



Dear Linden Hall Boarding families,

As you saw in Ms. Teske's email from last week, Linden Hall is happy to report that we plan to open campus for classes in the fall while prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students and staff. At this moment, Lancaster County is poised to move to the "Green Phase." However, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has been strongly advising residents to continue their social distancing and safety practices. This spring, our residential community committed to following safe practices and Pennsylvania's stay-at-home order while we implemented distance learning. We are pleased to report that our community stayed healthy and well and we were able to simultaneously provide a high-quality educational program.

One of our top priorities this summer has been planning and preparing for the safe return of our boarding students to campus this fall. We know that students learn best when they are able to be present with their teachers and are excited to bring students back to the classroom. Welcoming boarding students to campus in scheduled cohorts seems to be the best way to comply with Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines for social distancing, and to bring all our students back as safely as possible. In order to create a smooth transition, dormitories will open for residential students on July 27 for a two-week quarantine before our regularly scheduled Orientation begins on August 10, 2020.

Campus Quarantine Plans

Upon arrival, students will observe a two-week quarantine period in Castle and Annex dorms. Boarding students will be cared for by Linden Hall's residential staff and school nurse during their quarantine time. Adults will follow best practices in social distancing and safety as recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our medical partners at Lancaster General Health (LGH). Our school Nurse, Cyndy Wright, will provide leadership as we monitor quarantining students for symptoms and perform temperature and wellness checks.

While in quarantine, students will follow a structured daily schedule preparing them for living and learning at Linden Hall during the school year. Punctuated by meals and home-life routines, students will have time for learning in "academic" time and exploring hobbies in social time. Chefs Maggie and Becky will provide daily menu selections for students in order to create a satisfying gustatory experience during quarantine. At the conclusion of their two-week quarantine period, students will resume small group meals in the dining hall.

Once quarantine is successfully completed, students will move into their permanent dorm rooms in Horne dorm and will begin the normal residential routine at Linden Hall in advance of Orientation. Students will be ready to fully participate in on-campus Orientation and pre-season athletics.

Safety Procedures

Our Linden Hall community has been and will continue adhering to social distancing protocols, wearing masks, washing hands, and a strict cleaning and disinfecting routine throughout the campus and dormitories. All students, faculty, and staff return to school this fall knowing that they must wear masks when indoors. Part of Orientation Week this fall will include training for everyone in new health and safety procedures. We will be releasing revised expectations for visitors to campus to ensure that anyone from outside the school will follow our requirements.

As we know, testing is an essential component in helping to contain COVID-19 when infection is suspected. Linden Hall is thrilled to have Lancaster General Health (LGH) as a health partner should our students need access to testing.

Equally important in preventing the spread of this disease is monitoring for symptoms. Linden Hall staff will carefully monitor students on campus, and we ask for the cooperation of parents and guardians to do the same at home. Students and staff will be asked to adhere to a temperature-check routine upon their return to Linden Hall and we plan to continue with daily checks throughout the year.

Sign-up for early arrival

It is our hope to provide a fun, safe quarantine environment for our students. Families hoping to take advantage of the early arrival at an additional cost should fill out the [July 2020 Early Registration Form](#). As students will be in cohorts together for quarantine, we must hold families to strict arrival dates. Arrivals will only be accepted on July 27 and August 10. To take advantage of on-campus quarantine please register for July 27 arrival; the cost for early arrival is \$195/day and space is limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Those electing to arrive to campus for the July 27 quarantine must submit their first tuition payment (based on their plan) by Monday July 20, 2020.

Students who instead elect to arrive on the originally scheduled date of August 10 will begin their quarantine upon arrival and participate in distance learning for Orientation and the first week of school. They will not be able to participate in pre-season sports practices or traditional activities associated with the opening of school. Regardless of which date you select, be sure to inform Linden Hall as an appointment is required for all on-campus arrivals.

To help prepare students and families for their return, Linden Hall will hold pre-arrival live online sessions in the month of July. You should plan to attend one before your scheduled arrival date. Topics will include:

- Drop-off expectations
- Cohorts and housing set-up
- Safety expectations

Because we anticipate only students will be able to enter the dormitories upon arrival, we hope that this will provide parents a better look into the quarantine process at Linden Hall. The department of Residential Life will begin messaging return-to-campus information via email in the next week - please watch for this important information!

Families who choose not to take advantage of early quarantine and cannot arrive for Orientation on August 10 should email Ms. Solomon with details of their arrival plans. As Ms. Teske indicated in her recent communication: "If a student is not on campus, she may receive some of her learning differently than her peers, but our goal is to keep her on track to join her Linden Hall sisters seamlessly when she arrives. With your support as parents, we will meet this goal. If you believe your student falls in this category, please reach out to Ms. Natasha Solomon, Dean of Students, at nsolomon@lindenhall.org to ensure that we are aware of your family's situation."

We, in Student Life, look forward to providing you more information soon,

Ms. Natasha Solomon
Dean of Students
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