



July 21, 2022

Dear VIPs – Very Important Parents:

We are excited to begin our second year of operation as Sumter's first tuition-free, open-enrollment public charter school in just a little under three weeks. I hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new year at LSC, where we will be in the "SEAS – Searching for Excellence and Success." I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. Ahead of our time together at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual LSC's Eagle Extravaganza on August 4, I am writing to share with you the COVID protocols we will be following.

Like all other schools across the country that resumed in-person learning last year, LSC experienced significant disruption to operations in the first two months as COVID cases spiked. Soon thereafter, LSC intentionally brought a variety of individuals representing various stakeholder groups (parents, staff, board directors) to collaborate with a COVID health expert in the form of a problem-solving group on a biweekly basis. This group, referred to as LSC's COVID Council, kept a constant pulse on the current state of COVID at LSC, our community, the state, & country and used that information to monitor & adjust mitigation strategies in an effort to keep our scholars & staff safe. From monthly vaccination clinics, to an abundance of personal protective equipment in place, to quarterly town hall meetings with parents, these intentional efforts yielded significant results that allowed us to honor our commitment to offer in-person learning, 5 days a week without ever shutting total school operations down. At LSC, we believe that data should always guide decision-making & we intend to renew that commitment as we welcome 160 new families to the LSC community. As a public entity, we align our protocols with the CDC & SC DHEC.

According to the CDC and SC DHEC, Sumter is currently classified as a high transmission area for COVID and has been for several weeks. All signs point to an increase in nation-wide COVID transmission during the months of August and September, with a peak in October. For those reasons, LSC will operate in a very similar manner as we did last year for the first two months of school, with some minor adjustments as noted below.

1. While we do not have any intention of mandating masks, LSC will promote the wearing of facial coverings for scholars & staff. All classrooms will have an abundance of children's facial coverings available to them beginning at the August 4<sup>th</sup> extravaganza.
2. While Nurse Katy will continue an informal "COVID check-in" with all families as you arrive daily on campus through gate 3, temperatures will NOT be checked.
3. Limited visitors will be allowed in the building from August 8-September 30. All enrichment classes will be taught in the core homeroom setting to limit scholar movement. We will continue our COVID protocols in the Eagle Café, with scholars eating with their classes socially distanced from other classes.
4. Teachers will build time into the daily schedule for scholars to intentionally take advantage of the sinks with hot water access that are located in all LSC classrooms.
5. Hand sanitizer stations will be located at the entry of each classroom for use.
6. LSC will follow all current CDC & SC DHEC guidance for COVID cases that occur in the building. The updated quarantine protocols can be found on LSC's website homepage.

Our team has learned how to be creative but embody a "safety first mindset." Our COVID council will continue to meet on a weekly basis, and we will revisit the above protocols in late September with any revisions being shared with you the last week of September (grounded in the data). Should you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail ([tivey@libertysteamcharter.org](mailto:tivey@libertysteamcharter.org)) or phone (803.316.7849).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor T. Ivey".

Trevor T. Ivey, NBCT, Ed.D.; Interim Executive Director

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