



## 20-21 Back to School Plan

---

### Approach

Scripture teaches us that there is both a place for trusting God while putting aside fear and a place for planning for the safety of people. The story of Nehemiah courageously rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem for the protection of its people incorporate both of these ideas. It does not have to be one or the other. We hope that the plans to reopen Calvary for 20-21 take into account both actively planning for the safety of our community and trusting in God to act on our behalf.

We have considered information from a variety of sources and although opinions vary, we believe the reasonable approach contained in this plan will allow us to begin school on our regularly scheduled start date of August 19<sup>th</sup>. We do not plan to make changes to our yearly calendar at this time. We hope this plan takes into account the best interests of our students while balancing that with the best interests of our broader community, including their families as well as our faculty and staff.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently published guidance for the reopening of schools. Their recommendations substantially agreed with the re-opening of schools. A few key ideas from their report.

- “The AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming year should start with the goal of having students physically present in school. No child should be excluded from school unless required to adhere to local public health mandates of unique medical needs.”
- “School policies must be flexible and nimble. They should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for a child and adolescent’s developmental stage.”
- “Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection. Also, children may be less likely to become infected and spread infection. Policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within schools must be balanced with the known harms to children, adolescents, families, and the community by keeping children at home.”

- “There is a conflict between optimal academic and social/emotional learning in schools and strict adherence to current physical distancing guidelines.”

In addition, the pediatric hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto (UT), has issued the following guidance:

- “Strict physical distancing should not be emphasized to children in the school setting as it is not practical and could cause significant psychological harm. Close interaction, such as playing and socializing, is central to child development and should not be discouraged.”
- “When children are in the classroom, to the extent possible, efforts should be made to arrange the classroom furniture to leave as much space as possible between students. However, the daily school routine should not be disrupted to accommodate...for physical distancing.”

Additional data

- Average age of death worldwide in modern societies is 81
- 71% of Ohio COVID deaths are from long term care facilities
- Death rate for kids is at least 10x greater for influenza
- Study in Europe shows it is extremely rare for children under 10 to pass virus to others. Virus passes from adults to children or adults to adults
- Another study found no children passing virus to rest of family

We know that students are not a high risk demographic if they are exposed to the coronavirus. However, we do have faculty and staff as well as families with immediate family members that are considered high risk. It is our responsibility to balance our return to school with common sense solutions to help mitigate the spread of covid19.

With these principles in mind, the following plan represents the mitigation strategies that CCS will have in place beginning Aug. 19 when students return to school. This plan is not exhaustive and does not address every single aspect of the school day. Additionally, this plan may change as we evaluate positive or negative changes to the outbreak. While the school will be extremely vigilant on enforcement and asks for the cooperation of all students and families, there can be no guarantees that complete mitigation of risk will take place. The virus is not going away any time soon, so this is Calvary’s plan to continue the vital work of Christian education in an environment that recognizes the real need for precautions. This work needs to take place in a world desperate for the Gospel. While this plan is akin to Nehemiah acknowledging the need for a wall and plans for rebuilding it, we also trust as Nehemiah did that, “The God of heaven will give us success.”

## Screening

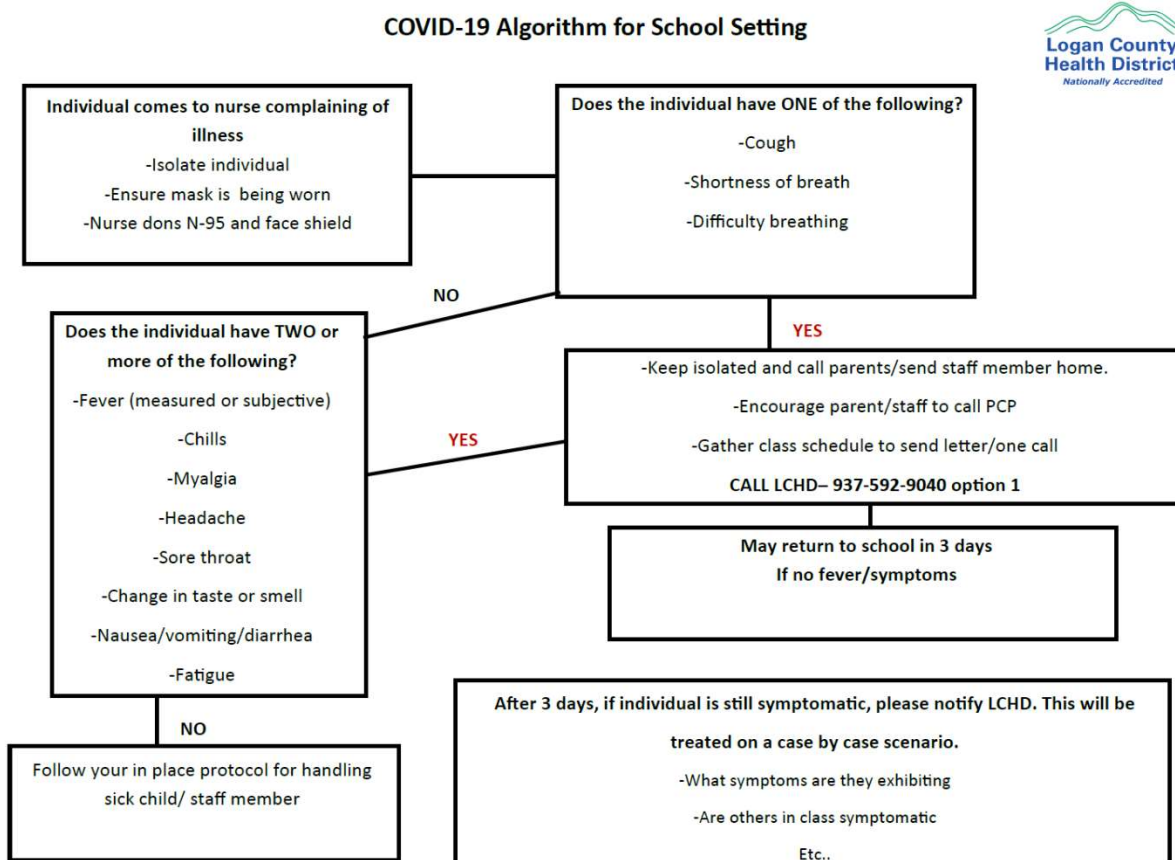
All students, faculty, staff, and volunteers must self-screen, with the help of parents or a caregiver, before leaving home each day for the following symptoms. A person shall not come to school under any circumstance if he/she displays any one of the following:

- A body temperature of 100\* or higher any time in the previous 24 hours.
  - Students sent home with a temperature over 100\* will need to stay home for 72 hours and be 24 hours fever free without medication to return.
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or, any two of the following:

- Chills
- Myalgia
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Fatigue

If a student or staff member becomes ill during the school day, the following flow chart from the Logan County Health Department will be followed. We will not be awarding perfect attendance certificates this year so we don't incentivize students coming to school ill.



## **Physical Distancing**

All classrooms will follow these guidelines

- Following the AAP guidelines, student seating will be placed up to 6' apart but no less than 3' apart.
- When possible, the sharing of supplies among students will be avoided. When supplies are shared, they will be disinfected between uses.
- Student desks will face the same direction except for kindergarten which will have students at tables sitting diagonally from each other.
- Six feet of distancing between adults will be maintained when at all possible. The nature of the teacher to student relationship makes absolute adherence to this impractical, and perhaps undesirable. However, teachers will use common sense when applying distancing practices between themselves and their students.
- We will have teachers stagger 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade class changes to minimize hallway traffic.

## **Hand Hygiene**

Regular hand washing and sanitizing are among the most effective ways to control viral spread. Students will have regular access to soap and water and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

- All classrooms and common spaces will have hand sanitizer stations available to students and staff. Students will be encouraged to use regularly.
- Students will have regular bathroom breaks where they will have access to soap and water.
- Students will be expected to wash their hands before and after lunch, before and after recess, and after using the restroom.
- Instruction and reminders will be provided by staff.

## **Face Covering: Masking/Shielding**

The Ohio Department of Education strongly recommends that students in grades 3-12 wear a facial mask. However, the pediatric hospital at UT strongly recommends that students do not wear masks. There are other recommendations that cover opinions spanning everything in between. The following will be implemented in accordance with our intention to balance the best possible educational environment with the safest working environment for our staff members.

- Per the state of Ohio mandate for schools, all faculty and staff will be required to wear a mask or shield during the school day, except when alone in their assigned workspace.
- Students will be required to wear a face mask or shield when in a classroom with a teacher who is in or has immediate family in a COVID-19 high risk category and therefore in need of special protections. Those classrooms are
  - Mrs. LaBelle
  - Mrs. Hanson (8<sup>th</sup> grade health class & yearbook)
- Besides classrooms with a high risk faculty member, face coverings for K-12 are a family decision.
- We recommend that 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students wear a mask during class changes.

- Any student that becomes ill during the school day and visits our office to be screened will wear a mask. We will provide the mask if the student does not have one.
- Any student that wishes to wear a mask during the school day must provide their own. For those that choose to wear a mask, it is recommended that a clean mask be worn each school day.
- Temporary plexiglass barriers will be placed in the school office
- Appropriate instruction will be given by staff so that no student is made to feel uncomfortable if they do or don't wear a mask. Students will be taught to honor the decisions of other people.
- Update 7/29/20: The Logan County Health Dept. issued a mask order pertaining to students age 10 and older which applies to specific situations. A link to that order can be found on our COVID-19 page and app tile.

### **Recess**

- Recess will outdoors when the weather allows it.
- Distance requirements will not be enforced, although the recess supervisors will apply common sense.

### **Chapels/Assemblies**

- Chapels will continue with more distance between each grade level. The sanctuary provides plenty of room to spread out.
- Other large group assemblies will be limited or done through virtual technology.

### **Pick-up and Drop-off Students**

- While school doors will open at 7:45 for cafeteria supervision, we are requesting that parents limit the amount of time their child arrives before the start of school as much as possible. Likewise, we are asking that all students depart campus within 15 minutes of the end of the day (unless there is an after school activity).
- One of the great community opportunities for parents is student pick-up time. It is an opportunity to see other parents and students and connect with a teacher. However, to limit the number of people in the building, until the coronavirus outbreak passes, parents will need to remain outside of the building while their child comes to them. We will do this by designating multiple doors as pick-up locations for K5-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students. Families will be alphabetically assigned to a door where they will remain in their vehicle while their child is dismissed to them. A map will be provided to our families to show the new flow of traffic.
- School day visitations this year will only be for emergency situations. Adults visitors (such as guest speakers) will be screened in our office and will wear a mask when distancing isn't possible.

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing Practices**

- Although the primary method of coronavirus transmission is through respiratory means, clean surfaces and environments may play an important role.
- Daily cleaning and sanitizing will take place with safe disinfectants labeled for use against SARS-CoV-2, paying particular attention to high touch surfaces like door handles, desks, and shared materials.

- All classrooms and common spaces will have access to cleaning supplies. Classrooms will be disinfected at mid-day, end of day and throughout the day as needed.
- Interior doors will be propped open during class changeovers, and whenever else it is practical to avoid significant touching by multiple people.
- Extra COVID specific disinfection will be done every two weeks throughout each building.

#### **Food Service**

- Calvary will continue to provide food service.
- Staff will arrange seating to provide 3-6 ft of distance.
- The cafeteria will be cleaned after each meal service.
- Please have your student bring a water bottle to school. We'd prefer to have students fill up a water bottle to keep with them rather than sharing the drinking fountain.

#### **Exposure and Positive Test Protocol for Return to School**

- A student or staff person who tests positive for COVID-19 must do the following before returning to school:
  - Remain out of school for at least 10 calendar days from the onset of symptoms. and
  - Remain fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, and
  - Demonstrate improved respiratory function, and
  - Receive clearance to return to school from his/her doctor.
- A student or staff person exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must remain out of school for 14 calendar days from the date of exposure and cleared by a doctor or the health department before returning to school. Clearance does not necessarily require a visit to the doctor, but the student will need to present evidence of clearance to the school office. "Exposure" is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes. Under this definition an entire classroom would likely not be considered exposed to an infected person. The school office has the authority to determine whether a student or staff person has been exposed while at school.
- CCS will communicate to the Logan County Health Department when a student or staff person has tested positive for COVID-19 and will fully cooperate with their guidance.

#### **Instructional Provisions for Those Out of School**

- All teachers will have access to FACTS LMS and Microsoft Teams online learning environments from the first day of school. If a student is out of school for an extended period, teachers will continue to provide instruction to that student. Students may have a combination of paper-based activities and online instruction. CCS will work with families through possible technology issues.

#### **References**

- [State of Ohio COVID-19 Guidance for Schools](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance for School Re-Entry](#)
- [U. of Toronto Pediatric Hospital School Opening Recommendations](#)
- [Logan County Health Dept Mask Order](#)