

New CDC Guidelines for Schools and their impact at Lab

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Tuesday, Feb 16, 4:32 PM

To: **gehlbach@uchicago.edu**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

**Laboratory
Schools**

From Interim Director David W. Magill

Dear Families in Grades 1–5,

As you may know, on Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published an Operational Strategy for K–12 Schools. We have since been in close contact with our University partners and medical advisors to discuss the implications for Lab.

This new CDC guidance stresses using a social distance of 6 feet. While we believe that our initial plans to move to 5 feet social distancing in grades 1–5 were based on sound scientific evidence and advice, we have decided to move to six feet social distancing for all Lab students.

Here are the immediate implications for grades 1–5:

Grades 1–2, in-person program: Grades will not be reconfigured into full class cohorts. Instead they will remain split, with the same ~12 student cohorts housed in two separate rooms. All teacher and student groups will remain as they have been. Given the timing, we will continue with the schedule for this week and next as planned:

- There will be no in-person school on Thursday and Friday, February 18 and 19, for teacher work days.
- Monday, February, 22, is a no school day for all in-person and remote students, as planned.
- There will be no in-person school on Friday, February 26 for parent teacher conferences.
- Remote parent teacher conferences will be on Friday, February 19.

Grades 3–5 in-person program: Instead of a full time, in-person program, the 6-foot distance means that Lab must revise our Lower School plan using a hybrid model. We are already working on the details of that program and we will have more information as soon as possible.

- At this time, we know that we will not be able to start our in-person program next week and we will remain in remote learning.

- The visit day planned for Friday, February 19 is canceled. This is still a no school day for students.
- Monday, February, 22, is a no school day for all in-person and remote students as planned.
- **CHANGE:** There **WILL** be remote learning for LS students Tuesday–Friday, February 23–26, on the regular LS remote schedule.

Please know that we appreciate how disruptive this change may be to your family. Nothing about the pandemic is easy—the situation changes quickly and this is yet another instance of that occurring. It is hard on all of us and we feel deep compassion for you, your children, and our teachers and administrators who are working tirelessly to adjust while still teaching and supporting our students.

Respectfully,



David W. Magill
Interim Director



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