



East Liverpool Christian School

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Greetings school families.

With the decision to return to in-person learning at ELCS, I wanted to remind all of us about both the recommended and the required COVID guidelines that are currently laid out by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as the Ohio Department of Health. Please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or cdc.gov/coronavirus for more information if you desire to do so.

- **Masks are recommended, but not required:** As Mrs. Bouscher stated in her video regarding our return to school, we believe that while masks are highly recommended by health authorities, the optional decision to mask any child should fall under the responsibility of their parent/guardian. Please understand that if a child does not mask while in school, any exposure to COVID will require a quarantine period. However, if a mask is worn, no quarantine will be required unless symptoms develop.
- **Quarantine lengths:** There has been much confusion regarding the length that persons are required to quarantine after exposure to COVID. The following information is taken directly from the CDC:
 - “Local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
 - When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available, then quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.”
 - In addition, please note that testing for COVID for vaccinated persons may take place 3 or more days after exposure, whereas testing for unvaccinated persons must take place 5 or more days after exposure.
- **If one member of your household is sick, we ask that all students living in said household partake in virtual learning.** We have unfortunately run into numerous situations already this school year where a student with siblings became symptomatic. Should this situation occur in your home, please keep the sick child home as well as any siblings who attend school as well. We must be as proactive as possible to try and slow down (and ultimately stop) the spread of COVID in our school as well as our homes.



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- **Home testing kits versus testing at a physician's office, clinic, or lab:** Though home COVID test kits are becoming very difficult to find, many of you have had the ability to get them. And while the home test kits are convenient, they must be utilized properly. On the home kit, there will be instructions for a QR code, website, or app that is to be used in conjunction with the actual nasal swab sample that is collected for the individual. This will allow you to test under the supervision of a medical liaison who can offer assistance. If you do not wish to utilize the QR code, app, or website, you must report a positive COVID test result to your local health department or the person's primary care physician. Contact information for your local health department can be found by typing "[your] county health department" into any internet search engine.
- **Always err on the side of caution when it comes to a sick student.** Please understand that while colds, allergies, and other "common" health issues tend to happen during this time of year, we are absolutely not able to operate under the assumption that someone does not have COVID simply because their symptoms are similar to those of other typical, seasonal ailments. I have added a chart from the CDC that lists the symptoms of COVID. These include fever or chills; cough; shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue, muscle or body aches (including pain in the chest); headache; loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; and diarrhea. Remind and encourage your child(ren) to speak up if they are experiencing any indications of illness. As always, please call the school as soon as possible and keep your child(ren) home if symptoms appear.
- **Report any and all positive COVID tests to the school** by calling us as soon as possible after receiving your result. We will need to know when symptoms began, the date of testing, and the date of your positive result. I will contact you directly and inform you of what date your child(ren) can return to in-person learning. Please note that the health department will call you with any detailed information.

As always, please feel free to call me at the school at (330) 385-5588 during regular office hours with any questions that you may have. If I am unavailable, please utilize my email and I will reply at the earliest convenience.

Blessings and health,

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