

This is Dr. Garth Oliver, Superintendent of Louise ISD.

If you are not able to receive the entirety of this call, please look on our Louise ISD home web page. www.louiseisd.net

This document will be posted as “School Opening Letter from Dr. Oliver”

Many have been asking, “what are we going to do regarding school?” As you have learned, I am hesitant to come out boldly exclaiming timelines and specific plans regarding COVID. The reason for that is that the landscape of what we are dealing with is continuously changing. The numbers of tests administered, the positive cases, the recoveries, the Governor’s orders, the TEA’s guidance, the CDC’s guidance and the news organizations spin have us chasing our tails.

I can tell you three things regarding the reopening of schools

1. If we are allowed to open, we will open. Teachers return on Aug 10 and students return August 19.
 - a. We plan to provide two types of instruction;
 - i. face to face just like we have always done,
 - ii. and remote online instruction which will be delivered through one or a combination of the following methods;
 1. Synchronous online instruction (meaning all signed in at the same time as the class is being taught through Google Meets which is like a zoom meeting),
 2. and Asynchronous online instruction (meaning students will access the instruction daily, watch the teacher’s instructional videos, complete the work and then submit the work for grading online. There will be no more homework pickups at the mill or cafeteria,
 - iii. Each parent and student will need to choose which method, face to face or remote online for each six weeks. If a change needs to be made prior to the end of the six weeks, you must meet with the campus principal.
2. We will take reasonable precautions within the CDC guidelines and Governor’s orders to assist your child with proven safety practices;
 - a. daily screening of all who enter our buildings
 - b. promoting social distancing
 - c. mandating face coverings with exceptions outlined in the guidelines
 - d. promoting hand washing and the use of sanitizer
 - e. sanitizing using our eMist sprayer
 - f. breakfast and lunch rotations
 - g. coordinated hallway transitions
 - h. possible school closures

- i. mandating quarantine
 - j. and other ideas that develop as we continue to plan and listen to guidance, community input, and teacher ideas.

3. Lastly, we do not want your child, our teachers, parents, grandparents, staff or anyone to get sick, but unless we move to a place where there are no people, we stand a chance of getting sick regardless of where we get exposed, whether it be from a family friend stopping by the house, going to the grocery store, or going to church. Each of us must choose for ourselves to adhere to strategies that have been suggested which give us comfort and possible protection throughout the progression of this illness. The suggestion that our teachers, principals, or myself can guarantee anyone's safety or continuously monitor and guarantee social distancing every moment is impractical. So, if you feel that face to face instruction is not for your family, please do not send your child for face to face instruction. The only educational mandate placed on you as a parent is that your child must attend school. The choice that you make for attending school can come from the list above. If none of those will work for your family, the State of Texas does a make a provision for Home Schooling which involves purchasing a curriculum, preparing lessons, and grading assignments. To re-enroll in a public school, you must show documentation of each course completion.

The encouragement that follows comes through my own personal faith. Many of us read a book that tells us over 100 times in the text not to be afraid, to fear not, and worry not. The question is, "what has worry and fear ever solved?" This book tells us to lay our cares on Him, that He will take care of the sparrows and will also take care of us. I am not suggesting that no one will ever get sick, but I am saying that He has a plan which will prosper us. Fear will cloud that plan.

Individual campuses will be posting their procedures on our website. Thank you and as always, God Bless You.

If you would like to replay this message, please press the Star Key.