



Emergency COVID-19 Policy Change for 2021-2022 School Year

PURPOSE: With the recent disruptions to school operations across the State of Florida and throughout the United States, and in accordance with updated CDC Guidance, the need for revised COVID-19 Operational Guidelines at LiFT Inc. is essential for the health and safety of our students, team members, and campus visitors.

Whereas, LiFT had been provided guidance from the Florida Department of Education and Step Up for Students that in-person learning was a requirement for continued Scholarship Funding for the 2021-2022 school year. Guidance had been received to indicate that eLearning (i.e., Zoom) was not a viable learning option for students and would not meet the attendance requirements for the State Funded Scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. Moreover, LiFT had been provided guidance that we would not be permitted to implement a mask mandate at the school or State Funds could be withheld. Consequently, LiFT had made masks optional for all students, families, and team members for the 2021-2022 school year in the Reopening Notice sent out on June 14, 2021.

CLARIFICATION: The policy changes below are being implemented only after LiFT Inc. has received confirmation from both the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and Step Up for Students (SUFS) on August 19, 2021. Both entities have confirmed in writing that the below changes will **not** jeopardize a student's State Funded Scholarship for students attending private schools. **Please remember that if your student is sick (i.e., COVID-19, flu, cold, or other illness), we ask that he or she take the sick day(s) to rest and recover. There is no expectation for eLearning while actively sick.** COVID-19 related absences are excused absences. All other absences due to illness are excused with a doctor's note.

POLICY CHANGES: Learning Independence for Tomorrow Inc. (LiFT) is revising the policies with COVID-19 Protocols effective August 23, 2021, having been approved by our LiFT Board of Directors through emergency off-cycle unanimous vote on August 20, 2021.

In accordance with the most recent guidance and protocols issued by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Florida Department of Health, for slowing the transmission of COVID-19 and the new evolving dangers of the Delta variant, the below COVID-19 protocols are effective as of August 23, 2021:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

1. LiFT Inc. (including LiFT Academy, LiFT University Transition Program, and LiFT Day Program) will return to a full mask mandate for all LiFT Students, Team Members, Visitors, and on-site personnel while on campus effective August 23, 2021, and until further notice.
2. Temperature checks will be required upon entry to all LiFT Buildings.
3. Masks must be worn indoors at all times (unless actively eating or drinking) regardless of vaccination status.
4. All visitors should call in advance and schedule an appointment prior to visiting the campus.
5. If a student or team member is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 including coughing, fever, shortness of breath, or any other symptoms, he or she will be required to be picked up or sent home immediately and quarantine for a minimum of 3 days. Prior to returning to campus, the student or team member must not display any COVID-19 symptoms for at least 24 hours consecutively or provide a negative COVID-19 test result after the third (3rd) day of quarantine.
 - a. Parents have the option to extend the quarantine period up to 7 days as they see fit but must provide notice to LiFT that they are making that choice.

Approved by LiFT Board of Directors (August 20, 2021)



6. If a student or team member has known exposure, whether directly or indirectly, a notification email will be sent out to the grade level and/or classes to provide notification of the possible exposure. For any potential exposures to the virus, a mandatory three (3) day quarantine will be required before returning to school.
7. If during the quarantine period, a student or team member develops symptoms, they must notify the school and submit to a COVID-19 test and provide negative results to the school after the third (3rd) day of quarantine.
8. If a student or team member produces a positive test result for COVID-19, he or she will need to remain quarantined for a minimum of seven (7) calendar days AND produce a negative COVID-19 test result or a minimum of ten (10) calendar days without a test result. For both the 7 or 10-day quarantine options, the student or team member must have 2 consecutive days of not experiencing any symptoms.
9. Should a student be required to quarantine due to COVID-19, he or she will have the option to participate in eLearning via Zoom without attendance penalty or loss of State Scholarship funding.
10. Should a student test positive for COVID-19, he or she has the option of having an excused absence for the school date(s) missed provided that the student makes up the work missed on the days he or she was absent.
11. Per the guidance from FLDOE and SUFS, students may only participate in eLearning options (via Zoom) under the following conditions:
 - a. A student has tested positive for COVID-19, is under mandatory quarantine due to direct or indirect exposure or is kept home due to other illness.
 - b. The eLearning option via Zoom cannot be the student(s)' primary source of instruction for the duration of the school year and regular "brick and mortar" attendance and contact with the school is still required.**
 - i. If receiving a State Funded Scholarship, long-term eLearning via Zoom is NOT an available option for students and can only be used in accordance with COVID-19 illness, exposure, quarantine, or other illness.
 - ii. For families opting to private pay 100% of the tuition for the school year, alternative arrangements for longer-term eLearning can be made available as there are no Scholarship mandates in place to present eLearning (provided that eLearning remains available throughout the entirety of the school year).
 - c. Attendance will be taken each class while a student is participating on Zoom. Regular attendance (i.e., cameras turned "ON", Volume turned "ON", and response/participation while attending virtually are required).

RESOLUTION: The health and safety of our students is our top priority. Provided the highly transmissible nature of the COVID-19 virus, Delta variant, and crisis at hand, LiFT has an ethical responsibility to take action to ensure continued education is possible for all of our LiFT students, families, and team members. The above policy changes are hereby adopted on August 20, 2021, by the LiFT Board of Directors to go into effect beginning Monday, August 23, 2021, and will remain in effect until further notice.