

## Health and Safety FAQs

### **Q: Are staff required to wear a face covering or face shield?**

A: The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) require face coverings or face shields for all staff, contractors, other service providers, or visitors entering Victory, following CDC guidelines for face coverings. Individuals may remove their face coverings while working alone in private offices.

### **Q: Are students required to wear a face covering or face shield?**

A: All of Victory's students are protected under federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These laws protect student access to instruction. ODE and OHA have established clear guidelines related to students with disabilities and the wearing of face coverings. These guidelines include accommodations related to the disability and/or an existing medical condition (and a physician's orders to not wear a face covering). The Victory Team will work with individual families and students—and when applicable, their medical team.

### **Q: Does Victory have enough space for all students and staff?**

A: Yes, Victory has more than enough space for all students and staff on campus. The Victory Team has measured all classrooms and building spaces and posted maximum occupancy signs, adhering to the 35 square feet per person requirement by ODE and OHA.

### **Q: What is Victory's plan of action if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

A: ODE and OHA released updated, detailed Guidance on August 11, 2020: Planning for COVID-19 Scenarios in Schools. The link can be found here: **\*\*insert pdf link**

In these situations, Victory is advised by our Local Public Health Authority, Clackamas County. They specifically tell Victory how to proceed in terms of any mandated quarantines or closures. Victory will provide consistent and clear email communication with our community in all circumstances and situations related to COVID-19 exposure.

**Q: What measures does Victory have in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19?**

A: Victory has implemented the following practices:

- Detailed health screening and temperature check upon entry each day for students, staff, and any other essential workers
- Hand sanitizing stations at every main entry and exit point; hand sanitizer available in every building space
- Explicit teaching of hand washing, hygiene, and related health matters
- Established cohort size of 10 or fewer students
- Restricted cohort mixing (limited on-site learning allows for students to only interact with one other cohort per week)
- Increased daily cleaning of all building spaces
- Mandated face coverings for all adults
- Recommended face coverings for students with disabilities
- Staggered start and stop times
- Added outdoor learning spaces
- The use of “fresh air” ventilation when possible (open windows and doors)

Victory cannot absolutely prevent the spread of COVID or other influenza or colds. Victory can, however, take precautions and mitigation efforts based on the science and advice of public health advisors and local government (ODE, OHA, Clackamas County). The daily health screening, hand washing, face coverings, social distancing, small cohorts, and limited number of staff interacting with students are all guidance from public health authorities. Victory is actively adhering to all of this guidance.

**Q: As a private school, does Victory have to follow all state requirements as they related to K-12 schools?**

A: Yes, Victory is required to follow all guidance from ODE, OHA, and Clackamas County.

**Q: Why has Victory applied for an exception in order to deliver limited on-site learning for its students?**

If Victory were like other larger private and public schools, then utilizing a complete Comprehensive Distance Learning Model (CDL) would be a viable option. However, Victory is unique in that it supports and educates children and teens with Autism and related disorders. These students require on-site instruction in order to learn and access critical interventions and therapies. The Victory community is not immune to COVID-19, but Victory students will also lose vital progression in their lives without the specialized instruction, interventions, and therapies that Victory provides.