

March 24, 2020 Update #1

LCS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Thank you LCS community for your thoughtful prayers and support of our leadership teams during this uncertain time. Your emails in response to our recent communications were uplifting and encouraging. In our efforts to keep you informed, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions that you may be curious about in the coming days.

Please note, these questions and answers will be updated regularly as the situation changes or we get new information.

Are schools closed for the rest of the year?

NO, we are not closed. We are still fully operating, but our on-campus instruction is temporarily suspended. We are blessed with significant numbers of our staff who have expertise, courage, faith, technological creativity, and the leadership necessary to transform an entire delivery model in a short

time under extraordinary circumstances. Beginning April 6, we will be providing instruction to all K-12 students. In the week of April 6 we will share our K-12 Learning Plan with parents and caregivers which will provide goals and guidance about how we will support learning in alternative environments. There are some advantages and challenges to this model of delivery. More time spent planning and connecting versus physically teaching and managing a classroom, affords us some innovative and creative advantages that we will take advantage of during this season of change. The skills we build as teachers in the process will only help us ensure that our practices are even better when your child returns to the physical school. The challenges exist for staff and parents trying to balance working from home with supervising their own child's learning, as well as the anxiety of uncertain times.

How can we stay informed?

You can stay informed through any of our traditional modes of communication. We will be updating all of the following regularly during the week of March 30. However, until further notice we will only be updating our all-school social media accounts.

- Facebook and Instagram
- LCS On-the-go
- Email Head of School Updates
- Public Website

What does the LCS teaching faculty plan to achieve in these circumstances?

We will continue to serve the mission and vision of LCS as guided by our core values: Connecting, Thriving, and Equipping families and students. Most of our regular structures will continue: chapels and devotions, faculty meetings, IEP support, and teaching and assessment. Students will continue to develop core competencies in literacy, mathematics and thinking skills. Our plans for what tasks are student, parent/caregiver and teacher responsibilities will be outlined in our K-12 Learning Plan. Learning opportunities will not try to replicate everything that was typically done when classrooms were in session, but meaningful learning and growth will undoubtedly continue. We are aiming above all else for connection and purpose, not perfection.

How will we support students if the learning takes place off campus?

The reality of education in the 21st century is that learning is never confined to a certain place or time of day. Our kids can learn any time and at any place. We know that your kids are all uniquely made,

but commonly designed to be engaged learners. Though there are advantages to the kinds of interactions and activities we can do together physically in one place, we can support robust, engaging learning off campus. In the coming days we will make sure parents and students have the tools they need at home such as computers and tablets, and that there is a help desk available to provide technology support or help you problem-solve any difficulties you have with the tools. Where necessary and possible, we will deliver or make available for pick-up, some of the supplies you will need. We will also redesign and relaunch our website as a web-based learning hub with links and a one-stop-shop for all you will need to access for K-12 online learning. Teachers will also schedule regular online face-to-face connections and interactions with students or groups of students using the Google Suite platform.

What should parents and caregivers focus on at home to support continuity of learning?

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to focus on what we know helps everyone thrive as learners:

1. regular sleep and exercise for everyone in the home
2. playing outside and inside
3. practicing thankfulness and gratitude
4. talking with kids about their anxieties
5. establishing routines and rituals such as devotions, family meals, game nights
6. service to others and neighbours
7. literacy and numeracy practice such as writing, reading, practicing math skills etc.
8. inquiry, innovation, creativity and collaboration - building, drawing, asking questions etc.
9. meaningful work on topics that individually interest your kids

Will student counselling be available?

Yes, our counsellors will be available just as always to students. We will share a means to access this service once teachers are back in session from spring break.

What about students with an Individualized Education Plan?

We will continue to provide services and support of our diverse learners. Students whose learning is informed by an IEP can expect to maintain their relationship with a Resource Coordinator and educational services team.

Is the school building open?

Our facilities are closed to the public, but open to staff on needs-only basis. Any staff visiting the site have been directed to employ all current best practice regarding health safety as prescribed by the Provincial Health Officer and further detailed by the Director of Operations. Any LCS community members who have travelled recently and not served a 14-day quarantine are not permitted on school grounds. Anyone from the community requiring pick up of items are encouraged to contact the campus principal.

Are staff working at LCS?

Staff are not required to work at school, and are encouraged to work from home unless aspects of their work require them to be on-site. All staff are maintaining strict social distancing protocols. We are planning and preparing for the expectation that travel to work for all non-essential service workers will be prohibited at some future time. Staff are encouraged to retrieve any teaching materials, plants etc. at the earliest possible convenience.

Is the school site safe?

LCS Director of Operations is working with custodial service providers to ensure that the site is properly cleaned under more rigorous expectations. To assist in the immediately urgent and increased need for cleanliness and sanitization on-site as required, teachers and other building users are advised to remove at the earliest possible time: any furniture, artwork, equipment or other non-school property that cannot be cleansed, sprayed and wiped down. Items hanging in hallways may be removed and spaces decluttered. This is in effect until further notice, and any items not removed risk being disposed of after April 6.

Is the playground open?

No, our playgrounds, sports fields and grounds are no longer open for community use. They are closed. We want to do our part as a community to minimize the spread of Covid-19.

Are final marks determined now or in June?

Education in British Columbia, as prescribed by the Provincial Government, includes teaching, learning, and assessment with a focus on core competencies not content. We will continue to provide instruction and assessment which will lead to a final grade in June. All students who are eligible and on-track to graduate will graduate and their final marks eligible for post-secondary applications. All

provincial assessments are cancelled, however LCS subject teachers may continue to provide final summative assessments for their courses.

What about staffing impact?

LCS will continue to employ all of our full-time and part-time teachers but may be required to reduce some support staffing after April 30. There are several unknown variables which may impact our ability to retain our staff at full capacity through to the end of the school year. By the end of April we expect to have more certainty about our costs and how some of our staff members' roles will change under a different instructional delivery model. It is imperative that we operate in such a way as to ensure we are in a financial position to provide full on-site services and programming when the current provincially-mandated protocols are removed.

What about my tuition?

LCS is not planning any changes to our tuition structure for April through June, 2020. However, we are concerned that the COVID-19 crisis has impacted employment and family incomes in our community. Our commitment to you and our desire, is that all of our families will remain as part of Langley Christian School for the balance of the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. Surviving and thriving through this will require everyone's sacrifice and service to one another. To that end, we are creating some cost efficiencies where we can to enable some resources to be reallocated for our tuition assistance fund. Below you will find a tuition assistance application form. Please only apply for these limited funds if you have experienced a layoff or work stoppage, have exhausted the Federal and Provincial newly announced programs, and are unable to meet your tuition commitment over the next three months. Please complete this form and send it with any questions to djensen@mylcs.ca. If there are members of our community who desire to help contribute to this fund, please also reach out to us.

[Link to Tuition Assistance Request Application Form](#)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=11Pj5VwSbkPrfFsfAv0amYpZ74wVdGeU>

What about the modular addition to the high school and middle school building?

Currently, the construction on-site is continuing as scheduled until such a time that there is a required stoppage. We expect some delays in the final occupancy permit process due to the ongoing Covid-19 impacts on township offices.

What about LCS society and board meetings?

No changes have been made as yet to the LCS Annual Meeting schedule. The board will discuss different options for holding or postponing the meeting as required by the circumstances, and will notify the society. The Independent Schools Act allows board members to attend meetings by telephone or digitally, so the current crisis will not impact regular monthly meetings.

What if a parent or caregiver is an “essential services worker”?

The provincial government is directing all public and independent schools to make plans to provide free, on-site childcare for children aged 5-12 whose parents are doctors, nurses, and first responders. We are currently collecting information about needs in our community and will share more details when they are available. We are also making plans for the possibility that some of our staff may require childcare during the day in order to provide instruction. We will ensure that any measures we take undergo the most rigorous safety protocols.

Is the grade 12 graduation cancelled?

We very much want to celebrate the accomplishments of our Grade 12 students! We will be following the direction of the B.C. Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Officer regarding when we are permitted to begin meeting again in large groups. At this time, we have notified the LCS community that we will most likely have to make some changes to our normal graduation celebrations. We may need to postpone or perhaps we will need to find a different creative option in the event that social distancing protocols remain in place through to summer. The high school leadership will make a final determination on this in coming weeks and is considering all options available for celebrating grads.

What about bussing?

Bussing has been cancelled for the remainder of the school year. We are consulting with the service provider and will have information soon about reimbursements.

What about Preschool?

Our Preschool program has been suspended for the remainder of the school year. Families will not be charged any fees for April, May, and June and anyone who has paid in advance will be reimbursed, unless you have already filed your 2019 tax return, then please contact

djensen@mylcs.ca. Harmony Wilson (hwilson@mylcs.ca) will continue to serve and connect with pre-school families during this time.

How can we serve our community?

We are noticing increasing needs throughout the Langley community. If you are aware of any needs among your neighbours, now is the time that schools and churches need to answer the call and provide the connection and support people need. We anticipate there being needs providing devices that kids can use to continue learning from home, providing groceries and meals, or other acts of service in the coming weeks. If you are aware of any needs, or if we can support your family in any way, please reach out to us development@mylcs.ca.

What are the services and resources available to parents, students and staff to learn about COVID-19 and combat the spread of it?

B.C. has launched a new non-medical information line for British Columbians who have questions about COVID-19: 1-888-COVID19. Phone lines are open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM to 8 PM, and information is available in more than 110 languages. B.C.'s COVID-19 website has many resources available at www.gov.bc.ca/covid19

- The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) web site also has many resources for British Columbians who want more information about COVID-19, at <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>
- If you think you have symptoms the Ministry of Health has developed an online self-assessment tool at www.covid19.thrive.health.
- If you have symptoms you can call 8-1-1 to pre-arrange health testing. If you have symptoms associated with COVID-19, self-isolate.
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What can everyone do to stop the spread of COVID-19?

Each of us has a role to play in reducing the spread of this virus and protecting the people we love. The most important things people can do to limit the spread of the virus are:

1. Stay home as much as possible and limit contact with other people.
2. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.

3. Avoid touching your face.

We are asking everyone to play their part – every level of government, every community, every business, everyone in B.C.

What are the options for COVID-19 testing?

Testing is available for all who need it, but not everyone requires a test. No test is needed if you have no symptoms, mild symptoms, or are a returning traveller self-isolating at home.

Testing continues to focus on those who are part of an active investigation or outbreak cluster, those who are hospitalized, and residents of long-term care facilities and health-care workers.

The COVID-19 testing strategy in B.C. is being adapted to ensure testing is available to those who need it most.

Testing will focus on people in hospitals, long-term care facilities and those involved in ongoing investigations around identified cases.

Health authorities will announce new testing centres in the coming days.

The Province is developing plans for mobile testing sites conducted by regional health authorities.

If you have future questions regarding the ongoing suspension of on-site learning or impacts of the COVID-19 situation, please direct them to headofschool@mylcs.ca

All media inquiries should also be directed to headofschool@mylcs.ca and we will do our best to follow up as soon as feasibly possible under the circumstances.