



## *Abundant Life Christian School*

August 11, 2020

Dear Parents

Throughout the summer, we have been actively observing the various guidelines that have come out concerning the safety of returning to school in August. As many of you may know, these guidelines change daily, but I believe now, we are at a place to share the final decision of Abundant Life Christian School's reopening plan.

We have spoken with most of you by phone and shared our plans, but this letter will serve as the official message from Abundant Life Christian School and the 2020-21 school year.

Although we are not bound to follow the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency, we have listened to their recommendations in planning for the year. The Texas Private Schools Association has been so helpful in getting information to us each week, and we have followed this guidance as well as that of the CDC and the American Pediatric Association and our governor, Greg Abbott. Through the wisdom of all of these agencies, along with the wonderful wisdom of God, we feel we have a plan that will work for all of our families.

The first day of school is August 24. At this time, we will begin on campus with in class instruction as well as remote learning for families that choose this option. A remote learning guide is prepared for families choosing this option.

### **Current safety guidelines are as follows:**

One of the most important safety features we have is that of the parent's evaluation of their child on a daily basis, as well as an evaluation of others in the household on a daily basis. We ask that you evaluate the health of your child and make a decision for school attendance based upon the following things:

- Does your child have a temperature (100.4 or higher)?
- Has your child been in close contact with anyone showing symptoms of Covid or believed to have been in contact with someone with Covid? Close contact is now defined as being within 6 feet of someone with symptoms for 15 minutes or more, or being directly exposed to infectious secretions such as being coughed on or sneezed on by someone with Covid

without the protection of a cloth face covering. The infectious period is two days before the onset of symptoms to 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

- Does your child have a cough, runny nose, body aches or any other symptom known to be a symptom of Covid or have they been around someone with these symptoms?

If any of these symptoms are present, the child should not be in school until they are fever free for 48 hours.

ALCS will do temperature checks as students arrive at school. This is no longer required by the CDC, but we will begin the year that way. Parents will be informed when we no longer feel it is necessary to do temperature checks.

Students will be asked to use hand sanitizer when they arrive at school and they are encouraged to wash their hands frequently.

Masks are required for students 10 years old and older. If there is a medical concern, a note from the doctor must be presented. If the parent has a concern, please discuss your concerns with the principal/superintendent. Face shields are an option for students not wanting to wear a mask.

Students under 10 years of age can wear a mask or face shield if a parent chooses.

Masks must be worn at all times when social distancing may not be possible. When seated at their desks, students may remove the mask while working.

A suggestion for younger children is to attach the mask to a lanyard or eye glass neck strap. This will keep the mask from falling on the floor.

Teachers are required to wear masks or face shields.

Social distancing (6 feet) will be maintained in the classrooms with spacing of desks, in the halls, in the cafeteria and any time students are in a group.

Bathroom breaks will be monitored closely for safety. Students must wash hands for 20 seconds with soap after going to the restroom.

Lunch will be either in the classroom or in the cafeteria maintaining social distancing. A new mask should be used after lunch if possible.

Outside breaks are encouraged in order for students to get fresh air and have physical activity.

PE class will be a health class for the first 8-week grading period. A decision on whether we can return to PE will be made at that time.

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms for student use, Hand wipes will also be available. Hand sanitizer will be in various locations throughout the building.

Additional hand washing stations will be available for student use. Essential for safety is frequent hand washing. Students will be informed on the proper way to wash their hands and encouraged to do so frequently.

If a child has any symptoms related to Covid, they will be taken to an area designated as a safe area and parents will be called. The student should be picked up from school as soon as possible. Student should be monitored by the parent and/or health professional in order to return to school. If someone on campus is infected with Covid, cleaning and safety precautions will be taken to ensure the campus is safe for students. Parents will be notified of this procedure if a sickness is identified.

Frequent cleaning of all high touch areas, classrooms, desks, doorknobs, handrails, bathrooms, cafeteria, etc will be done daily. Products designated by the CDC as disinfecting products will be used for sanitizing the campus.

Students will not be allowed to share school supplies or textbooks. Please be sure that your student has everything they need to participate in class. ALCS is providing basic supplies to all students such as paper, pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, folders and composition books.

### **Food and Safety Guidelines**

Students are asked to bring a water bottle from home as water fountains will not be used at this time. This can be a disposable bottle or any other bottle for water. Bottles should be clearly marked with the student's full name. Reusable bottles should be taken home daily and thoroughly washed for sanitation.

We will continue to provide lunch as we have in the past. Safe handling of food will be done by the use of gloves and masks. Water will be available to purchase during lunch.

Students are expected to have their own mask. We do have disposable masks available at this time, but we don't know how long these will last. Please be sure your child has several cloth masks for his/her personal use. Masks will not be shared with others under any circumstances. Students should be encouraged to stay distanced from others, wear their mask, cover their mouth if they cough, wash hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, wear clean clothes daily including outerwear such as jackets and hoodies, and maintain care and concern for themselves and others during this time.

No food will be allowed in class unless students are required to eat lunch in the classroom.

Students should not share food items under any circumstance.

These guidelines are designed to help keep our campus safe for all. If we all do our part, we will have a safe healthy school year. We need your help to encourage and train your children on the basic principles of hygiene. We will continually reinforce these principles while students are on campus.

### **COVID 19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with Covid, consider the following question:

Have they recently experienced any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- A temperature measuring greater than or equal to 100.4
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

If any of these symptoms are experienced, the student is not allowed on campus until 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Please notify the school of any concerns about your child.

Thank you for your understanding during this time. Please feel free to call us with any questions.

Mrs. C. Hallam  
Superintendent - ALCS