 14 days or is fully vaccinated). See CDC antigen algorithm for interpretation of antigen tests</p>	<p>Person can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has been at least 24 hours since the person had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine); AND</li> <li>• They have felt well for at least 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The health care provider is not required to detail the specifics of the alternate diagnosis.</p>
<p><b>Exposure</b></p>	<p>Person in a mask optional setting for whom an exception to exclusion does not apply and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19</p>	<p>Person must be excluded from school for 5 days after exposure. Person may return to school after exclusion if asymptomatic but must continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days, for a total of 10 days after exposure. The 5 days of exclusion begins on the day after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. They should test on day 5, if possible.</p> <p>If symptoms occur, person should immediately isolate until a test either confirms COVID-19, or a negative result rules it out.</p>
<p><b>Exposure (Exemption on vaccinated)</b></p>	<p>Person has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and is in one of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are 18 years of age and have received their primary series AND booster, if eligible.</li> <li>• They are between the ages of 5-17 and have completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. Boosters are not required to meet this exception for this age group.</li> </ul>	<p>Person does not need to be excluded from school if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19</p> <p>The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure to minimize the risk of infecting others and should get tested on day 5, if possible.</p>
<p><b>Exposure (Exemption on Masked exposure)</b></p>	<p>Person has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, in which both individuals were wearing a mask the entire time</p>	<p>Person does not need to be excluded from school if masks were being worn appropriately and consistently by both the person with COVID-19 and the potential exposed person. This applies to exposures in classrooms, other in-school settings, extracurricular activities, including athletic activities and school transportation.</p>
<p><b>Exposure (Exemption on Infection in past 90)</b></p>	<p>Person has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test)</p>	<p>Person does not need to be excluded from school if they have had no symptoms after being a close contact to someone with COVID-19.</p> <p>The person must continue to wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure to minimize the risk of infecting</p>

days)		
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<b>Exposure (Exemption Test to Stay in Mask Required Setting)</b>	<p>Person in a mask required setting and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in which one or both individuals were not wearing a mask the entire time</p>	<p>Individuals in a <b>mask-required school setting</b> do NOT need to be excluded from school after a close contact, including unmasked exposures (e.g., during lunch or extracurricular activities), if they have no symptoms. Individuals with unmasked exposures in a mask required school setting should get tested on the day of notification of exposure and as close to day 5 after exposure as possible and must wear a mask in school settings. This exemption applies to in-school exposures as described above as well as non-household, out-of school exposures. While the individual does not need to be excluded from the school setting, quarantine measures may still apply in non-school settings. If testing supply is limited, priority should be given to testing of students participating in athletics because of the higher risk of transmission in that setting.</p>
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\*For individuals exposed, day of exposure is considered day zero (0). For individuals with symptoms and who have been tested, day of specimen collection is considered day zero (0).

COVID-19 Informed Consent Agreement  
Resurrection Lutheran School

I, members of my household, and any caregivers for my student(s) acknowledge that Resurrection Lutheran School (RLS) has put into place preventive and mitigation measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 according to the "Healthy Together" Reopening Plan shared with me and published on the school's website. I accept that my student(s) and I must abide by the stipulations of the Healthy Together Plan to the best of our ability. I understand our cooperation is mandatory whether or not I personally feel such COVID-19 procedures and/or preventive measures are necessary.

I understand that in-person education, despite my own best efforts and that of RLS, may increase the risk of exposure to COVID-19. I am aware that exposure to COVID-19 can result in severe illness. I acknowledge that RLS cannot ensure that my student, members of my household, and any caregivers for my student(s) will not potentially become infected with COVID-19.

I, and my family, will follow to the best of our ability all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other recommended guidelines from our state and local authorities for limiting exposure to COVID-19 outside of the school setting.

**My Consents.** I have been made aware of the topics above and in the Healthy Together Plan and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. Being fully informed, I accept the risk of COVID-19 exposure and I will bear the cost of any COVID-19 treatments required.

Name of student(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Distance Learning Agreement for the 2020-2021 School Year**

We are thankful for your family and the opportunity we have to partner together in your child's education. The purpose of this document is to ensure that our teachers, students, and parents partner together to provide the most optimal educational environment for our students during this unusual pandemic situation should RLS need to go to a distance learning scenario.

### **Student Agreement**

\_\_\_ I will take responsibility for my daily assignments by completing the assignments and returning them to the teacher by the deadline.

\_\_\_ I will check emails regularly throughout the day to establish clear communication between my teacher and myself.

\_\_\_ I will dress appropriately (no sleepwear) for virtual classes. Dress Down Day dress code is considered appropriate. *No hats, hoods, or sunglasses should be worn during virtual learning time.*

\_\_\_ I understand that Distance Learning is not a break from school, and I will be punctual to the start time of each of my classes.

\_\_\_ I agree to have my video and audio on as required by the teacher.

\_\_\_ I understand the importance of prompt communication with my teachers on a regular basis particularly when I am having difficulties with technology and/or academics.

\_\_\_ If another individual completes any portion of virtual learning assignments on my behalf, this is considered cheating, and will result in a zero for the assignment.

Cheating is considered a serious academic offense. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- A. Unauthorized sharing of test answers.
- B. Unauthorized sharing of class assignment or homework.
- C. Plagiarism for purposes of this offense, plagiarism is defined as the unauthorized representation of another's work as one's own.
- D. Work completed or highly assisted by a person other than the intended student.

In addition, any unethical practice which compromises the integrity or teacher's intent of an assignment, test or quiz such as (but not limited to) the use of unauthorized resources (calculator, teacher materials, textbooks, another learner's work, etc.) shall be deemed to be cheating or plagiarism and will result in disciplinary action.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement and Understanding**

\_\_\_ As my child's Virtual Learning Coordinator, I have read and understand the policies and stated expectations for my child and agree to support the Virtual Learning program expectations.

\_\_\_ I will provide my child with an intentional space for Distance Learning where my child may connect with their online classrooms to work successfully and effectively. It is recommended that students find a suitable study location, rather than a bed during online classes.

\_\_\_ I understand that participation in my child's education will help determine his/her likelihood of success in the program. Therefore, I will monitor and support my learner in his/her studies. I agree to be accessible and readily available to the teacher to discuss my child's progress and development.

\_\_\_ I understand time management and attendance is vital to the learner's success. Distance Learning is not a school break but is the opportunity for my child to continue his/her education in the safety of my home due to the pandemic.

\_\_\_ I agree to provide adequate Internet access for my child during the time they are participating in a Distance Learning Program and will inform the administration if an internet access issue arises.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_