

“Learning, Serving, Sharing Christ”



## Valley Lutheran Update #2

As we navigate through the current Covid-19 pandemic and the many unknowns and variables that come with it, we are challenged to think and operate differently. Despite these new challenges, Valley Lutheran High School remains committed to providing a quality, Christian learning experience for our students while implementing additional safety and sanitation practices and procedures. We believe firmly that the more time our students are on campus, the more enriching their educational experience is. We are assured that God’s promises ring true, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 Below are some addendums to the Student Handbook for the 2020-2021 school year.

### Logistics & Planning

**Entrance procedures:** The expectation is that students and staff who are presenting symptoms associated with sickness will not be present on campus.

Students will enter campus through the courtyard between the administration and academic building. Students and staff will have contactless temperature checks and symptom checks before entering the building. Anyone with a temperature over 100.0°F will not be allowed on campus and must return home. We ask that students be dropped off at school by 7:50am to allow ample time to check in and get to their classrooms. ***Students and staff who have displayed potential symptoms should remain at home until they have been symptom free for 72 hours unless they have tested positive for Covid19.*** If they have tested positive, they will be required to follow the quarantine protocol described below. Symptoms which are consistent with Covid19 infection include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unusual level of fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**Face coverings\masks:** Face coverings are required for all teachers and students while on campus. A few exemptions will be in place for outdoor PE classes and lunch. The expectation is that any mask that is worn on campus will not be a source of distraction for others in design, wording, etc. No obscene or offensive pictures, language or symbols.

***Covid Clause:*** Valley Lutheran High School has been asked to have all families sign a Covid Clause Agreement in order to ensure that families have reviewed the Student Handbook and acknowledge implicit risks within the plan. This is not a unique requirement of Valley Lutheran; rather all schools within Brotherhood Mutual as their insurer are being asked to do the same. A copy of this agreement is included at the end of this plan.

***Personal Responsibility:*** Valley Lutheran expects all staff and students to demonstrate personal responsibility for their individual health and to work towards minimizing the risk of contagious spread. The school trusts that parents will inform their students about these responsibilities and that teachers will remind students when necessary.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If possible, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- Bring a personal water bottle, as water fountains will be limited throughout the day.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid sharing food or drink of any type.
- Attempt to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others when possible.

***Visitors to campus:*** Visitors will not be allowed on campus at this time. This includes parents, vendors, third-party contractors, prospective students and their families.

***Locker:*** At this time academic lockers and refrigerators are not to be used by students and staff.

***Quarantine protocol:***

- Positive test: If a staff member or student has tested positive for Covid19, the expectation is that the individual would immediately engage in quarantine protocol and alert the school to the diagnosis. The individual would be expected to quarantine away from campus for 14 days, and may return to campus once they have been cleared by a medical professional.
  - Any room in which that individual has been will go through a sanitation process using the Clorox 260 electrostatic sprayer.
- Negative test but systematic: If a staff member or student is displaying symptoms consistent with the flu and/or Covid19 but has tested negative for Covid19, they should remain away from school until they have been symptom free for 72 hours.
- Symptomatic but untested: If a staff member or student is symptomatic but has not been tested for Covid19, they should remain away from campus until they have been free of symptoms for 72 hours.
- Incidental exposure to Covid19: If a student or staff member has been exposed to Covid19 and/or alerted to potential exposure via contact tracing protocols but has not displayed symptoms associated with Covid19, the individual will not be required to engage in quarantine protocols and may attend classes if they wish. (Currently, medical professionals are not encouraging people to pursue Covid19 testing if they are not demonstrating symptoms.)

***Social distancing:*** Within classrooms, it will be the aspiration of all school staff to provide social distancing whenever possible, including desks placed 3-6 feet apart and individual classroom breaks. However, parents should recognize that providing complete social distancing will not be possible by the very nature of an educational setting.

***Food service:*** Valley Lutheran is working with Thumbprint foods to ensure proper food and beverage handling. More information to follow.

***Communicable disease:*** In the event of any type of communicable disease (including Covid19), parents must alert the school promptly. The school will then alert the broader Valley community within 12 hours. In the instance of a parental notification of communicable disease, every effort will be made by school administration to maintain student confidentiality. However, due to the infectious nature, the school considers it responsible to notify teachers so they can engage in cleaning protocols.

***Cleaning:*** Valley Lutheran asks that students and staff wash/sanitize hands upon entering the classroom, after using the restroom and before eating. The school will provide the following resources to maintain cleanliness across campus.

- General classroom sanitation: In addition to daily cleaning, a third party company will thoroughly clean and disinfect campus 3 times a week using electrostatic spray cleaning agents.
- High touch areas such as door knobs & light switches will be wiped down periodically by classroom teachers (after each block period class).
- Classroom tables, and desks will be wiped down each evening and as necessary during lunch.
- Outdoor lunch tables will be wiped down after each lunch period.

***Transportation:*** Valley Lutheran will continue to offer bus services to and from campus on a daily basis. Students and staff will be temperature and symptom checked before boarding the busses. Face coverings are required while riding in Valley's busses as social distancing is not guaranteed. If you are interested in Valley's transportation, please fill out this [form](#).

***Technology:*** Valley Lutheran will assign each student an iPad for the 2020-2021 school year. This will limit the sharing of devices in the classroom and ensure all students have access to a device if online learning should be necessary. The expectation is that students maintain the iPad while in their care, this includes installing updates, continued use of a case, and not tampering with security protocols on devices. iPads will be assigned on the 1st day of school.

## **Curriculum & Instruction**

Valley Lutheran High School is pleased to offer in person instruction 5 days a week. In addition to our quality education, Valley aspires to maintain as much of the spiritual, cultural and relationship aspects that make our school special. This includes family groups, chapels, service projects, etc. although some of these aspects may look a little different this year.

Valley Lutheran High School will also offer synchronous online learning for families who are uncomfortable returning to in person instruction as well as those students who cannot be on campus due to illness and/or symptoms. Synchronous learning allows students to learn and participate along with their peers via platforms such as Zoom, Google Classroom, etc. Students will use PlusPortals to keep up with the class and receive assignments. Teachers are always available via email for questions or clarifications. In a remote learning situation, students will be expected to adhere to attendance policies, dress code and all other student code of conduct policies which are outlined in the [student handbook](#).

### **Modified Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be taken every day whether physically on campus or remote learning from home. Parents need to report absences daily regardless of reason and regardless if a student is on campus or at home.

Students are still allowed 13 absences throughout the year before losing credit for a class. However, due to quarantine protocols and new sick protocols and procedures, students are able to login to the classes remotely and not receive an absence. This modified absence policy will also allow for flexibility and determinations on a case by case basis.

### **Athletics**

The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) will dictate our position on athletics. Currently, the AIA is allowing the fall athletic season to begin on August, 17, 2020. While we expect to offer other extracurricular activities, each will be considered on a case by case basis and follow the same mitigation strategies as those during the school day.

## COVID-19 Agreement Addendum

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is considered extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments as well as federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. Even now with some of the restrictions being lifted, the common thinking is to still practice social distancing as much as possible.

Valley Lutheran High School and/or VLHS (“*Valley Lutheran High School*”) have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, *Valley Lutheran High School* **cannot guarantee** that you or your family will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, **attending Valley Lutheran High School could increase** your risk and your child(s) risk of contracting COVID-19.

We are concerned about the health and well-being of all the children, teens, parents, siblings, volunteers, partners, and staff of all who enter our premises or are involved in some manner with Valley Lutheran High School. We want you to use wisdom and discernment regarding when and how your child(ren) re-engages in social settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are putting in place certain protocols that we hope will minimize the potential to contract and/or spread COVID-19. These are precautions; not solutions, cures or guarantees against spreading or contracting this virus.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending *Valley Lutheran High School* and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and/or death.

I further understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at Valley Lutheran High School may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, *Valley Lutheran High School* employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

I agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, or any kind, that I or my child(s) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)’s attendance at *Valley Lutheran High School* or participation in any *Valley Lutheran High School*’s programming.

I understand that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of *Valley Lutheran High School*, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any of *Valley Lutheran High School* programs or classes. I understand that any violation of these new precautions by myself or my child(ren) may result in a suspension from Valley Lutheran High School for the safety of others.

I am attesting that I will not send my student(s) to school if they have any of the following symptoms:

- |                                   |   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fever of 100 degrees or higher | 3. Chills or repeated shaking with chills | 6. New loss of smell or taste |
| 2. Cough or shortness of breath   | 4. Muscle pain                            | 7. Body aches/fatigue         |
|                                   | 5. Sore throat                            |                               |

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of child(ren) at Valley Lutheran High School  
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