



## STUDENT RETURN TO IN-CLASS LEARNING AT LINDEN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (LCS) IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR 2020-2021, August 17, 2020

Linden Christian School strives to deliver “education built on relationships” -- this includes the desire for open communication with our community members. It is important that we work together in navigating complexities associated with COVID-19. I am sharing [\*WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK: RESTORING SAFE SCHOOLS, A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students: What to expect when welcomed back to School\*](#) released by the Province on August 13, 2020. The following information is also provided at this time:

### 1) Physical Distancing/Cohorts

Linden Christian’s approach to in-class learning includes keeping grade or class groups in cohorts so all students can be on site for learning. The purpose of the cohorts is to limit the mixing of students and staff so that if a child or employee develops an infection, there are fewer possible exposures.

In the cohort system:

- You can expect the majority of cohorts to have about 75 students. Each cohort will need to arrive, depart and participate in school activities without co-mingling as much as possible with members from other cohorts. Children will stay within their cohort throughout the day, including the lunch break and recess.

Among other things, this means LCS has:

- scheduled additional lunch and recess breaks for cohorts to avoid co-mingling of cohorts. Staff have been hired to perform the supervisory duties resulting from the introduction of the additional staggered breaks;
  - changed and scheduled additional chapels within the divisions to ensure cohorts avoid co-mingling with members from other cohorts;
  - staggered the school arrival and departure schedules as well as the entrance and exit protocol so that cohort movement can be managed to avoid members of other cohorts being in shared spaces (e.g. hallways) at the same time;
  - made changes to classroom layouts to ensure adherence to physical distancing requirements;
  - installed handwashing stations in all classrooms.
- Reducing student movement will be done where possible. This includes:
    - the reallocation of classrooms and designated lunch rooms to reduce student movement;
    - an adaptation to the borrowing of Library books so that books are brought directly to the students in their classrooms;

- to the extent possible, Music and French teachers will move between classrooms versus the past practice of students coming to the teachers;
- revamping the K-6 Milk Program so that distribution is grade specific.

## 2) Pick Up and Drop Off

The need for physical distancing when dropping off and picking up a child(ren) needs to be respected.

It is important that parents, guardians and child(ren) know what time they may enter the school and where their waiting area is located. As in prior years, staff supervision will begin at 8:10 am. Children aged 5 to 11 that arrive prior to 8:10 am will be required to report to the *Before and After School Care (BASC) Program*. Child(ren) are not to report to school prior to 7:30 am.

Because of the need to keep cohorts intact, the *Before and After School Care Program* will look different this year. Students in the program will have limited options since they will be cared for in a designated classroom for the duration of their stay. The *2020-2021 BASC Program Manual* will be posted to the website before September 7 and identify the current protocols.

For parents and guardians picking up children in Grades 3 through 12 at the end of the school day, you may find it most effective to park in the north lot and instruct your child(ren) to meet in a designated area--consistency in location will be important. Parents and guardians that enter the building to pick up children will be required to adhere to self-screening, participate in handwashing protocol, respect the 2 metres physical distance requirement and abide by directional signage. In addition, parents and guardians are requested to wear a mask when entering the building. This protocol also applies to designates.

As in prior years, SY students that drive to school will be required to park in stalls located in the north parking lot designated for student parking. A new Drive-Thru / Traffic Plan will be provided prior to the start of the school year.

## 3) Access to the School by Parents, Guardians and Others

Access to the school by parents, guardians and other members of our community is permitted at the school, however, the desire is to minimize the visits. Where possible, the preferred methods of communication include email, video and telephone rather than in person.

**All visitors must adhere to self screening, physical distancing, posted hygiene requirements and abide by directional signage when moving within the building. Visitors are requested to wear masks.**

Parent volunteers and other visitors will not be permitted in the classrooms during September through December.

#### 4) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wearing non-medical masks is another personal practice that can help prevent the spread of infectious respiratory droplets. The use of non-medical masks for students in Grade 5 and up has been recommended by Public Health in situations where a student cannot maintain a 2 metre physical distance for extended periods of time and is in close proximity to a person outside of regular contacts, e.g. when transitioning in hallways.

**I strongly encourage you to purchase at least two reusable non-medical masks for your child(ren) for use at school. Click [here](#) to see the poster prepared by Public Health on the safe use of non-medical face masks.**

#### 5) Enhanced Cleaning/Disinfecting

The frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing high-touch surfaces in common and shared areas has been increased. An additional custodian was hired to attend to enhanced cleaning protocols.

#### 6) Handwashing

Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the recommended hand hygiene practice and is an integral part of our safe school plan. Staff and students are required to engage in frequent handwashing, i.e. start of the day and before going home; before and after recess; after going to the washroom; before eating or drinking; after coughing, sneezing, wiping or blowing nose; before and after putting on and taking off a mask.

#### 7) Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- i. **Proper Method of Handwashing** - Please ensure that you have reviewed with your child(ren) the proper method of handwashing based on the 20 second guidelines. Age appropriate videos are provided for you to share with your child(ren).
  - Early Years (Kindergarten to Grade 4):  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-hand-washing-heroes.html>
  - Middle Years (Grades 5 to 8):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGQpJafaWj0&list=PLVNFeypl6DLXJ396BgELldK349vuiGmg&index=3&t=0s>
  - Senior Years (Grades 9 to 12) / Adults:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AGW3bbcb3Y>

- ii. **Daily Screening** - Keep your child(ren) home when they are sick or exhibiting any symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID-19 ([symptoms](#)). Screen for symptoms every morning. If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated and parents/guardians will be called to ensure the child is picked up promptly. It is important that you establish a pick up plan and affirm it with those involved beforehand. It is also important that the school has your current contact information and that of your emergency contact in the event you cannot be reached. Email Kathy Berard, [kberard@lindenchristian.org](mailto:kberard@lindenchristian.org) with any changes/updates.
- iii. **Routines** - Reintroduce, or establish school routines if they are not already in place, to help ensure your child(ren) is calm and feeling prepared to return to school. For example, returning to normal bedtime routines, limiting screen/gaming time and when school starts preparing for the next day in the evening by packing lunches, filling water bottles and packing any work that needs to go back to school. Try to avoid unsettling younger children in particular by establishing a comfortable morning routine and be sure to allow for sufficient travel time to school. I encourage you to begin the day with a word of prayer, modelling our dependence on God and demonstrating trust in Him.
- iv. **Label Personal Items** - Please ensure that your child(ren)'s personal items, i.e. lunch kit, water bottle, outdoor clothing and shoes, gym bag and other personal items are clearly labelled with their name and homeroom (K-8). This will allow us to return lost items to your child and minimize the number of items that get placed in the Lost & Found.
- v. **No Sharing Policy** - No food, water-bottle or sharing of personal items will be in effect until otherwise advised. This policy will reduce the potential for virus transmission and means that class events will not include the sharing of food. Students will be encouraged to keep personal belongings with them due to reduced locker access.
  - It is important that your child(ren) bring a filled water bottle to school each day as the majority of our water fountains are enabled by touch and provincial directives currently require these fountains to be turned off.
  - The Grant Cafe will not be open for at least the first two months of the school year.

## 8) Student Responsibilities

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Tell staff, parents and guardians when you are not feeling well.
- Wash your hands, especially after coughing, blowing noses or sneezing, and when handling food.
- Do not share food or personal items.
- Cough and sneeze into your arm or a tissue. Do not touch your face, particularly your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Keep 2 metres from others and avoid close contact.
- Smile and wave when saying hello--don't give high fives, fist pumps or hugs.
- Eat healthy foods, keep physically active and get enough sleep and fresh air.

## 9) Other

- i. **Field Trips and Overnight Events** - The evolving nature of COVID-19 and logistics associated with managing field trips and overnight events traditionally planned in September through December has resulted in the decision to postpone them.
- ii. **Private Children's Events** - We respectfully suggest that private children's events that would typically include people outside of your family, i.e. birthday, sleepovers, etc. be postponed given the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and transmission within our communities.
- iii. **Student Outreach** - One of Linden Christian School's core values is to equip students to serve in the local and global community and sales of baked goods or other items have served as the means by which students have raised money for charitable causes. These types of outreach activities will not be permitted during September through December.
- iv. **Community Events** -The fluid nature of this pandemic requires the cancellation of September's Annual Kick-Off BBQ/Meet the Teacher event. Although restrictions on indoor gathering sizes will not allow us to gather as a community at our annual Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day Chapels, the programs will be recorded and shared via social media.
- v. **Travel** - In general, anyone arriving in Manitoba is required to self-isolate for 14-days upon arrival to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, there are exceptions to this requirement as specified in the Public Health order that is currently active. Click [here](#) to see the list of provincial exemptions and to determine if the 14 day self-isolation protocol applies to any members of your family that have travelled.

Any students that have traveled internationally will be required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to entering the school.

- vi. **Student Support** - Faculty on our Student Support Services Team and staff on the Spiritual Care Team are available to provide support to your child(ren) and your family. Please contact the Vice Principal in your child(ren)'s division to access available support.