Dear Lakeview Academy Families,

This letter includes information regarding the COVID-19 virus and our schools plan to address any future concerns. Previous school newsletters included information on how to help prevent the spread of any virus and education on hygiene we are sharing with your students. On March 12th Governor Herbert held a press conference with new information and recommendations we are putting in place. We understand there is a great deal of information being communicated in the community about COVID-19. In an effort to simplify this letter we are addressing main topics and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

**Information from State School Superintendent on 3/12/2020:**

“Safety for our students and the adults who serve them, is our priority. That means their health and well-being, along with continued education is on the forefront of our minds,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “Right now – we are transitioning from getting ready for the possible, to getting set for the probable, however, we are not making a statewide decision to close K-12 schools due to COVID-19 at this time.”

A decision to close any school is a local decision that is coordinated through the state. Local health departments and the Utah Department of Health are the organizations empowered by Utah law to close schools to protect public health. District and charter schools throughout the state are working with their local health departments in monitoring the situation and taking action based on those observations.

The Governor’s Coronavirus Task Force, in coordination with all 14 local health departments to make the following recommendations to schools:

- Cancellation of all school-related out-of-state travel for the next two weeks.

Additional recommendations include:

- Postpone or cancel mass gatherings, which may include school assemblies, activities, and athletic games and functions.

- Consider staggering recesses and lunches to reduce the number of children in one place at one time.

- Consider staggering start times and dismissal times to reduce the number of children in one place at one time.

- Amplify health and hygiene prevention measures including staying home if you are ill, washing your hands thoroughly and often, and covering your nose or mouth when you sneeze or cough.
“We want to make sure that we do not close schools unless there is an imminent threat to our children and the adults who serve them,” Dickson said. “Our situation is different than that of higher education. While many of our schools can implement distance learning through digital means, we are not capable of a full transition statewide for K-12 at this time. Additionally, not having K-12 children in school puts weight on families whose parents work during the day, or for those in which childcare is not an option. It is a different type of social and economic impact that we are not taking lightly.

“To all district and charter schools: Please do not attempt to close a school unless your local health officer is directing you to do so. Closing a school out of anxiety or fear, and not because a health officer deems it necessary, can have ripple effects, not just throughout your immediate community, but throughout the entire state.

“We have complete confidence in our local school leaders, local health departments, and communities to work together to make the best decisions for their students and educators,” Dickson said.

Lakeview Academy Decision Process:

Lakeview Academy is not a part of Alpine School District and will make decisions independently from them. We are sensitive to families who have students in Lakeview and Alpine schools during our decision process. Decisions to alter school events/activities are made by the schools Administration team. Decisions made to change attendance policy or school closures are made by our local Lakeview Academy School Board of Trustees. As stated above, if we felt a school closure was appropriate, our School Board would collaborate with the Utah County Health Department to make this decision. If the health department and our local board decide to close the school for any health reason, the school would communicate this decision using our email/text/phone system. Additional information would be shared as needed.

Remote Learning:

Lakeview Academy is developing an online learning plan in the case our school was forced to close for any reason. This remote learning would include free Google classroom and free Google Hangout tools. If your family would have a concern accessing online material, please contact the school and let us know. If your family does not have access to a computer that allows for Google Hangouts, please let the school know. As a precautionary step, teachers sent home math and reading student workbooks today in case of a school closure over the weekend. You can contact Perry Goodger at pgoodger@lakeview-academy.com about any of those concerns.

Current School Events and Calendar:
At this time, the school is making adjustments to school activities to best follow the recommendations from the Governor and Superintendent. Accordingly, after school sports games have been postponed. Clubs that are less than 100 are still holding rehearsals and practices. All school assemblies are postponed until further notice. Some field trips are being postponed. Grade levels will be including any activity changes in their newsletter. If you have any questions about a program or school activity your student is involved in you may contact that teacher or program leader.

Attendance Policy:

We would also like to re-share our procedure for school attendance for your reference if you feel you need it during this time or at any other time.

Regular attendance is critical for student success and families are encouraged to ensure students are in class unless there is an illness or family emergency.

Here is a summary of the policy.

1. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if their student is going to be absent.
2. The student’s teacher will contact home if a student is absent for 3 consecutive days.
3. If a student is absent for 5 consecutive days, the counselor will contact home.
4. Students who are absent for 10 consecutive days without communicating to the school the reason for the absence will be un-enrolled from the school records.
5. Students who have prolonged illness need an ongoing doctor’s note with expected dates of return.
6. Students are given extended time to complete missed assignments for excused absences.
7. Parents are discouraged from checking their students out early or sending them to school late for any reason other than illness or emergency.
8. Please try to schedule doctor’s appointments, etc, after school.

Additional information on student health:

Utah County Health Department Attendance Recommendations:
Utah County Health Department recommends students stay home when:

- They are not well enough or seem too run down to participate in class.
- Their cold symptoms are accompanied by a fever of 100.5 or higher.
- They have a contagious illness, such as the flu, pinkeye/conjunctivitis (redness, itching, and/or “crusty” drainage from the eye)
- They have vomited within the past 24 hours
- They have experienced diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- They have body rash with itching or fever
- They have active head lice
- They have been diagnosed with a bacterial infection, such as bronchitis or strep throat. In such cases, keep a child home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

LVA Family Handbook Guidelines for deciding if a child is too sick to attend school:

- If your child has had a fever of 100 degrees or more, the child should stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal.
- If your child has vomited or had diarrhea, the child should stay home until 24 hours after the last episode.
- If your child has had any rash that may be disease related or if you do not know the cause, check with your family physician before sending the child to school.

In conclusion, thank you for all you do to make this school what it is. And if you have made it all the way to this part of the letter, thank you again. We know this is a large amount of information to receive but hope it helps in clarifying how our school will handle this current illness and any others that may come up in the future. If you have any additional questions, please contact us and we will do our best to help. We are committed to help where we can to follow the recommendations of the State in preventing the spread of illness and encourage wellness in our community.