



Northern Illinois District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Ministry beyond Social Distancing

Reopening Churches, Schools, and Early Childhood Centers for the LCMS Northern Illinois District

“Weeping may last for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!”
Psalm 30:5b

Preliminary Checklist for Schools

Even as students begin their summer breaks and families plan for vacations and summer activities, school administrators need to turn their attention to welcoming students and families back to school for the next academic year. Not only is 2020 no exception to that rhythm, school administrators have an even greater task of figuring out how best to prepare their facilities, faculty, and families for the next academic year in a Covid-19 world.

Before the next phase of the NID Reopen Plan is posted (coming in early July at nidlcms.org), here is a preliminary check list you may want to consider for summertime preparations.

- Develop a comprehensive drop off and pick up procedural plan. This may include:
 - Staggered times for families to drop off and pick up their student.
 - An updated and complete list of who is allowed to pick up a student.
 - Instructions to parents about where they can drop off and pick up [example, you may no longer allow the attending adult to walk in the building to drop off & pick up the student, only certain doors will be for entry and exit, etc.].
 - Designate which doors are entry and which doors are exit doors
 - Inform families and staff of your mask or other dress and PPE requirements to be on campus this coming school year.
- Order PPE [gloves, masks, hand sanitizer] several companies that supply these items may have a waiting list to fill such orders, so plan to make an order as soon as possible.
- Consult with your cleaning service to develop your sanitation plan for your entire campus.
- Develop the layout of each classroom incorporating social distancing best practices.

- Along with designing classroom layout, write a letter to parents sharing with them a few possible scenarios for the reopen plan. In scenario one you could focus on what classroom life is like in person. Scenario two would discuss what classroom life is like with social distancing as a high priority. This assures parents you're carefully pondering changes needed for their child's safety.
- Consult with your insurance agent regarding their policies for in-person education during a pandemic.
- Develop a strategy that addresses interscholastic athletics. What sports can be done safely in the fall? What sports may need to be delayed? What sports may need to be canceled for the year?
- Develop your lunch time strategy. Will classes eat lunch in their rooms? Will there be more lunch times to spread classes out for using the cafeteria? Will you use your gym? Will there be outdoor lunches when weather permits?
- Create your marketing plan. Parents may be hesitant to bring their child back to an in-person learning environment. Your church and the general public may also have concerns about your school returning to in-person learning. Create a marketing plan that demonstrates your pursuit of achieving a high standard of faith-centered learning and academic excellence, all while maintaining a safe environment for your students.
- Maintain regular communication with faculty, staff, pastor, and congregational leaders throughout the summer with regard to your reopen plan.
- Regularly monitor the Illinois Department of Public Health and CDC websites for updates on best practices for schools.
- Continue to lift up your school, students, faculty & staff, parents, and your partner churches before our Lord in prayer, asking for good health and for a willing spirit to work together for a successful fall reopen.

The psalmist writes in Psalm 100 “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

Your NID staff realizes the daunting task that is before you as you seek to reopen, and we are diligently working to produce an encompassing reopen plan to assist you in this. What a comfort to know in these uncertain times that our Lord declares in His Word that He is faithful. He demonstrates this by His all-availing sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. He demonstrates this in His grace expressed to us through His Word and Sacraments. He demonstrates this by mercifully giving us all we need to support this body and life. Rejoice that the Lord who has sustained His people in history, through wars, plagues, and persecutions, will not fail in our day to continue to faithfully grant us His grace and care for our every need according to His perfect will. You remain in our prayers, asking our Lord who is good to sustain you in all your ways.

We are in this together, and our Lord is with us!

Your Servants in Christ,

LCMS Northern Illinois District Staff

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