

# LOL Opening Information

Aug. 27, 2020

Dear LOL Families,

This all feels so counterintuitive. Here we are setting up lists of very specific rules for how to conduct ourselves in a program that was built on community closeness, individuality, and our sole “rule” of *respect*. It doesn't feel right. This is not how we would choose to run our program, but for now, it is necessary. Please join us in being uncomfortable for a bit by abiding by these guidelines to show your respect for our community and others in general. Your cooperation will help others to remain healthy and for LOL to remain open. We can be creative and find gifts in this situation. We are sure of it!

We are making a BIG effort to add the new safety precautions to our days at Leaves of Learning in a way that is safe, comfortable, and fun. We believe our safety measures are intuitive and manageable for all.

## **Requirements for Return to In-person Classes:**

We are gearing up for in-person classes starting Sept. 29th, however, we will continue to monitor the situation. Our in-person start-up will require that the local infection rate remains at 5% or less, and that there is adequate availability of testing.

## **Our Space/Our Classes**

Our rooms are large, both in square footage and volume (high ceilings). We have a row of windows that open in every classroom, and our class sizes are small. While our program wasn't designed with a pandemic in mind, it is amazingly well-suited to the current challenges.

## **Outside Learning**

Spending as much time as possible outside is one of the easiest and most impactful ways we can keep everyone safe in a very normal way. Our plan is to have 6-7 outside areas to hold classes. We are purchasing some fun outside chair options and TV tray tables and expect our students to enjoy learning outside whenever possible.

## **Signs of Illness/Exposure/Testing**

The most important thing we can do is to stay home when we are not well. We ask everyone to err on the side of caution by staying home if there are any signs of illness. Remote access to classes is available for all students, so we encourage everyone to please stay home, monitor symptoms, and seek testing if they continue.

We ask that anyone with symptoms not return until they are symptom-free for a minimum of 24 hours without the use of medication. We ask that anyone who has had known contact with someone confirmed or probable to have Covid-19, to quarantine for 14 days after contact.

**Common symptoms of Covid-19:**

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell

**When an LOL community member tests positive or has had contact with someone who has tested positive or has symptoms:**

Contact Diana Osborn or Christie Sawyer and give all the facts, including information about any students and staff who may have had close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more). We will complete a close contact list using this information, attendance information and individual schedules, and will notify each person who has had contact. The LOL community will be informed of any positive cases in the community without the disclosure of individual names.

1. Anyone having known contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19 or who is likely to be positive, judging by symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days.

2. Anyone testing positive for Covid-19 with symptoms may return to classes if ALL of these criteria are met:

- A minimum of 10 days has passed after symptoms first appeared
- No fever, fatigue or other symptoms have been present for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing/pain-reducing medications)
- Received a negative test or a 'not infectious' saliva test after symptoms subsided

3. Anyone testing positive for Covid-19 with no symptoms, may return to classes if:

- A minimum of 10 days has passed after the positive test was taken and there are still no symptoms

OR

- If symptoms develop after testing positive, follow the guidelines in #2 above

All equipment, areas, and rooms used by the person testing positive or showing symptoms will be sanitized, ventilated and fogged (in the evening when no students are in the building) with HOCL, Hypochlorous acid, a safe and effective sanitizer.

## **Student and Staff Absences**

We understand that students and staff members may need to stay home when symptomatic or may need to quarantine or isolate. We will do our best to work with everyone so as not to add any additional stress.

## **Remote Classes**

We are committed to making the remote class experience as rich as possible. Students will not be simply listening-in, we want them to have an interactive experience. We are working to figure out the logistics of small group work, discussion interactions, labs etc. This is new for us, but we feel confident that the remote experience will be solid. We are working with Cincinnati Bell to assure that we have the connectivity to offer reliable internet connections for our remote students.

## **Safety Area**

A room off the gym has been specifically designated as an area for members of our community to comfortably wait in when not feeling well. This area is enclosed and has access to an outside door. Students will be supervised until safely in the care of a parent or guardian. Necessary sanitization, involving air and surface cleaning, will be utilized before anyone else uses the room.

## **Masks**

All teachers, staff members, and any visitors will be asked to wear masks during the day in the hallways, common areas, and classrooms.

Little Sprouts students, ages 3-6, will not be required to wear masks in their classroom, but will need to wear masks to and from their classroom, at drop-off and pick-up, in common areas and when going to and from the restroom.

Masks will be required of all students age 6 and older (excluding six-year-old Little Sprout's students) in the classroom, at drop-off and pick-up, in all common areas and in their classrooms. Students will not need to wear masks when they are attending a class outside where students are spaced at least 6 feet apart. There will be many safe, physically distanced, mask breaks interwoven into the day for all members of our community. We realize that this is going to be new and will work with everyone to keep them comfortable.

Face coverings should cover both the mouth and nose to maximize effectiveness. They should fit snugly to the face. Students will need to have a way to keep their mask in a safe place away from others when it is off. Parents are asked to come up with a safe plan with their children for stowing masks when they are not in use during the day. Cloth mask pouches attached to lanyards will be made available to our community at a nominal cost. We ask that every student bring a back-up mask in the case that their mask is lost or broken. Replacement masks will be available for students at a cost of \$5.00 per mask.

## **Hallways/Dismissals/Class Changes**

Many of our safety measures will not be apparent to students. We will be staggering class changes during the day to reduce hallway traffic. Classes of younger students will be walked to their next class five minutes before older students are dismissed. Class dismissals will be set up so that hallways will not be crowded and passing others will be minimized.

End-of-the-day dismissals will work similarly to the way we exit the building for fire drills. Students will exit through four different doorways determined by the location of their last class and will meet in the side parking lot for parents to pick them up. A supervisor will be stationed at each exit and in the parking lot pick-up area. Students will continue to wear their masks at the Pick-up/Drop off area and will be asked to space themselves out. The area supervisor will be there to gently remind students if they forget.

### **Lunchtime**

We are determined for students to enjoy their lunchtime! Let's have a picnic! Students will be asked to bring a towel to use as a picnic blanket. We will have 'picnic' areas in the gym, multi-purpose room and outside. We are hoping that this will provide a fun, and safe way to distance while eating. We will also have some unique chair and individual table options available for students to use during lunchtime. Students will only be eating in areas with a high volume of airflow and good ventilation. We will have plexiglass dividers for students to use as well.

We will have some new fun games and activities for students to participate in during lunchtime that are safe and social.

### **Air Quality**

The virus appears to infect others primarily through airborne transmission. Therefore, air quality will be a primary focus of our safety plan. Each classroom will be equipped with a high- quality air purifier capable of turning over the air in the room at least four times per hour. We will fog the Little Sprouts classroom, and other rooms, as deemed necessary each evening using HOCL (hypochlorous acid, used in hospitals and dentist offices). Windows will be open in classrooms and hallways as much as possible. Class time outside will be encouraged.

### **Cleaners/Sanitizers/Foggers**

We have researched safe and effective products to use in our environment. We know that a safe environment doesn't just mean killing viruses, it means using products which are safe for our community members as well. A list of all cleaners/sanitizers/foggers is available upon request.

### **Teacher/Staff Training**

All teachers and staff will attend a remote, safe-practice training before the start of classes. Our goal is for everyone to be consistent with their expectations and to use the safest protocols.

**Thank you for helping us to offer our students as much normalcy as possible while maintaining a safe environment at Leaves.**