

COVID-19 Health & Mitigation Plan 2021-2022



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE
A C A D E M Y

"We partner with families to encourage, equip, and educate children towards their God-given potential with excellence."

Reducing Risk & Progressing Our Mission

At CHA, we are committed to a safe and complete return to school on September 1, 2021, and we are preparing for full in-person instruction. As we have monitored the spread of the virus in Franklin County, we have created a reasonable and appropriate plan to do our part to stay healthy and return to education as close to regular as possible in the school community we so deeply love and value. The plans contained in this document are subject to change depending on future developments.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, CHA is uniquely positioned and equipped to offer a reliable academic program with the ability to flex as needed to adjust to COVID-19 requirements. We have created this Health and Mitigation Plan that aims to reduce risk in relation to COVID-19. The virus is not something to be feared, but we must do what we can responsibly to keep our school community safe. There are no guarantees that any safety measure will prevent someone from contracting COVID-19, but we want to do everything we can, working together with our parent partners, to reduce the risk and progress our mission.

The COVID-19 Team consists of:

Mr. Tony Quist	Head of School / COVID-19 Team Point of Contact
Mrs. Melanie Cassady	Director of Academy Relations
Ms. Nancy Castillo	Associate Director of Athletics
Mrs. Jessica Hacker	Director of Academics

The following provisions will continue to govern our activities until state and municipal guidelines are updated. We will be monitoring those updates throughout the school year.

SECTION 01: *Health & Hygiene*

Per the Virginia Department of Health guidelines, our teachers will be teaching and reinforcing essential hygiene protocols to reduce the transmission of the virus and maintain a healthy environment. Measures will include:

- Frequent handwashing will be encouraged, and education will be provided on proper handwashing, including:
 - Wash hands every time before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after being outside; and after using the restroom.
 - Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing for friction, and thoroughly drying with a paper towel.
 - Staff will model and practice handwashing, especially for lower elementary grade levels, will use bathroom time as an opportunity to reinforce and monitor proper handwashing.
 - Teachers will implement a schedule for hand-washing routines by grade level at staggered intervals to avoid overcrowding.
 - Students and staff will use ethyl-based hand sanitizer when hand washing is not practical.
- Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the buildings.
- Students will be trained to use tissues to wipe their nose and cough/sneeze inside a tissue or elbow.
- Signs will be posted in visible locations that promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs.
- Outside education will be utilized when possible, to promote positive mental and physical health.
- Teachers will have cleaning supplies to disinfect high contact areas within their rooms frequently throughout the day.
- Students are asked to bring a personal water bottle and may use water fountains filling stations.
- Additional cleaning services will be contracted to ensure that frequently touched surfaces (including but not limited to door handles, light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces, tables, desks, and chairs) will be cleaned and disinfected by trained custodial staff daily, and protocols for periodic disinfection throughout the day will be implemented across the campus.

SECTION 02: *Face Coverings*

In accordance with the [State Health Commissioner's Statewide Mask Requirement for all K-12 schools in Virginia](#), public and private, and with respect to any sincerely held religious objection to wearing masks in school by any member of our school community and visitors, we will continue to operate with a Masks Optional policy at this time. Any parent/guardian intending to exercise a medical or religious mask exemption for their child (under the age of 18), must complete the [Parental Request for Mask Accommodation Form](#). Masks are available upon request. Any CHA employee intending to exercise a medical or religious mask exemption must complete the [Staff Request for Mask Accommodation Form](#).

Students will be educated on socially appropriate conversations and responses regarding face coverings. We desire to be an environment where every student is respected as part of the CHA community, and is therefore embraced with the love of Christ, regardless of their choice to wear or not wear a face-covering.

Face-covering guidelines:

- Students should supply their own face coverings.
- Coverings must fully cover the nose and mouth.
- Coverings may include cloth coverings, disposable face coverings, or gaiters. Bandanas will not be permitted.
- Coverings with pictures, words, etc. must be free of political references, anything deemed inappropriate by CHA administration, or inflammatory type speech or markings.

SECTION 03: *Screening Procedures*

CHA is adopting a trust and verify approach to indicate that faculty, staff, students, and visitors have been screened and cleared to enter school buildings. At-home screening is our first line of defense. Being vigilant about stopping the spread of the virus is critical to our ability to continue operations uninterrupted. Therefore, CHA plans to begin the year with the following screening protocols in place.

Daily Screening Checklist

By sending your student(s) to school, you are confirming that, each day, you have screened your student(s) using the **CHA COVID-19 Daily Screening Checklist** ([See Appendix 1](#)).

Stay-At-Home Policy

We encourage anyone who is sick or has been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay at home. Students will not be penalized for missing school in adherence to this policy, and plans have been developed for educating students who have to attend remotely.

Monitoring Students and Staff for Symptoms and Exposure

- Staff will be trained on the signs and symptoms of a possible COVID-19 virus.
- Students, staff, and visitors who become sick or demonstrate symptoms will be safely isolated until they can be removed from school grounds.
- Recommend that individuals contact their health care provider and follow their recommendations regarding testing and when to return to school.

Campus Visitors

CHA will reduce entry to campus buildings to faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians and essential visitors only (admin approved, UPS/Fed-Ex deliveries, maintenance workers, etc). Visitors will be expected to wear a mask if they are not declaring an authorized exemption under the [State Health Commissioner's statewide mask requirement for all K-12 schools in Virginia](#) (Dated August 12, 2021).

SECTION 04: *Protocols* for Symptoms & Positive Tests

When Symptoms Develop on Campus

In the event a faculty member, staff member, or student begins to show COVID-19 symptoms on campus, the following measures will be taken:

- Separate and isolate in the designated area those who present with symptoms.
- Contact parents and ask that they come immediately to the school to pick up the child. Faculty or staff members will be asked to leave campus immediately.
- Cleanse and disinfect areas used by sick individuals.

Testing for COVID-19

According to the [CDC's COVID-19 Testing Overview](#) resource, testing should be considered by:

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19
- People who have had close contact (*within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes*) with someone with confirmed COVID-19
- People who have been asked or referred to get testing by their healthcare provider, local or state health department.

In the event a faculty member, staff member, student, parent or someone in the same household pursues testing for COVID-19, the following measures will be taken:

- Notify the school immediately.
- Any person awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, or living in the same household with someone awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, will be required to stay home pending test results.

Responding to Positive COVID-19 Tests

In the event a faculty member, staff member, or student tests positive for COVID-19, the following measures will be taken:

- According to the [CDC's Updated Isolation Guidance](#) resource, any person testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay home for 10 days after symptom onset and until they are symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. As an additional precaution, we are requesting that such individuals obtain a doctor's clearance to return to school.
- Any person living in the same household with someone who tests positive will also be required to stay home for 10 days after symptom onset (of the person with the positive case) and must pass our CHA COVID-19 Daily Screening Checklist before returning to school.
- When the school becomes aware that a student, staff, or faculty member tested positive for COVID, a generic (name(s) will not be disclosed) email will be sent to families who have a child(ren) that may have had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with that individual. Families will be encouraged to monitor for symptoms and to contact their physicians in the event they are concerned about their health.
- Faculty will work with parents on an individualized plan to complete missed work if students need to stay at home or self-isolate.
- Staff, families, and the public will be notified of school closures and within-school year changes to safety protocols.

Note: The privacy of any individual testing positive or showing symptoms will be maintained within school communications.

SECTION 05: *School Closures*

In the event of multiple positive COVID-19 cases at CHA, we will review appropriate response guidelines and respond with closure options that may include short-term closure (2-5 days), long-term closure (5 days +), partial closure (by class, group, or building) or total closure of the school facility.

If closures occur, we will continue to deliver content using the remote learning model via Google Classroom or CHA Online as necessary and return to the classroom promptly when we have assessed the situation and taken appropriate measures to halt the spread.

Flexibility and Understanding

The conditions during this pandemic have continually evolved and changed weekly, sometimes daily. They may change at any time, so we must remain flexible. These guidelines will be updated as necessary. This document does not replace the advice or direction of medical professionals. We must proceed cautiously and continue to monitor and comply with the guidance and recommendations of the Department of Health and the CDC. Please recognize some families and individuals will have reservations about opening and reintegrating at this time. We must be respectful, sensitive, and flexible as we restart schooling and other activities.

We have an incredible team of teachers who are ready to make this year a truly excellent experience for our entire community. We look forward to partnering with you, and we will continue to update you on details as we monitor developments. We are praying for your family and we cannot wait to be together again this fall.

This plan will be posted to the CHA website and updated as necessary to adjust to future developments.

Appendix 1 – CHA COVID-19 Daily Screening Checklist



BEFORE SCHOOL



1. Has your child experienced ***any of these*** symptoms during the last 24-hours that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity?



2. Has your child been in close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 or has your child been told to quarantine?
3. Has your child or anyone in your household been told to isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test or COVID-19 like symptoms?

YES

If you answered “**YES**” ***to any of the above***, please keep your child at home until they are symptom-free/fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and cleared from quarantine/isolation. You may also want to consult your child’s healthcare provider for additional guidance.

NO

If you answered “**NO**” ***to all of the above***, we look forward to seeing you at school today!

Reminder

By sending your child to school each day, you are confirming that you have screened your child each morning using this checklist. This practice will reduce the risk of potentially sick or contagious students coming to school and exposing others. Thank you!