

Community Christian School

Covid-19 Preparedness Plan 2021 -2022

Community Christian School is committed to providing an environment where students grow spiritually, achieve academically and flourish personally.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic and our commitment to our students, staff and faculty's health and well-being, the Covid-19 Preparedness Plan 2021-2022 aims to communicate Community Christian School's illness mitigation strategies.

This plan addresses the extent to which CCS is following the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

This plan was reviewed and approved by Community Christian School Board on August 2021.

The plan will be continually reviewed by Administration and the School Board and will be updated as recommendations or government mandates change.

NOTE: All information herein is subject to change related to or based on new information, changing environmental conditions or government mandates relating to COVID-19.

SCREENING & ILLNESS

The most important screening of a child's health begins at home. If your child is not feeling well, parents should assess their children's symptoms at home. Additionally, parents are encouraged to refer to *the MN Department of Health Recommended Covid-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth and Child Care Programs* [Appendix A] for additional guidance.

As directed by the MN Department of Health, following the identification of symptoms, parents and students are recommended to follow one of two paths on the *MN Department of Health Recommended Covid-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth and Child Care Programs*.

If parents should have questions regarding the recommendations outlined within the decision tree, they are encouraged to contact their health care provider.

At this time, students who have ONE "less common" symptom of Covid-19 may return to school if they have been determined well enough by their parent or guardian, they have been symptom-free for 24 hours or as directed by their health care provider.

The only exception to returning to school after 24 hours is if your student has ONE "more common" symptom, TWO "less common" symptoms or ANY symptom (more or less common) during quarantine.

We encourage all parents to remain vigilant about their student's health and wellness.

ILLNESS SYMPTOMS AND SCREENING AT SCHOOL

Non-contact thermometers will be used at CCS, in order to quickly and safely read a student's temperature if students display signs of illness or symptoms of COVID-19. Regardless of vaccination status, in the event that a child feels ill during the school day, parents will be contacted to pick up their child.

If a child has left school due to illness and they receive an alternate diagnosis other than COVID-19, then they may return to school 24 hours after full recovery.

Students who are unable to attend school due to illness or self-quarantine may have their parent or guardian pick up their school work for their time at home.

Attendance awards for students will not be in effect for the 2021-2022 school year.

RESPONSE TO POSITIVE CASES AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

If a student, faculty, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, then school administration must be notified immediately.

As recommended by MDH and outlined within the *Covid-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth and Child Care Programs*, students who test positive for Covid-19 should stay home until all three of the following are true:

- The student feels better and their symptoms have improved; and
- It has been a minimum of 10 days since they first felt ill or tested positive: and,
- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, within the use of fever reducing medication.

QUARANTINE, EXPOSURE AND CONTACT TRACING

Students who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the home, should closely monitor for symptoms, self-quarantine for a minimum of 5 days and receive a Covid-19 test at day five. If the student tests negative for Covid-19, they are welcome to return to school.

As recommended by the MDH, the only exemption from the above is for the fully vaccinated or those students who have had a confirmed Covid - 19 infection within the past 90 days.

CCS kindly requests that students exposed to a confirmed Covid-19 infection within the home, receive a negative COVID-19 test before they return to school.

At this time, CCS will not conduct contact tracing. As in our pre-pandemic protocol, CCS notifies families whenever a communicable illness has occurred in a classroom. Parents will be notified when potential exposure or a confirmed positive case occurs, so they can be aware and monitor their student for symptoms.

VACCINATIONS

Although it is the recommendation of the MDH and CDC for any person over the age of 12 to receive the Covid -19 vaccination, Community Christian School will not require students to receive the Covid-19 vaccination, nor prove vaccination status. It is our belief that the parents of our students are best equipped to determine their vaccination preferences as it relates to their family's health and safety.

Community Christian School will not require our faculty, staff or volunteers to receive the Covid-19 vaccination, nor prove vaccination status. It is our belief that our faculty, staff and volunteers are best equipped to determine their vaccination preferences as it relates to their family's health and safety.

FACIAL COVERINGS

Although MDH and the CDC recommends the use of face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, CCS is not requiring facial coverings at this time. Any families/students who are more comfortable wearing facial coverings are encouraged to do so. It is our belief that the parents of our students are best equipped to determine their facial covering preferences as it relates to their family's health and safety.

FACE COVERINGS AND SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires face coverings for all public transportation. This requirement currently applies to all occupants of school buses and district transportation of students.

This means students must wear a face covering for all situations (to and from school, field trips, athletics buses, etc.) in which they are boarding a school bus or other district transportation.

HYGIENE

- Regular handwashing times throughout the day will be implemented.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available and ALL staff and students will be encouraged to use them frequently throughout the day.
- Students will be encouraged to carry with them a small package of tissues during the school day. The school will continue to have both tissues and hand sanitizer in the classroom setting, but a student who has these easily accessible items will be more likely to use them.
- Students should have a personal water bottle to refill throughout the day.

CLEANING AND SANITATION

- Building door handles and common areas will be sanitized during the day and at the end of each school day. Regular daily cleaning of restrooms and shared spaces will continue to take place at the end of each school day.
- Student desks will be wiped down daily.

SPACING, MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

- CCS is fortunate to have small numbers of students per classroom as a general practice. For the 2021-2022 school year, desks will be placed in a manner that will maximize the amount of space between each desk.
- Students will have locker assignments to maximize spacing in hallways.

APPENDIX A

Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Settings are encouraged to follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person – regardless of vaccination status – is experiencing the following symptoms.

- **More common:** fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

