

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



**Reopening Plan
2020-2021**

To see young men and women become confident and prepared to integrate their Christian faith into every aspect of their lives.

Introduction

Over the past several months, the New Life community has found hope in our faith in Christ and encouraged by our relationships with each other. We are grateful we serve a God who walks with us and gives us grace for these times.

I am happy to share that New Life has a solid reopening plan and is preparing for **in-person instruction for all grades to begin on Tuesday, September 8th**. Over the past several weeks, members of our Board of Education, staff members, and parents have been working together to examine state guidance and parent feedback to create a reopening plan. While we have robust plans that prepare for other scenarios, our plan includes a quality continuous education program that is supported by safety protocols. The school's leadership team will monitor guidance from New York State and public health officials and will adjust this plan accordingly.

As the start of school approaches, you will receive more detailed information to help your family prepare for a fantastic school year. I invite you to read through this summary and check out the frequently asked questions at the end of the document.

In Christ,
Mr. Slabaugh

“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.” Psalm 62:5-6

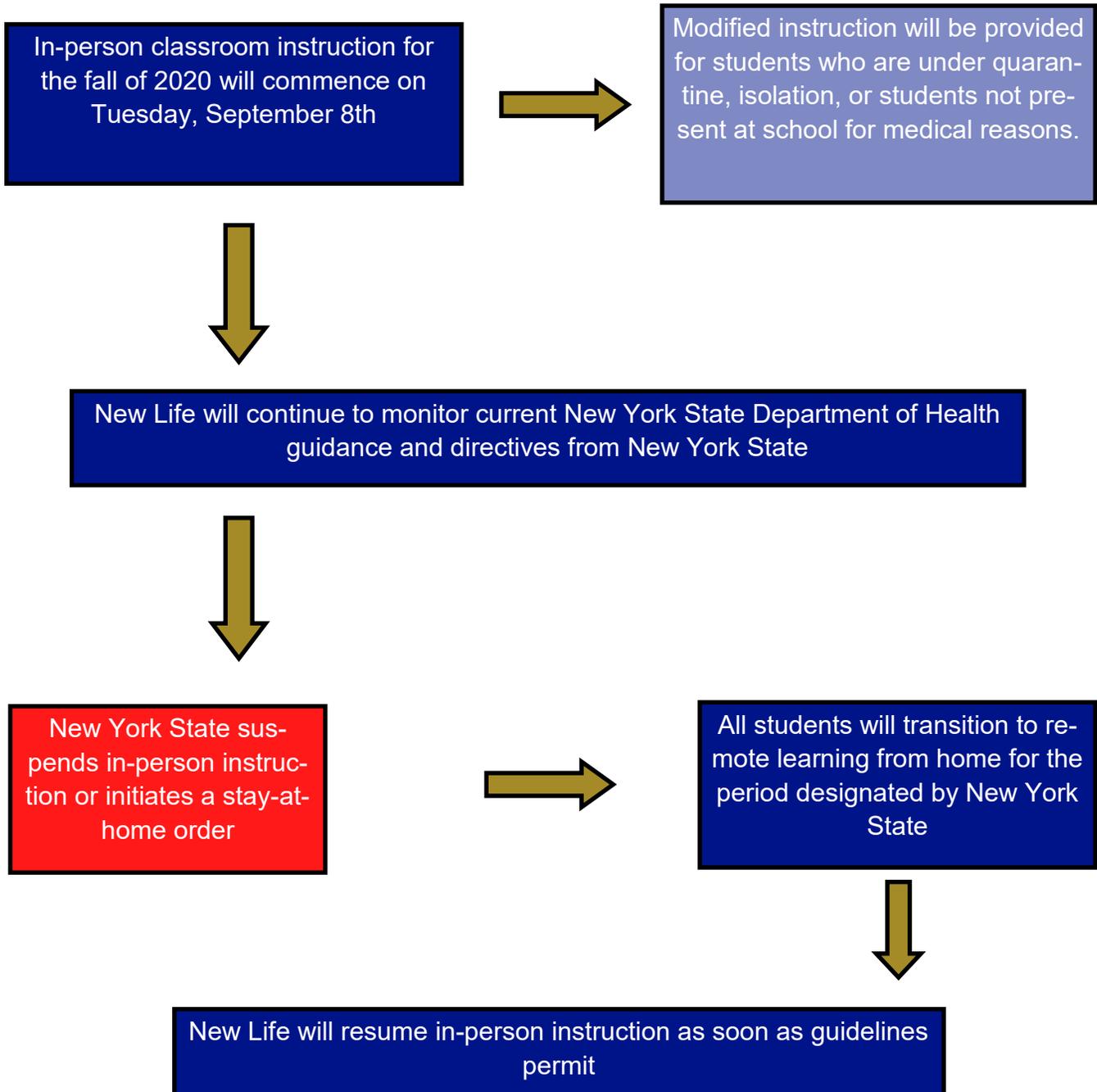
NOTE:

This information provided in this guidance may periodically be revised in order to provide updated information.

Reopening Plan 2020-2021

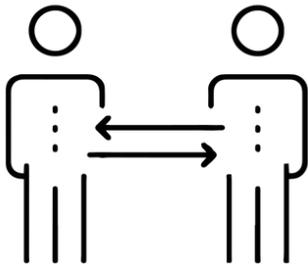
Reopening Approach

To properly safeguard our community during on-campus learning, specific health precautions and safety procedures which are in accordance with health guidelines are required. To meet these guidelines, enrollment will be limited to provide sufficient space between desks and students.



Physical Distancing

Many refer to this as social distancing, however, God created us to be social and to be in relationship with others. New Life will practice physical distancing by maintaining 6 feet of space in all directions. When physical distancing is not likely, face masks are required.



- Classroom seating will be reconfigured to maximize distancing. Six feet of distance between students and staff.
- Student enrollment will be limited to ensure adequate space is maintained in all classrooms.
- All desks will face the same direction. In some rooms, barriers may be used, if forward facing and/or 6 feet spacing is not possible.
- Restrooms are designed and designated as single use.
- From Pre-K through 4th grade, lunches will be eaten in classrooms. For older students, a schedule will be developed to reduce the number of students in the lunchroom.
- Locker assignments will be modified to provide additional physical distancing.
- Physical distancing will be encouraged while transferring to different spaces on campus.
- Chapel seating is arranged to provide adequate space between students.
- PE classes will maintain 12 feet of space between students

Athletics and School Events



- At this time, interscholastic sports are not permitted, per New York State Department of Health guidance.
- Field trips will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- The Christmas concert and drama production will be evaluated once school begins.

Personal Hygiene

Hand washing



- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands several times per day. The CDC recommends that hand washing is the preferable method of cleaning hands.
- Hand sanitizer will be placed at entry ways and common areas.
- Classrooms will have hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Before and after playground use, students will wash their hands.

Masks



- Students and staff must wear masks when unable to physically distance, per state guidance.
- Masks can be removed when physically distanced– (when seated in the classroom if distanced, when seated at lunch, etc.)
- Cohorts will be formed up through grades 4. These cohorts can remove masks when together.
- Parents are expected to provide masks for their children.
- If a student is without a mask, a disposable one will be provided at no cost.
- Face shields are not considered a replacement for a face mask.
- New Life will foster a culture of acceptance about mask-wearing. Anyone who elects to wear a face mask more than is required will be allowed and encouraged to do so.

Personal Hygiene (Cont.)

Hydration



- Water fountains have touch-less bottle filling stations. Students are required to provide a refillable bottle to be used.
- Drinking directly from the water fountain will be prohibited.
- Disposable cups will be available.

Cleaning



- Increased cleaning of high touch areas throughout the school day including desks, lunch tables, doorknobs, light switches, etc.
- Nightly cleaning of all buildings by our custodial staff
- Supplies of sanitizing wipes and child-friendly EPA approved cleaning products will be distributed to classrooms.

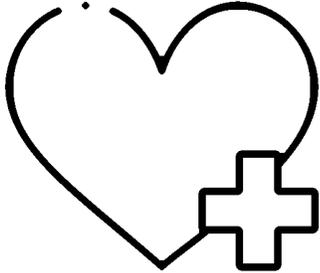
Communication



- New Life will maintain clear communication with the Madison County Department of Health, New Life staff and families about health, hygiene, and policy updates
- New Life will provide educational materials to staff, students and families about COVID-19 symptoms and safeguards.



Health



- All students must have their temperature checked upon arrival on campus.
- Anyone with a temperature over 100.0 F will be sent home.
- If possible, parents, please check your child's temperature each morning before coming to school and keep your child home if temperature is elevated over 100.0 F.
- All staff will perform and report a health screening before entering the school buildings.
- Students with an elevated temperature and waiting parent pickup will wait and be supervised in a designated area.
- Students and staff should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

A student or staff member who **tests positive** for COVID-19 or is **exposed** to someone with COVID-19

IF
New Life student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19



- Will be placed into isolation
- Will be monitored by the Madison County Department of Health
- Will be released from isolation at least 10 days after their first positive test, assuming no subsequent symptoms develop

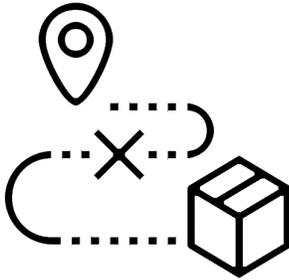
IF
New Life student or staff member is exposed to someone with COVID-19



- A student or staff who was exposed to a positive case but is asymptomatic will be placed into quarantine for a period of 14 days from their last date of exposure to the positive case.
- After 14 days, if they remain asymptomatic, they will be released from quarantine by the Madison County Department of Health.

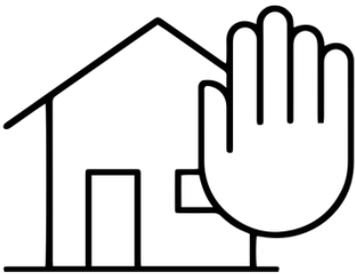


Tracing



- New Life will be notified by the Madison County Department of Health of any students or staff who have tested positive with COVID-19
- Tracing protocols will be initiated by the Madison County Department of Health
- New Life will respect the privacy and health information/identity of each individual in the school who becomes ill

How You Can Help



We ask that families support New Life's health and wellness protocols by keeping children home:

- When they are not feeling well
- Have COVID-19 like symptoms
- Have potentially been exposed

In addition, we are asking families to perform daily temperature checks of their children before coming to school. If a student has a temperature of 100.0 F or higher, he or she must stay home and should not return to school until he or she has been fever free for 24 hours.

Answers to Questions

I heard that some schools are using a hybrid model of education (mixed in-person and virtual) or distance learning. Will New Life be providing a hybrid model?

Our plan is to provide an in-person education all week. We would only move to an online platform or hybrid schedule if we were instructed to do so by governmental authorities, and we'd reconvene at our earliest opportunity.

Will New Life still provide a face-to-face education even if the local public school chooses something different?

Yes, we will continue with our plan regardless of what public schools choose to do. Our building and population allow us to meet health department guidance.

Will busing still be provided if the public school follows a remote learning plan?

Yes. If the public school is in session, even remotely, they are required by state mandate to bus our students. Students who ride the bus must obey the rules set forth by the public school for physical distancing and masks.

How will drop-off/pick-up be different?

Student drop-off time will be from 7:50 AM to 8:10 AM. If we need to make adjustments to this time frame, we will communicate it clearly with parents and students. We continue to communicate and work with public school districts to ensure the transportation of our students to school. A detailed plan still needs to be completed by the various districts. We will communicate our full drop-off and pickup plan when it is solidified. For parent pick-up, we hope to provide an easy way for parents to remain in their vehicle and the students will be brought to you.

What circumstances/data would require our school to close?

We intend to keep our building open unless excessive absenteeism warrants closure or governmental authorities mandate school closure.

What if my student becomes sick during the day? If a student develops a fever or other symptoms of illness (whether COVID or otherwise), he/she would be brought to a separate area and monitored. The parents/guardians will be contacted and are asked to pick up the student within a half hour.

The plan talks about cohorts. What are cohorts and how do they work?

Cohorts are self-contained, preassigned smaller groups of students. Because these groups spend a majority of their time together, masks can be removed while students are in the classroom. New Life is choosing to include these groups of separate cohorts: Pre-K, Kindergarten through 2nd grade, and 3rd-4th grade. Within the classroom physical distancing and handwashing will still be maintained as much as activities permit.

How will the school help address anxiety about COVID?

The social/emotional well-being of our students is very important. Our teachers and staff will continue to provide support to all of our students as they demonstrate biblical counsel and maintain mentoring relationships. Our classes start with the opportunity to share concerns and prayer requests. Our small class sizes create opportunities for students to approach teachers with concerns.

Answers to Questions (Cont.)

Will students still eat lunch together with their friends?

Yes, elementary classes will continue to eat lunch in their classrooms. Students in grades 5-12 will switch between eating in smaller groups in classrooms and in the lunchroom. The differing schedule will allow students the opportunity to eat and socialize with their peers while they are physically (not socially) distant.

How will the school enforce physical distancing?

We will be spacing desks in classrooms to increase the distance between students. Specific scheduling and practices for movement in the hallways, seating during lunch, and the use of restrooms will be reviewed with the students. Students will be regularly encouraged and reminded that physical distance is an important aspect of reducing the transmission of harmful pathogens.

Will my child be penalized if he/she is kept home at my discretion (i.e. if a child has a cold or some other minor illness, if the child has potentially been exposed to COVID in a non-school setting, if cases spike, etc.)?

An important component of limiting the impact of COVID-19 on our school community is parents' vigilance about their child's health. We want to affirm parental responsibility in monitoring a child's symptoms and overall health as well as parental discretion in keeping a child out of school on any given day because of suspected illness. Students at home will have access to flexible learning options, and are required to complete this work as long as they are able in the recuperation process. It is important to recognize that the health of our students is paramount.

What will it look like for my child to participate in classes from home if he/she is absent?

We will provide flexible learning options so that students can continue their education during times when they may need to be home due to illness. With the help of our technology coordinator, teachers will be trained this summer in the most effective way to deliver instruction remotely.

Will there be athletics this fall or this year?

Guidance from the New York State Department of Health states that interscholastic are not permitted at this time. Our hope is that this will change so our students can participate in fall sports.

What about choir and the Christmas concert and drama production?

Music and the arts are an important part of a student's education. Students will still participate in music and drama classes and a determination will be made at a later date if these productions will be presented.

Will students still meet for chapel? Yes. We will have our chapel services in the church sanctuary. There is plenty of room to meet requirements for physical distancing.

What if I have more questions that are not answered here?

By all means, please contact the New Life office staff or Mr. Slabaugh. We are glad to provide you as many answers as we have. Of course, there may be things we cannot answer as the guidance from the state is either not yet prepared or is being updated. We will provide periodic updates to the school community as they become available.