

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP US KEEP THE SCHOOL OPEN

To keep your children safe and the school open for in-person learning, we will need your help to partner with us in helping students understand how their activities outside of school are also related to keeping the school open.

You can help us by considering the following recommendations and supporting the school's approach to minimizing the chance of an outbreak leading to a school closure.

It is also important to recognize that different families are going to have different comfort levels with get togethers, social events, etc. We should try as a community to extend a maximum degree of charity to each other.

With Your Own Children

- Help them understand that the school is working to keep the school open, not merely enforcing rules.
- Consider explaining “viral load” to them in terms that make sense of our most important rules and guidelines, which are focused on keeping the air fresh and virus free when indoors. The analogy to “secondhand smoke” is a strong one (though scientifically a bit different).
- Help support the practices we are asking of them at school.
- Perform the daily health checks asked of the school and, if necessary, explain their benefit to your children.

Guidance for Hosting Parties and Other Student Gatherings

It is likely that some families will want to host gatherings during the school year. It is also likely that students will get together to spend time apart from any formal gatherings. This is to be expected and is a healthy part of our life together. It is important that students have a social life and participate in social activities. However, it will be critical to keeping the school open that these don't become unintentional “super spreader” events within the Trinity School community. We have been following the opening of a number of colleges and universities, some of which have since closed their in-person undergraduate programs, and almost all of the outbreaks that we have seen at this point have been traceable to private parties with students in an enclosed space. Following the guidelines below will help us avoid that.

- Whenever possible, host activities that are outdoors and encourage your children to do the same. There is a far lower chance of transmission outdoors.

- Even outdoors, encourage social distancing. It may not be possible in such an environment to police a 6' distance at all times, but consistent encouragement will certainly help.
- Consider hosting smaller gatherings (being mindful, of course, to avoid exclusion).
- If hosting a larger gathering, especially of mixed students from different sections, please require students to wear masks indoors. Particularly avoid parties that involve students spending a long period of time in a single enclosed space.
- Consider limiting carpooling to immediate family members or requiring masks in the car to limit exposure. Increasing the amount of fresh air circulating through the car is also helpful.