



Resurrection Lutheran School

Healthy Together 2021-2022

(Last revised March 7, 2022)

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 for your support, encouragement, and consideration throughout these past 2 years as together we have navigated the COVID pandemic with our Healthy Together plan allowing instruction at RLS to remain in-person, to minimize covid transmission, and protect our children and staff.

In accordance with the decision made by Governor Cooper to end any mandatory mask policy as of March 7, 2022, masks will become recommended, but not required, at Resurrection Lutheran School on that date. All of our staff and each family will be given the option to decide whether or not they and/or their children will continue to wear masks at RLS.

Several factors have contributed to this decision.

- The infection rate for coronavirus is currently (2/17) at 0.61%...the lowest it has ever been since the pandemic began;
- Vaccines for children ages 5 and older have been available now for a long enough period that all who choose to avail themselves of them can;
- All the hard data (average daily new cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, is moving in the right direction.
- Treatments for those who contract covid have greatly improved



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.

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.

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 or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students may return to school when it has been 48 hours since any fever or vomiting/diarrhea episodes occurred without the aid of fever-reducing medication or anti-nausea/anti-diarrhea medicine.

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 continue to schedule large group activities outside whenever possible.
- Students will remain in 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.

VISITORS:

We look forward to inviting parents back into the school. Details to follow.

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.

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.