***Mills River SDA School***

***“The Opening of School for 2020-21 amid COVID-19”***

**(Revised- 7/10/20)**

Due to ongoing concerns regarding the wide-spread and growing presence of the COVID-19 virus, Mills River SDA School has created a specific plan for opening up school for the 20-21 school year.

***“The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school****.” AAP p.1*

**We plan on doing** **Traditional Learning for all students and implementing safety precautions as outlined in this document in coordination with any other restrictions and guidelines established in your local county.**

**We will also consider a Hybrid of Traditional Learning and Zoom for students who are unable or for parents who choose not to return their students to the classroom. This will be available as well should students or their families become sick with COVID.**

***I. GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CDC FOR SCHOOLS:***

* Require staff and/or students to stay at home when sick
* Social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart from others in a shared space)
* Frequently washing hands and/or use alcohol-based (at least 60% alcohol) hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
* Wear cloth or approved face coverings/masks whenever possible
* Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
* Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces (based on frequency of use)

***II. SCREENING PROCESS:***

* During COVID times only employed staff or volunteers performing a job will be allowed in the school facility. Other parents, family, guests, church members, etc. are asked to remain outside.
* Students will have their temperature taken at the front door and be given a pass to enter their respective classrooms. If the nurse and head teacher agree that the staff/student exhibits symptoms of illness or appears to be sick, the staff/student MUST be sent home. Parents should remain on the premises until their child has been checked.
* Staff/students that have been sent home have the option of being tested at an approved testing center for COVID – 19 or quarantined for 14 days with no symptoms present before they may return to school.
* Any student or adult who tests positive for COVID-19 may return with written documentation from their doctor when the illness has passed and they have done the 14 days of quarantine.

***III. QUESTIONS TO ASK TO EVALUATE RISK OF COVID-19 PRESENCE:* the following criteria are to be used as a basis for determining the inherent risk of COVID-19 with any/all regular attendees or visitors at our facility.**

* 1. Have you been in close contact\* (within 6 ft.) with someone who has a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days?
* 2. Do you currently have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or the chills?
* 3. Do you have a frequent cough or sore throat?
* 4. Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty of breathing?
* 5. Do you currently, or have you recently experienced a headache or body aches or pain?
* 6. Have you experienced a recent loss of taste or smell?
* \*According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), close contact is defined as: a) Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (defined as greater than 15 minutes); or b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)

***IV. ATTENDANCE:***

* A student will be counted present in attendance if they are present and participating by Zoom because they have been quarantined. All class work will be expected to be handed in on time if this is the case.

***V. CLASSROOM ADJUSTMENTS:***

* Kindergarten will move to a desk setup so they can be spread farther apart. We move Grades 1-4 to the fellowship hall to social distance students, and proximity of their desks. The grades 5 and 6 will spread out into the library to give more space between students. Computers will be replaced with laptops to social distance the upper grades. All students will be asked to wear masks during small group instruction where social distancing is not possible.
* All students should provide their own masks. However, if they forget theirs, one will be provided.
* Tape will mark line spots to stand.
* P.E. and choir will be offered to those who sign a waiver.
* It will be requested that parents drive their own children as much as possible on field trips or they sign a waiver as part of the permission slip allowing their child to ride with another staff or parent. Students riding on the school van will need to wear a mask.
* There will be one person in the bathrooms at a time.
* There will be one person and the librarian in the library at a time.
* Water fountains will only be used for filling water bottles when an adult can operate them with gloves. Students must have a filled water bottle which they bring from home. Emergency water bottles will be kept on hand to purchase.
* Hand sanitizer will be available and students will be taught how to dispense it hand free.
* This plan will be presented at registration and will be online to read.

***VI. CLEANING:***

* Students will clean their own desk tops with disinfecting wipes or spray.
* Each child in the middle and upper grades will be responsible for their own computer. The teacher in Kindergarten and the lower grades will be responsible for sanitizing the computers and tablets.
* Teachers will wipe down door knobs daily. As always our janitor will clean weekly.

***VII. STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED AT REGISTRATION FOR 2020-21:***

*I understand that although Mills River SDA School has taken state recommended steps to operate safely, the nature of schools, the facilities and the children involved, it is not possible to entirely eliminate all risk of COVID-19 or other contagious illnesses. I understand the assumption of risk that I am making by enrolling my child and will not hold the school liable. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Signed)*

 *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)*

 *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Printed Name)*





***FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL ---- HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING?***

1. Have you been in close contact\* with someone who has a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days?

2. Do you currently have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or the chills?

3. Do you have a frequent cough or sore throat?

4. Are you experiencing shortness of breath or difficulty of breathing?

5. Do you currently, or have you recently experienced a headache or body aches or pain?

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