



SALISBURY

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COVID-19 Response Plan: **2021-2022 School Year**

Revised: September 13, 2021

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

Guidance from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) issued on July 23, 2021 states: *“Each local school system, nonpublic school, and child care program may set their own policies and procedures for their schools, students/children, teachers and staff.”*

While SCS will continue to monitor trends and changes in response to COVID-19, we are confidently preparing for a traditional school year, while still maintaining a layered approach to illness prevention. This document outlines the procedures that we have established and will follow, unless any new mandates are issued by MDH/MSDE.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 virus, all plans are subject to adaptation and change as warranted by the pandemic situation. SCS will make every attempt to communicate in a timely, efficient, and clear manner regarding any necessary changes.

RELEVANT TOPICS & PROCEDURES:

Vaccination:

We strongly believe that vaccination is a personal choice, and that each individual has the right to personal privacy regarding that choice. SCS will not require nor track any documentation for COVID vaccination among students or staff. We will also strive to always honor one another with respect, especially when personal opinions may differ.

Masks:

SCS will operate as a mask-friendly campus. This means that we will allow each individual student, staff member, family, or visitor to take personal responsibility for his/her health by choosing whether or not to wear a mask.

Transportation:

Currently, the only federal mandate related to masks is their requirement on public transportation conveyances; according to MDH/MSDE guidance, school buses (including private school buses) are covered by this mandate. Therefore, with respect to this mandate, we ask that students and bus drivers wear a mask on our school buses.

Air Purification:

Over 25 portable air purification devices of various sizes will be placed and utilized in high-volume areas and shared spaces including the Nurse’s Office, Multi-Purpose Room, main entrances, and offices. Air purification will also be used in select classrooms, determined by age, occupancy, and uses of the rooms. Air purifiers will be moved into the gym for Chapel and other large capacity events and activities.

Nurse’s Office Procedures:

The SCS Nurse’s Office will remain in Nehemiah Room 138. Parents picking a child up from the Nurse’s Office should only do so via the exterior door, which is marked on the exterior of the building, for easy identification.

Student Seating:

Student desks will be socially distanced as far as feasibly possible. Targeted hydrostatic spray cleaning, above and beyond our normal cleaning and sanitizing protocols, will be used for classrooms and spaces when deemed necessary. **Additional lunch table seating has been added in the Multi-Purpose Room, allowing for greater distancing. Seating charts will also be developed during lunchtimes, so that we can continue to offer this important social time for our students, while allowing us to contact trace should it become necessary. Additionally, socially distanced seating will be encouraged in Chapel; Middle and High School students will alternate weeks attending Chapel in-person and watching via Livestream in a classroom, to reduce the number of students in the Gym.**

Students/Staff Who are Ill:

Our ability to remain open for in-person instruction for the vast majority of the 2020-2021 school year was a direct result of the cooperation of everyone within our school community, which minimized the spread of germs. Again this year, it is imperative that anyone who is not feeling well or exhibiting any COVID-like symptoms act with caution and stay home.

Known Primary Exposure to a Positive Case:

If a student or staff member has a primary exposure to someone who tests positive for COVID (within 6-feet of the positive person for more than 15 minutes), notification should be made to Mrs. Holly Hudson, School Nurse. Regardless of vaccination status, primary contacts should quarantine for 5 days after the last date of exposure, and seek a **professionally administered COVID test on day 5 (at-home tests not accepted)**. If the test is negative, he/she may return to school. If the test is positive, he/she must complete 5 additional days of quarantine (for a combined total of 10 days). After the 10-day quarantine, as long as the student/staff member is symptom free (with the exception of loss of smell), the individual may return to school, unless otherwise directed by the Wicomico County Health Department. Individuals who do not wish to seek a COVID test on day 5, may opt for a full 10-day quarantine instead. Absences due to quarantine will be marked as a lawful absence.

Positive COVID Test Result:

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, notification should be made to Mrs. Holly Hudson, School Nurse. The positive individual may return to school after a 10-day quarantine, as long as they are symptom free (with the exception of loss of smell), unless otherwise directed by the Wicomico County Health Department. Per Health Department directives, contact tracing will be conducted to identify primary exposures, and those individuals will be required to follow the “Known Primary Exposure” procedures listed above. Should another positive case arise that may be connected, additional quarantine measures may be evaluated and implemented.

Distance Learning Due to Quarantine:

Distance learning will only be available for students who are required to quarantine due to a positive test result or primary exposure.

Upper School Expectations:

- **Distance learners should promptly join their class via the Google Meet link within each Google Classroom; they will be marked “Virtually Present” in RenWeb. All others will be marked “Lawfully Absent” since the absence is due to quarantine.**
- **The length of time that distance learners should remain online will vary, depending upon the content area and/or teacher’s lesson plan. At a minimum, teachers will touch base with each distance learner at the start of class to give expectations and assignments for the daily work.**
- **Since Wednesdays are now a 7 period day, there will not be any live, distance learning on Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, teachers will post any necessary assignments in Google Classroom. It is the students’ responsibility to check each of their Google Classroom classes on Wednesdays for any posted assignments.**
- **Teachers may choose to wait and administer tests and quizzes to students when they return to school.**

Lower School Expectations:

- **Teachers will share the appropriate link (Zoom for Grades K-3; Google Meet for Grades 4&5) with families.**
- **At minimum, teachers will host a “live” meeting and lesson daily at 8:30 am. Depending on the age-level of the students and/or the daily lesson plans, teachers may share other times throughout the day for students to join the classroom virtually.**

- Daily assignments/activities will be shared via SeeSaw/Google Classroom.
- Students who attend virtually will be marked “Virtually Present” in RenWeb. All others will be marked “Lawfully Absent” since the absence is due to quarantine. Virtual attendance is not mandatory for Lower School.
- Tests and quizzes will be made up upon return to school.

For work that cannot be completed at home, the make-up work policy for lawful absences will be followed: “Full credit will be granted when work is turned in according to the number of days missed. For example, if a student is absent for two school days, upon returning to school two school days are granted to complete all make-up work. Make-up work turned in beyond the stated deadline will be graded according to the teacher’s late work policy, communicated at the beginning of the school year. When tests or exams are missed due to an absence, the teacher will reschedule the make-up test at his/her discretion.” (2021-2022 Parent / Student Handbook, pg. 17)

Distance Learning (For Reasons Other than Required Quarantine):

SCS believes that in nearly all circumstances, in-person instruction is the most educationally sound method of instruction for students at all levels. Unless a large, designated population of the school is transitioned to distance learning (i.e.: a whole classroom, grade level, or divisional level) for extenuating circumstances, a transition to distance learning for individual students will only be considered for medically necessary reasons. The following process will be followed:

1. A written request for a transition to distance learning should be submitted to the Principal and Guidance Counselor. A written physician’s note should accompany the request.
2. A meeting will be held between the parent, student, Guidance Counselor, and Principal to discuss the request and develop an appropriate plan.

Distance learning will only be considered for medically necessary reasons that require a student to be out of the school buildings for more than two-weeks at a time. Absences for less than two weeks will follow the make-up work procedures outlined in this Handbook. Due to the nature of elementary instruction, distance learning for Lower School grade levels will only be considered in extreme circumstances. The decision regarding the feasibility of the distance learning request rests with the administration. (2021-2022 Parent / Student Handbook, pg. 15)

Visitors:

To help minimize exposure for our students and staff members, visitors will only be permitted in the main entrance areas of each building (the lobby and up to the School Store area). Classroom and lunchroom volunteers will be put on hold for the time being; outside recess volunteers will continue to be utilized in Lower School. For morning arrival, PreK and Kindergarten parents can drop students off directly to the exterior classroom doors. All other students should be dropped off at the main entrance of the appropriate building.

Athletics:

Per the ESIAC (Eastern Shore Independent Athletic Conference) expectation, masks are required for all spectators, student-athletes, and coaches for indoor sports. Masks may be removed by coaches and student-athletes when participating in game play. For away games, any additional requirements held by other schools must be followed and will be communicated to players and spectators prior to game day.

****Recommendations from the CDC, Maryland Department of Health, and Maryland State Department of Education are reviewed by the administration weekly, along with COVID metrics for Wicomico County and within SCS specifically. Factors from all of these sources will guide any decisions to adjust these procedures.****