



FAQ for Reopening for the 2020-2021 School Year

INTRODUCTION

This Frequently Asked Questions document strives to answer common inquiries about our reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Our plans have been thoughtfully crafted using insightful feedback from our parent community, our teachers, our Board of Directors, as well as guidance from local, state and national health organizations. As comprehensive as our plan is, we recognize that our plans will adapt and evolve with our experiences and as new guidance and directives become available. As we revise our plans to meet the changing demands of this pandemic, we will continue to update this document.

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

Lakewood Catholic Academy has invested significant resources in new health, safety and sanitation equipment and materials. We have physically altered our building and campus to accommodate the addition of an isolation room connected to our nurse's office, as well as the creation of outdoor learning classrooms. We have purchased plexiglass seat dividers for every student and have outfitted common spaces with protective barriers. In addition to these health and safety improvements, Lakewood Catholic Academy has invested in technology to enhance our capabilities for synchronous, streaming instruction for our Digital Learners at home. We have also expanded our teaching staff to include Digital Learning Teachers to facilitate high quality instruction for our at-home learners. These investments demonstrate the school's ongoing commitment to providing a premier Catholic elementary school experience.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

WHAT CONDITIONS WOULD CAUSE LCA TO CLOSE THE K-8 CAMPUS AND MOVE TO FULLY DIGITAL INSTRUCTION?

Lakewood Catholic Academy's primary school (K-8) operations will transition to fully digital instruction if Cuyahoga County is Level 4 (Purple) in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. The LCA administration and the Board of Directors also reserve the right to transition the school to digital learning at their discretion based upon health concerns in our school community.

WILL STUDENTS BE ASKED TO QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF SCHOOL?

While we cannot mandate or monitor this, we ask that all families take precautions and do not travel during the 14-day period prior to the start of school on September 9th.

WHAT IS REQUIRED BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL?

Before returning to school, all families must fill out the traditional back to school forms on ZippSlip. This year, the forms include a [COVID waiver](#) that you must sign acknowledging that you understand the risks to your family, and that you agree to follow all rules, routines and procedures. These include checking each child for symptoms before arriving at school, and keeping any child exhibiting symptoms home. If initially choosing digital learning, you would complete this form when you decide it is right for your child to return to in-person learning.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO EVERY MORNING BEFORE ARRIVING AT SCHOOL?

All families will need to use the [daily at-home health screening](#) before leaving the house. We suggest keeping this document on your refrigerator as a daily reminder. If your child has any of the symptoms listed on the sheet, you must keep your child home. We know that this is inconvenient for families, but this is the most important thing you can do to ensure the safety of others and the continued availability of in-person learning. We are all a team in this, and we have to be open and honest as we work together to create the safest school environment possible.

HOW WILL LCA MONITOR SYMPTOMS OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE BUILDING?

We have invested in sophisticated thermal imaging technology to allow us to take the temperature of every student and adult before they enter the building. Any person with a temperature of 100° or more will not be permitted to enter the building. If a student with a temperature of 100° or more arrives on campus without a parent, that student will be sent to our newly-created isolation room, next to the nurse's office, to await pickup. Students who have walked or biked to school and who have a temperature of 100° or more will be checked a second time 10 minutes later.

IF A STUDENT IS SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, CAN HE OR SHE COME TO SCHOOL?

No, students and staff showing any symptoms should stay home until the symptoms subside. Guidelines from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health state that a person must remain home until he/she has no symptoms and has been fever-free, without medicine, for 72 hours.

WILL LCA SEND HOME STUDENTS WHO BEGIN TO SHOW SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

Yes, any student or staff member who displays symptoms during the school day will be sent home. For example, if a student coughs continuously or indicates he/she has a headache or sore throat, that student will be required to leave school. Students will be sent to the isolation room to await pickup. A student sent home for a fever of 100° or greater may not return to campus until he/she has been fever-free, without medicine, for 72 hours. A student sent home for non-fever symptoms may not return until those symptoms have subsided. Students with seasonal allergies or other medical diagnoses that may present as symptoms of COVID-19 should ask their primary care physician to send a letter to the school stating the medical condition(s).

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, WHEN IS THAT PERSON ALLOWED BACK ON CAMPUS? IF AN LCA STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19, WHAT IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR QUARANTINE FOR OTHER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS?

Please refer to our [Student COVID Response Plan](#).

WHAT IF STUDENTS ARE UNABLE TO FOLLOW THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES REGARDING MASK WEARING, PERSONAL HYGIENE AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING?

Students unable or unwilling to follow our health and safety procedures will not be permitted to attend school in-person. These students will be required to be Digital Learners at home until such time that they can follow our important health and safety routines.

MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

WHO IS REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS?

All students in kindergarten through 8th grade are required to wear masks. If your child is not regularly wearing a mask now, we encourage you to use the time between now and the start of school to practice mask wearing at home. Masks should be worn from the time students arrive on campus until they are off school property following dismissal.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC TYPE OF MASK/FACE SHIELD THAT IS REQUIRED? WILL IT NEED TO BE UNIFORM?

No. We believe that mask fit and comfort are the most important factors for our students. We understand that, by this point, students have likely found a mask that is a best fit. Students are allowed to wear any type of mask, including gaiters. We are aware of the recent study regarding the effectiveness of gaiters, but they will be permitted until we receive guidance from the CDC or Board of Health that they are not suggested to be worn. The spirit of our dress down policy applies to face masks, so any masks with designs should be child-friendly and school-appropriate. Current guidance does not allow a face shield to be the sole face covering, but one may be worn in addition to a face mask. To assist our students in using their masks throughout the school day, we will provide a Lakewood Catholic Academy lanyard for each student. This breakaway lanyard will provide a safe place to keep the mask during lunch and outdoor mask breaks.

WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT STUDENTS WEARING MASKS IN THE HEAT?

This year's calendar provides a later start to our school year. With a September 9th start date, we anticipate fewer days on which heat will be a concern. Additionally, all second and third floor classrooms will have portable air conditioning units that will reduce humidity. Students will be allowed, as always, to have a water bottle on their desk and to use the filling stations around school for refills. In September and October, students may wear their gym uniform every day for additional comfort. Students who opt not to wear gym clothes are permitted to wear navy or khaki walking shorts with a uniform shirt, per the LCA warm weather uniform guidelines. Tennis shoes remain a daily option for all students throughout the school year.

Outdoor mask breaks throughout the day will give students an opportunity to remove their masks while physically distancing. Students in kindergarten through 4th grade will have an air-conditioned lunch each day, and students in 5th-8th grade will have access to the air-conditioned dining hall on a rotating schedule.

DIGITAL LEARNING

We remain committed to parent choice regarding school attendance for their children. As such, we have developed a detailed [Digital Learning Plan that can be viewed here](#).



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WHAT ARE THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS FOR DIGITAL LEARNERS? WILL THE SCHOOL SUPPLY US WITH A COMPUTER?

The requirements are that each family have access to a printer at home, as well as a computer that is able to run Zoom and Google Suite. We do have computers that can be signed out, but while our supply is ample, it is not unlimited. We ask that families who are able to provide their own computers do so in order for us to be good stewards of our technology resources.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD WEAR IF HE/SHE IS A DIGITAL LEARNER?

Students work best when they are dressed for success, so we encourage school uniforms, spirit wear or gym clothes while students participate in class via Zoom. These are encouraged, but not required, and a student not dressed in LCA attire will still be permitted to participate in digital learning. If a Digital Learner dresses in attire with imagery or wording deemed inappropriate for a Catholic elementary school setting, that student's video will be turned off in Zoom.

WHEN DOES MY FAMILY NEED TO LET THE SCHOOL KNOW OUR CHOICE OF IN-SCHOOL OR DIGITAL LEARNING FOR THE FALL?

Parents will need to make the initial in-school vs. digital learning decision by **Friday, August 28th**. Families who opt for digital learning are able to change to in-school classes and adopt a hybrid model that best fits their level of comfort. Families who wish to change their in-school vs. digital learning decision will be able to do so every two weeks.

CAN MY FAMILY CHOOSE DIFFERENT LEARNING OPTIONS FOR EACH CHILD?

Yes, families may choose different options based on what is best for each child. For example, one child may attend school in-person full-time, while another child in the same family attends remotely.

CAMPUS LIFE

WILL CLASS SIZES REMAIN THE SAME AS IN THE PAST? HOW WILL STUDENTS BE SEPARATED?

We do not intend to make changes to classroom sizes. Students will be distanced by spreading out the desks in each classroom, providing at least three feet of distance with students seated in their own, individual desks, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. In classes where individual desks are unavailable, barriers will be installed to keep students separated. Additionally, every classroom will have access to plexiglass dividers for individual student desks. Students will remain in a cohort with the same students, which, in most cases, will be students in their own homeroom.

HOW WILL LCA UTILIZE THE OUTDOOR SPACE TO FACILITATE CLASSES IN THE OPEN AIR?

During the months of September, October and November, we will have a tent on our back, lakefront property to provide temporary outdoor classroom spaces with tables and chairs. Classes will have access to these spaces on a rotating schedule with priority given to our K-4 classes. Teachers will also be encouraged to use other green spaces around LCA and Lakewood Park as weather permits.

For indoor classes, doors and windows will remain open to provide increased airflow and fans will be used in accordance with Cuyahoga County Board of Health guidelines.



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In addition, students will continue to enjoy outdoor recess as weather permits. While at recess, students will remain separated by cohort/homeroom.

WILL VOLUNTEERS BE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING?

Until further notice, the only volunteers that will be permitted into the building will be those assisting our dining program. Outside of school hours, volunteers will continue to play a significant role in LCA athletics, whose activities continue to follow the guidelines of CYO. Volunteers will be required to follow the same safety protocols as everyone else permitted to enter the building. Classrooms will not have individual volunteers.

WILL STUDENTS SHARE SUPPLIES IN ANY CLASSES?

Please thoroughly [review school supply lists](#) and ensure that your child(ren) have all of the supplies needed for the school year. We will minimize the use of shared supplies as much as possible. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health has indicated that students are allowed to share supplies as long as they wash their hands and sanitize before and after using shared items.

HOW WILL LCA HANDLE THE NEED FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS?

We have hired Mrs. Martin and Ms. Sullivan, two veteran LCA educators, to work part-time this year as tutoring support, as well as to provide teacher substitution. While we may have to rely on additional teachers, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health has stated that teachers are permitted to travel to different buildings as long as they are wearing a face mask, regularly hand-washing or sanitizing, and practicing physical distancing.

WHAT IS THE ROTATION OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8 IN THE DINING HALL?

Students in grades 5-8 will eat in the air-conditioned dining hall every other week. During their time in the dining hall, they will remain separated by their cohort/homeroom.

HOW WILL THE DINING HALL BE SET UP IN ORDER FOR STUDENTS TO EAT SAFELY WITHOUT MASKS? WHAT WILL BE THE PROCESS FOR PACKED AND HOT LUNCHES?

Seating in the dining hall has been arranged to ensure a minimum of six feet of physical distancing. Students will have assigned seats, organized by homeroom, and table use will be staggered to allow for cleaning between groups. In addition to use of the dining hall, students in grades 5-8 will utilize the tent on LCA's back property as an additional area for dining. When weather no longer allows for outdoor dining, students in grades 5-8 will, on a rotating schedule, use classrooms, with multiple classrooms being utilized so as to provide spacing for the minimum six foot physical distancing needed when students remove their masks to eat. Packed lunches will be collected in homerooms and stored in classroom bins until lunch – a practice approved by the Board of Health which will help reduce the number of visits needed to student lockers. Upon arriving in the dining hall, all students will go to their assigned seat, and those participating in the dining program will be called to the lunch line in small groups.

We are proud of our ongoing partnership with Lago Dining Services in providing delicious, healthy lunchtime meals for our students. The Lago Dining Team has been working hard to make adjustments to their operations in order to continue to offer their wonderful service to our students.



Lago Dining Services will be using a plexiglass barrier at the computer register, discontinuing finger scanning, and moving to more pre-made options to reduce the time students stand in line. Lago has also contracted with Steritech to apply Puribond to all hard surfaces on the lunch line. While in the dining hall, students and staff will be required to wear masks any time they are not seated. Sanitizer will be provided at all tables, and designated entry and exit doors will be used to efficiently transition.

HOW WILL RECESS BE STRUCTURED THIS YEAR?

Students will enjoy recess with their homeroom peers in outdoor spaces clearly marked so as to maintain separation between groups. While there will be restricted activities, recess will be organized to allow students to engage in structured play while maintaining physical distancing. Recess options will include opportunities to throw footballs, kick soccer balls, and pass volleyballs. Students will also be permitted to bring a recess cinch-bag in which they may carry books to read or materials to color/draw. While school-provided recess equipment such as footballs and volleyballs will be shared amongst students, items brought in an individual student's recess cinch-bag are to be used only by that student. LCA will regularly sanitize all LCA-provided recess equipment, but will not be able to do the same for those items brought from home. Please note that electronics will not be permitted at recess. Students wishing to use recess as a time simply to walk and talk with peers are certainly welcome to do so, provided they maintain proper distancing, which will be overseen by those LCA staff members responsible for monitoring recess. Masks will be permitted at recess, but will not be required as the outdoor setting will provide a mask break for students. All students will sanitize upon re-entry to the building. In the inevitable event of indoor-recess, students will remain seated in their homerooms, at which time masks will remain in place as students engage in class-wide games and activities.

HOW WILL DROP-OFF AND DISMISSAL WORK?

During drop-off, parents will not be permitted to enter the building. We understand that this change will be difficult, especially for our younger children, but we will assist students to their classrooms, as needed.

All students will be temperature-checked before being permitted to enter the building. Any student with a temperature of 100° or more will not be allowed to attend school.

Parents in the car rider line are asked not to pull away until their child(ren) have been cleared to enter the building. If a student's temperature is 100° or more, he/she will leave campus with his/her parent immediately.

If a student who walks or bikes to school without a parent has a temperature of 100° or more, he/she will be taken immediately to the isolation room to await pickup. If a parent accompanies his/her child(ren) to the front door, the student will leave immediately with his/her parent.

Upon entering the building, some students will go to lockers, while others will report directly to homeroom. Locker visitations will be scheduled throughout the day in order to physically distance students and classes.

Dismissal will be staggered, with designated areas for students to be picked up in both the rider and walker lines. Parents are asked to leave campus as soon as they have their child(ren).



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WILL STUDENTS CHANGE CLASSROOMS DURING THE DAY?

Yes, we plan on having students change classrooms. In the younger grades, transitions will be limited. Classroom cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be in place at the end of each class period.

WHAT WILL STUDENT TRANSITIONS LOOK LIKE?

Students will visit lockers on a staggered schedule throughout the day. Organized by homeroom, some students will visit lockers upon arrival, while others will report directly to homerooms. Distance between lockers for students within a particular homeroom will remain the same as students will be masked at lockers, and the time needed for locker visits is well below the 10-15 minutes the CDC has indicated is necessary to constitute exposure. Hallways will be marked to provide students with visible reminders to walk on the right, and all stairwells will be one-way traffic, with signage to designate whether they are to be used for travel up or down. Students and staff will remain masked during all transitions.

WILL MY CHILD BE ALLOWED TO BRING IN BIRTHDAY OR OTHER CELEBRATION TREATS?

For the 2020-2021 school year, students will not be permitted to share treats/gifts, of any sort, with classmates. We recognize that this is one of the simple joys that elementary education provides, but, in order to keep our environment as safe as possible, we are working hard to limit items brought from outside of the building.

CAN MY CHILD BRING A WATER BOTTLE?

Water bottles are allowed and encouraged. All water bottles should be labeled with the student's name. The drinking spout on all water fountains will be turned off, but students will be able to use our touchless water bottle refilling stations throughout the day.

WILL LCA OFFER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR?

All activities will be evaluated on an individual basis, and more information will be provided when classes resume. In activities that span multiple grades, priority will be given to older students, who have limited time to benefit from these beyond-the-classroom experiences. The ability to participate in athletics remains under the guidance of CYO.

AFTER CARE

DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY IMPACT ON THE AFTER CARE PROGRAM?

After Care services will continue to be offered this year and will be operated by our talented Early Childhood Team. Our After Care Program will operate from 3:00 - 5:30pm this year and will be held in our large and small dining halls in order to provide necessary physical distancing. This year we will be able to provide care for children in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, along with their older siblings. Enrollment will be prioritized based upon registration date. Questions related to After Care should be directed to Patrice Link at plink@casaints.com. Registration forms are available [here](#).