



June 14, 2021

RE: Learning Independence for Tomorrow Inc. (LiFT) 2021-2022 School Year Reopening Plans

Dear LiFT Students, Parents, Families, & Team Members,

We appreciate the dedication each of you exhibited this year in support of your student's education. As LiFT plans and moves toward the 2021-22 school year, we are grateful that ongoing safety protocols, widespread availability of vaccinations, and local awareness of the effects of COVID-19 in our community will enable us to return to a more traditional educational environment for *LiFT Academy, LiFT University Transition Program, & LiFT Adult Day Program*.

We recognize that the majority of our students learn, thrive, and grow most responsively when they are in the presence of their teachers and peers. We also understand that a small percentage of our students were able to have their educational needs met with Zoom Virtual Learning. However, considering the decrease in COVID rates and the increase in vaccinations, we can begin moving toward a more traditional way of work. **For the 2021-22 school year, Zoom Virtual Learning will no longer be offered an option.**

In reviewing the recent CDC Guidelines and having met as a Leadership Team regarding the continued use of face coverings, LiFT has decided that **face coverings will be optional for all students, team members, and visitors beginning June 14th, which will include those with appointments over the summer months and extending into the 2021-22 academic year.** We will continue to work with our local public health experts at the Florida Department of Health and reviewing CDC Guidance to monitor conditions across our community in case a change in this decision is warranted.

LiFT will continue our safety protocols, including enhanced cleaning protocols and requirements for students, team members, or visitors to **stay home if they are sick.** In addition, we will ensure PPE is available at all sites should a request be made by an individual who does not have their own. We will ensure that any student or team member who chooses to continue wearing a face covering will be supported and treated with respect as we expect for all LiFT Learners, Families, Educators, and Support Team Members regardless.

Thank you again for your dedication to your student's education. Our commitment is to the students and families we serve. We look forward to welcoming our students back on August 11, 2021, for the first day of the 2021-22 school year!