



SCHOOL OF CHOICE

Lakecrest Medical Task Force Recommendations Parent Summary



Who are the members of the Medical Task Force?

The Task Force consists of a group of medical professionals as well as members of the Senior Leadership of Lakecrest Independent School

The members of the Medical Task Force included the Head of School, Previous Head of School, Chair of the Board of Directors, as well as several medical professionals from the Lakecrest community who volunteered to help us prepare for the upcoming school year. The medical professionals worked diligently to sift through the most current research to create the best recommendations for our school to open safely. They examined all of the most up-to-date findings, as well as the most current guidelines released by relevant agencies, in order to provide us with the best possible recommendations. The Task Force will always follow the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Health protocols, as well as the guidelines of Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the province.

Is it safe for our students and staff to return to school?

Yes, provided all guidelines are followed by all members of the Lakecrest community

The recommendations are intended to mitigate, not eliminate the risk of returning to school. They will help to ensure the safest learning environment possible for our students and staff, though there is an inherent risk to returning. The Medical Task Force strongly advocates for all students to be physically present in school, as the importance of in-person learning is well-documented and they feel this outweighs any potential risks with returning to Lakecrest. This is dependent, however, on ALL members of the Lakecrest community following the recommendations, screening tools, and guidelines for when to stay home.

Are face masks required for students?

No, not at this time.

The Medical Task Force recommends face masks not be mandatory for students at this time, though things may change as the situation dictates next year. PPE will be available for staff who choose to wear it (or when physical distancing cannot be maintained), and students who choose to wear masks or other PPE will be fully supported by our school community. Special populations should consult the relevant section of the Medical Task Force recommendations, as well as their health care provider, for additional information.

How will you screen students and staff?

A digital screening form will be required by anyone entering Lakecrest

A digital form will be submitted daily by parents to indicate they and their children have no symptoms and no exposure to anyone with symptoms or anyone who has travelled outside the Atlantic bubble recently. ALL families will need to complete this form regularly in order to attend in-class learning at Lakecrest. Failure to submit the screening form, or the submission of false information on the screening form, will be dealt with seriously by the Head of School and may result in mandatory remote learning until we are able to safely verify there is no risk to our school community. In order to ensure a safe environment for our staff and students, every member of the Lakecrest community must strictly follow the guidelines and screening forms created under the Medical Task Force. The frequency of the screening form may be modified based on the current Alert Level and the recommendation of our Task Force

If I have travelled recently, does that mean my child must self-isolate?

Yes, if you have travelled outside the Atlantic bubble and had close contact with your child since returning.

As per the guidelines of multiple agencies and government bodies, as well as the Medical Task Force, any travel outside the Atlantic Bubble will require that person to self-isolate for 14 days upon returning. If you have close contact with your child upon returning, they will also need to self-isolate, as will be indicated on the screening form. This is necessary for the safety and security of our staff and students.

Will visitors and parents be allowed at Lakecrest?

No, only staff and students will be allowed to enter Lakecrest

Parents and external visitors who would like to enter Lakecrest may do so by appointment only, and only after school has finished for the day and students have departed. Deliveries will also happen outside of school hours as much as possible.

Will there be physical distancing at Lakecrest?

Yes, in various forms

The Medical Task Force encourages physical distancing, though acknowledges that there may be different expectations for different age groups. Emphasis will be on the teaching and learning and social well being of students, though a distance of 1.5m will be maintained when possible in classrooms. When that is not possible, physical barriers may be considered. Events (such as assemblies) where physical distancing is not possible will be done virtually so as not to diminish the experiences of our students at Lakecrest. Things such as the flow of traffic in hallways and stairwells, as well as staggered arrival and departure times for families, will help to maintain physical distancing for our staff and students.

What upgrades are happening to the Lakecrest facilities?

Many

Increased signage and flow of traffic indicators, as well as upgrades to our hand washing capabilities are all being explored. Replacing water fountains with touch-less fountains and sinks, as well as the installation of additional sinks, are currently in development. Increased sanitation of the campus throughout the school day is also in the works, in addition to the nightly deep clean already in place. Many other upgrades are also being explored, and will be announced once confirmed.

Will extra-curricular activities, PE & Music classes, and library time still happen?

Yes, with modifications

Detailed information on the recommendations from the Medical Task Force is available in their report. We will strive to continue to offer as many of these great classes and experiences for our students, with the required modifications in place to be able to carry them out safely. Things such as contact sports, or singing and wind instrument use, may need to be postponed until deemed safe.



Will our kids still have recess?

Yes

Recess and the importance of being balanced and taking breaks, are all important needs for our students. Recess will continue, though modified to ensure different cohorts (i.e. Grade Levels/homerooms) do not mix while outside.

What happens if someone has symptoms?

Parents should complete the daily screening form and keep their child home if they display any symptoms

Parents will be required to keep their child home if they are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms. This should happen normally in any year, however it is extremely important during the upcoming school year. If there are any staff or students who display symptoms while at Lakecrest, they will be immediately isolated in a designated location until they can be picked up from school. Any staff who interacts with this person will don full PPE gear and a deep cleaning of all facilities exposed to the individual will happen.

What if someone tests positive for Covid-19 at Lakecrest?

The entire school will move to remote learning for 7 days, in addition to any other public health recommendations

We take the safety of our students and staff extremely seriously, and any positive tests will result in the entire Lakecrest community reverting to remote learning until an appropriate period of time has passed, and both the Medical Task Force and public health officials have deemed it is safe to return. The importance of our parent community being diligent with self-isolation for anyone with symptoms or who has traveled recently (or come in contact with someone who has traveled outside the Atlantic Bubble) cannot be understated.