

# COVID-19 Health & Mitigation Plan 2020-2021



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 9, 2020, 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 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.
- School-wide Wellness Plan will be implemented to promote positive mental health.
- 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.
- Students are asked to bring a personal water bottle and may use water fountains and classroom sinks as filling stations. Drinking directly from the water fountain will be prohibited.
- The use of shared materials will be limited as much as possible. Any materials that must be shared will be disinfected appropriately.

- 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: *Social Distancing*

CHA will provide the same in-person learning environment students, and families have always enjoyed, with the following common-sense protocols to promote behaviors that will reduce the risk of spread:

- Modify layouts of classrooms and communal areas to increase physical distancing.
- Revised scheduling will limit traffic and the number of individuals in the hallways and common areas.
- Students will eat in classrooms or outside (weather permitting).
- Students will have access to a microwave in their classroom; however, students are encouraged to bring non-microwavable items to help with the logistics in the classroom so that all students aren't waiting to use the microwaves.
- Other adults (specials teachers, substitutes, etc.) who provide special classes in the lower school (library and art) will go into the classrooms with due diligence.
- Recess time will be scheduled with rotations to avoid mixing groups.
- All families will utilize car tags for afternoon dismissal to permit safety, security, and social distancing.
- Fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills will be modified to maintain proper physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Chapel services will continue to be held with physical distancing in place. Chapel seating will be sanitized following usage.
- The Athletic Department will follow relevant VHSL/VACA guidance and CDC guidance for school-related sports.
- Students who drive, during dismissal, will not be permitted to congregate. They may visit their locker and go to their car to leave for the day or go to their athletic practice.

## SECTION 03: *Face Coverings*

Students, faculty, and staff **will not be required** to wear face coverings at all times while on campus. We will continue to monitor the situation and may make changes as necessary. The following guidelines will be in place for the beginning of the school year:

- All faculty, staff, and students who prefer to wear a face-covering at any time are encouraged to do so.
- Our first orientation of the school year will include education for our students on socially appropriate conversations and about masks. We desire to be an environment where every student and employee can indeed be a part of the CHA community. We expect all members of our school community to be embraced with the love of Christ, regardless of outer appearance.

## SECTION 04: *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.

### Symptom-Free Declaration

Every morning upon arriving to campus, all parents, students, guests, and personnel will be asked to declare with signature if they or their student have displayed any of the following symptoms within the past 24 hours that can not be attributed to another health condition or specific activity:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Fever above 100.4° F or chills</li><li>● Cough</li><li>● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</li><li>● Fatigue</li><li>● Muscle or body aches</li><li>● Headache</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Loss of taste or smell</li><li>● Sore throat</li><li>● Congestion or runny nose</li><li>● Nausea or vomiting</li><li>● Diarrhea</li></ul>
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If yes to any of the above, individuals will be asked to stay home until symptom-free for 24 hours. This practice will reduce the risk of potentially sick or contagious students coming to school and exposing others.

A copy of the daily report will be kept on file for reference.

## Temperature Checks

School personnel will be stationed at entrances and will conduct temperature checks with a no-touch thermometer. Per health department guidelines, anyone with a fever of 100.4° F or higher will not be allowed to attend until symptom-free for 24 hours.

## Stay-At-Home Policy

We anticipate an increase in absences for both students, faculty, and staff, and we will be encouraging 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, 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 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 when to return to school.

## SECTION 05: *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.
- When the school becomes aware that a student or staff member presented symptoms of COVID-19, a generic (student or staff member's name will not be disclosed) email will be sent to families who have a child(ren) that may have had contact with that individual. Families will be encouraged to monitor for symptoms and contact their physicians if they are concerned about their health.

## 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:

- Any person testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay home for ten days and have a doctor's clearance to return to school provided they are symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- When the school becomes aware that a student or staff member was tested for COVID, a generic (student or staff member's name will not be disclosed) email will be sent to families who have a child(ren) that may have had contact 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.
- If a student or staff member is tested for COVID-19, is diagnosed with COVID-19, or is directed to self-quarantine, they will be required to stay at home.
- Faculty will work with parents on an individualized plan to complete missed work if students need to stay at home or self-isolate.
- If a physician directs you or someone in your household to self-quarantine or if COVID-19 testing is conducted, parents should notify the school immediately. 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 in accordance with FERPA requirements.*

## SECTION 06: *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. We know additional information and new guidelines are forthcoming. 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, the CDC, and CHA. 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.