

Parent Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated on August 20, 2020

Q1: What criteria will you be using in determining whether to delay school start and/or close the school?

A: Refer to Section 1. Schoolwide Response Levels and Criteria for Transition Between Response Levels in the Phase III School Re-Opening Criteria, Procedures, Practices and Protocols. The Medical Hui has used the [Harvard GHI framework](#) as one source for indicators and threshold settings that are referenced when determining changes in Response Level. In all, there are 14 indicators being continually monitored by the Medical Hui.

Q2: Will there be contact-tracing instituted?

A: Not only will rapid contact tracing be used, but LJA has procedures for identifying, isolating and testing first-degree COVID contacts. Although the DOH is responsible for contact tracing, LJA will use an internal procedure immediately on notification of a positive test result and will share information with DOH contact tracers once they contact the school (estimated DOH response time >24 hours). LJA currently has 11 trained contact tracers in-house. See Section 5 of Phase III School Re-Opening Criteria, Procedures, Practices and Protocols.

Q3: What happens if there is a COVID case on campus?

A: If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 the Confirmed Case Procedure outlined in Re-Opening Criteria, Procedures, Practices and Protocols- In-School Illness will be implemented. A confirmed positive must notify school.nurse@lejardinacademy.org, who will in turn notify the DOH. LJA will commence contact tracing immediately. While the individual begins immediate home isolation, all affected facilities will be shut down for 24 hours and disinfected. A school announcement will be issued notifying families of the case. Students and staff who had close contact (i.e., first-degree contacts) with an infected individual would be notified to quarantine for 14 days. Rapid testing may be popped up on site to accommodate testing for large numbers of students. For more information, refer to Phase III - School Re-Opening Criteria, Procedures, Practices & Protocols.

Q4: I understand other schools require the families to sign an agreement that they understand the school's protocols and will adhere to them. Is this something we can do too? So that students and parents are held accountable for keeping our school safe.

A: We believe that when a family signs-on with LJA, they join an 'ohana. Now more than ever, we rely on that familial bond and entrust our community members with our wellbeing. Kōkua by staff, families and students has never been more vital. Others seek, for what it is worth and for various reasons, to base trust on transactional relationships (e.g., contracts). LJA believes that, on the other hand, that schools ought to be communities based on strong relationships. The practices are merely reflective of differences in core values.

Q5: Do we need to notify LJA if we are opting for face to face (FTF) learning or is this automatic if we don't notify the school that we want to do distance learning?

A: As face-to-face is LJA's preferred and default mode of instruction, parents should work directly with their divisional admins if they are interested in opting in to distance learning.

Q6: In light of the Governor's and Mayor's proclamations/orders around group sizes, how will classrooms be set up?

A: The State/City orders on social group sizes do not pertain to educational entities; however, DOH/DHS guidelines are germane and stipulate that schools should seek to limit "groups" to no more than 10 and to minimize co-mingling of groups wherever practicable. Classroom set ups will vary

based on LJA Response Level, grade-level and specific learning activity. For example, at LJA Level 1, virtually no adjustments need to be made to group sizes whereas at LJA Level 2, we re-configure Lower School classes to create smaller 'ohana bubbles and have bubbles rotate through stations on the playground. At LJA Level 2, our secondary classes will take advantage of outdoor classroom spaces to improve distancing and airflow when classes exceed the suggested number.

Q7: Will parents have an opportunity to see first-hand how physical distancing and other COVID 19 protocols will be implemented and maintained? We would appreciate some type of physical or virtual tour to walk through a day in the life at LJA under the new protocols. It would help immensely in understanding and assessing the residual risk for our children.

A: For the safety of our students, visitors to campus, including parents will be restricted. However, faculty will be working diligently on methods of sharing student work and daily experiences to help families find comfort in the school's safety practices and protocols.

Q8: If a student who is currently in face-to-face learning is exposed to a positive Covid 19 person (or someone in their family is exposed to a Covid 19 positive) and has to quarantine for two weeks, can he/she opt into distance learning the very next day? And once their two week quarantine is over, what procedures need to be followed to return to face to face learning? A negative test?

A: Refer to Section 5. In-School Illness Procedures and Protocols in the [Phase III School Re-Opening Criteria, Procedures, Practices and Protocols](#). N.B., exposure to positive SARS-CoV-2 carrier (i.e., first-degree) is different from exposure to a family member who is exposed to a SARS-CoV-2 carrier (i.e., second-degree). Distance learning will be immediately available for any students required to quarantine as a first-degree contact.

Q9: Do the DOE directives for public schools have any mandatory implications for private schools such as LJA? How are the DOE guidelines considered with respect to formulating the LJA protocols?

A: DOE guidelines do not apply to LJA; however, we share similarities to the extent that the DOE used CDC and DOH guidance.

Q10: Can you explain how the school intends to use cohorts for MS and HS students?

A: This will be accomplished through 1) increased use of outdoor learning through tents and covered spaces 2) break students into smaller than grade level pods for any break or non-class activity 3) decrease cross-grade class activity where possible 4) mandatory mask-wearing.

Q11: Considering the timeline and conditions under which it was implemented, we feel the distance learning program was well-executed last year. Nonetheless, we noted some areas for improvement in communication between teachers/advisors, students, and parents with regards to assignments, schedules, and student progress. Can you address what lessons learned have been implemented for this year to improve in these areas for families participating in distance learning?

A: Valuable insights gained over 10 weeks of distance learning during the spring have shaped improvements to instructional delivery and curriculum, increased/individualized social and emotional support for students, technology streamlining and enhancements, and communication systems. Please see your divisions' Parent Info Session (emailed Aug 4-6) to learn more.

Q12: Is the whole school (or at least by grade level) using the same learning platform or does it differ between teachers?

A: All teachers in the PYP (PK-5) are using Seesaw as the primary platform for communicating with parents and students. All learning will be posted in Seesaw. In Grades 3-5, teachers may direct students to Google Classroom. In Grades 6-12, students will be using Managebac, Google Classroom and Zoom. In all grades teachers may direct students to Zoom or Google Meet for live events. Report

cards will be shared via Managebac.

Q13: Given that the school intends to use outdoor class options to enable physical distancing, will there be sufficient shade/covering to minimize unnecessary UV exposure? Can you explain how F2F students will be accommodated while maintaining physical distancing protocols during inclement weather?

A: LJA has installed numerous tents and awnings across campus, with rain flaps, to ensure shady and comfortable learning spaces for students while learning outdoors. No UVC technology has been applied by facilities.

Q14: Is it advisable to purchase a face shield for school? CDC via DOH issued guidance on 7/16/20 re: the ineffectiveness of face shields in lieu of masks.

A: Masks with face shields certainly cannot hurt but face shields were not acceptable substitutes for masks.

Q15: How will the school handle situations where students are not complying with mask wearing procedures?

A: Struggles with mask wearing will be treated like any behavioral challenge. First, the teacher will work to redirect the behavior, and then the Principal or Dean will support as necessary to redirect behavior with the student, working throughout with compassion and aloha.

Q16: At what point will a grade level or the school be closed down?

A: Isolating a grade-level, or division for that matter, could occur with a single infection or a cluster based on the proximal contacts that the infected person has and the facilities used.

Q17: If our child is sick, we will want to keep him home for a few days. Will he be able to join in on Distance Learning in this case?

A: We encourage students who are home sick to rest up and return to learning when they are feeling well. Distance learning is an option for families opting-in for a quarter term and for students who must stay home for a 14 day isolation due to exposure or positive test.

Q18: What criteria is LJA using to determine shifts in response levels?

A: Please follow the links that are embedded in the criteria listed in [Section 1 of Phase III School Re-Opening Criteria, Procedures, Practices and Protocols](#) to see recommended ranges of thresholds for each level. As a matter of practice, our Medical Hui is informed by data but also expertise, experience and judgment.

Q19: If there is a scenario where Student A in junior school has an older sibling "B" on the main campus that tests positive, would the students in Student A's class also have to quarantine?

A: Student A would be considered 1st contact and Student A's classmates would be 2nd contact. Student A would quarantine immediately, but Student A's classmates would not be required quarantine until Student A tests positive. Distance learning would be available to support such a scenario

Q20: If there is a Covid positive case on campus, can you explain the process of the rapid testing that Earl discussed?

A: If an individual student tests positive, he/she is immediately isolated. A team of trained LJA contact tracers would identify the first-degree contacts of the individual (see Phase III Procedures document for procedure and definitions). If the number of contacts is limited, then individuals are sent for antigen testing with a 24 hour or less turnaround. If families don't know a testing site, LJA will provide one. If the number of contacts is large, say, an entire grade-level, then we would contact a vendor who dispatches a team and provides "large-scale" rapid result testing on site.