



WINSTON SALEM
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COVID PROTOCOLS

REOPENING PLAN AUG 2021

This WSCS COVID 19 Plan has been designed to assist Winston Salem Christian School in planning for, and delivering, instruction to students for the 2021-22 school year. We also acknowledge that COVID-19 caused major disruptions in our lives including the delivery of educational services to students during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. We also recognize as difficult as the transitions between remote and in person learning were last year, our parents and teachers did a tremendous job adjusting in the midst of a rapidly changing world.

This document is designed to address issues related to the health and safety of our students, their families, and our faculty and staff; to describe how communication of information to key stakeholders will occur; and to outline other pertinent details related to how the school will function in the 2021-22 school year. More than anything, our desire is to ensure the health and safety of every individual who enters our building. This desire is driven by a love for our students, school families, and staff. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment in the Law was, he answered in Matthew 22:37-39, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Loving our neighbors during a global pandemic means we will have to do things differently.

Keeping our distance from one another, limiting visitors in the building, even wearing masks as needed – all of these are extraordinary actions that show love, care, and compassion for our neighbors. Our desire is to demonstrate that love in all that we do in the coming year. This document is intended to address a variety of issues related to the re-opening of Winston Salem Christian School for the 2021-22 school year. It is modeled in conjunction with Heads of School around the state of North Carolina. While not bound by public schools, their plans and logistics were taken into account preparing this document.



IMPORTANT DATES

ORIENTATION AUG 10

6PM Performing Arts Center

This evening will allow families to get their questions answered and get all the information they need to begin the new year. We are excited to meet all of our new families bring you into the family! We will require masks for this event while inside the building.

OPEN HOUSE AUG 12

6PM Performing Arts Center

We will begin with a time of prayer and dedication. We want to celebrate God's Faithfulness to WSCS in our transition to our new campus! We will have food trucks and activities on the soccer field to help us celebrate the new year!

FIRST DAY AUG 16

Start Time K-12:
8:05AM

Dismissal K-12:
3:15PM





ORGANIZATION + GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE WSCS COVID-19 DOCUMENT IS ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- LEADERSHIP
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- HEALTH AND SAFETY
- INSTRUCTION
- SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING
- EQUITY

GUIDING PRICIPLES

- Uphold and continue to deliver on the Mission of Winston Salem Christian School
- Provide a safe learning environment for students and staff
- Ensure continuous learning through a variety of potential teaching and learning scenarios
 - In-person
 - Remote (during school directed quarantine only)
- Potential Modified Hybrid
- Ensure any remote learning schedule that is implemented addresses issues of access and equity and is supportive of family and student needs and scheduling
- Where possible, provide learning pathways for students with unique learning needs (e.g., student or family health issues)



TIERED OPERATING SYSTEM

For the foreseeable future, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to affect our daily school routines. Prudence calls for prayerful, thoughtful, and coordinated planning as we learn how to best respond to this short-to-medium-term challenge.

GREEN

No-Minimal Outbreaks

- Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and monitor students and staff for symptoms at school
- Evaluate students and staff who are at increased risk of illness and develop plans (as appropriate) for them to continue to work or receive educational services if there is moderate levels of COVID-19 transmission or impact
 - Parents of children at increased risk for illness should discuss with their health care provider whether those students should stay home in case of school or community spread.
 - Staff at increased risk for severe illness should have a plan to stay home if there are school-based cases or community spread.
- Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick and notify school administrators of illness.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available - and used frequently - in building.

YELLOW

Minimal- Moderate Local Outbreaks

- Continue cleaning, disinfecting and hand hygiene efforts
- Implement social distancing measures
 - Reduce the frequency of large gatherings (e.g. chapel, assemblies)
 - Limit the number of attendees per gathering.
 - After schedules to reduce mixing (e.g. stagger recess, entry/dismissal times)
 - Limit inter-school interactions
- Health checks (e.g. temperature screens upon entering the building and respiratory symptom screening) of students, staff and visitors.
- WSCS recommends students wear a face mask or covering, but will allow families to decide what is best for their student(s) regarding wearing a mask/face covering while on campus.

ORANGE

Severe Outbreaks

- Students at increased risk of severe illness should consider implementing individual plans for remote learning.
- Short-term closure of school (2/3 days - two weeks) and cancellation or rescheduling of extracurricular activities as needed (e.g., infection of staff/students) for cleaning and contact tracing
- Implement short-term remote learning protocols if closure is longer than 3 days
- Temporary remote learning for some classes (if direct exposure to a class occurs) while other classes (not directly impacted) occupy the building.

RED

Moderate to Severe Local Outbreaks

- Broader, longer-term school closure, either as a preventative measure, because of staff and/or student absenteeism, or due to a state/local mandate.
- Cancellation, change, or rescheduling of school-associated gatherings (e.g., concerts, association meetings, etc.)
- Implement remote learning protocols.





LEARNING MODULES

Generally speaking, there are three possible learning models:

- **Normal Learning:** All students in the school building.
 - No community spread; return to normal school routines.
 - School continues in full on campus operating mode
- **Hybrid Learning:** Most or many students in the school building.
 - Minimal to moderate community transmission.
 - Modified attendance policies.
 - School-wide social distancing and mitigation strategies in place.
 - Special safety and sanitizing protocols.
 - Initial health screenings at entries
 - Provides flexibility for home bound students.





I. LEADERSHIP

This document has been formed after countless hours of communication with the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, WSCS administrator meetings, and feedback from several teachers and coaches.



Our school board provided insight as well as conversations with parents concerning the full spectrum of individuals who wanted to return to full classroom engagement to parents who were not comfortable with students returning to the classroom.



Our commitment is to provide a safe quality education, and while we have a full spectrum of opinions and beliefs we will apply wisdom, grace, and love to the array of responses.



I. LEADERSHIP



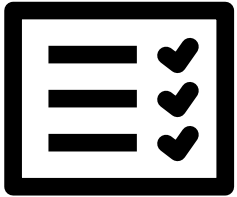
Communication will be key during this. While we will include COVID-19 information in portions of emails, we will also provide a weekly update that is listed as a COVID-19 update.



Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has been, and will continue to be, fluid. Due to this fact, our planning assumes that guidance and current and future regulations and safety measures may change over time. As changes occur, it is likely our plans will also need to change. This document attempts to address the most common and likely scenarios that may occur due to COVID-19; however, in the event unforeseen circumstances warrant, we will address those issues and relay information to the school community in the most timely manner possible.



II. INFRASTRUCTURE



Attendance and Grading

Our desire for the 2021-22 school year is to occupy the building and provide direct, face-to-face instruction to the greatest extent possible, in the safest way possible.

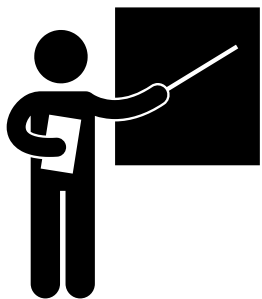


In the event direct instruction cannot occur due to COVID-19, we will work with students through Google Classroom.





II. INFRASTRUCTURE



Teachers will provide assignments, issue grades, monitor student progress, and engage with students regularly. Our commitment is to in-person education, while providing academic tools for any student in school-directed quarantine.

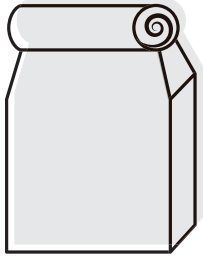


In order to streamline our efforts and provide a central student-learning tool across all grades, WSCS is again implementing a Google Classroom learning environment. Teachers are engaging in professional development activities to utilize the Google platform.



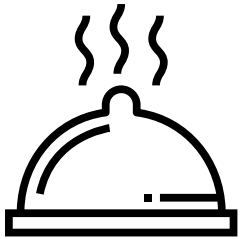


II. INFRASTRUCTURE



K-12 School Lunch Program

We have suspended cafeteria use as per CDC guidelines but have continued the progress on the building of our cafeteria. We are looking into the possibility of providing some prepackaged options for students, but students in grades K-12 will be required to bring a “brown bag” lunch.



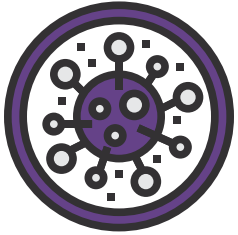
ELC Lunch Program

Our ELC students will use a catering service in accordance with state health department guidelines. We have also made the decision to limit visitors in the building during the 2021-22 school year. In limiting visitors, WSCS will not allow parents to enter the building for lunch with their children as we have in past years.





IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



The health and safety of our students and staff are primary concerns for Winston Salem Christian School. While it is impossible to plan for all potential scenarios that could take place due to COVID-19 (or other similar emergency situation), this section outlines current planned procedures that will govern school operations while occupying the school building.



WSCS is committed to using all available resources in our efforts to protect students and staff including, but not limited to, resources from Forsyth County Public Health, The State of North Carolina's Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Guidance and recommendations from these agencies, along with our accrediting agencies, will continue to inform WSCS' operations and efforts.



IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

Determining When to Close the Building

During the 2019-20 school year, state leaders made decisions about school closures outside of WSCS' control. In the coming year, such closures may occur again; however, in the 2021-22 school year, state governors and local leaders are less likely to make such blanket decisions unless the public's health and safety are at immediate risk. Decisions on school closure related to COVID-19 will need to be made on more localized issues and data. WSCS will work with our local and state health departments in making any decisions about short- and long-term school closures. We are committed to in-person education and the safety of our students.

In order for WSCS to operate effectively in what will likely be a quickly evolving landscape, guiding principles on school closure and a Tiered Operating Structure have been established. Moving from one level to the next will be evaluated by the school's administrative team. Decisions regarding moving between operating levels – including school closure – and communicate them to parents and staff through our communication channels will be made by the Head of School. The guidelines on the following pages will help inform our operating status and decisions.





IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

When active cases of COVID-19 are present in Forsyth County, WSCS will operate under a **Yellow** Status. If students or staff have been directly exposed to individuals with the virus, those individuals should seek care with their local health care provider, self-report to the Head of School, and self-quarantine until advised by a doctor they are allowed to return to school.

If students or staff contract the virus, WSCS will operate under **ORANGE** Status and:

- Consult with local and state health offices and determine all appropriate next steps
- Close short term for cleaning and disinfecting of the school building
- Require students/classes directly exposed to self-quarantine and move to remote learning for impacted classes (other students/classes not directly impacted will be able to return to the building for direct, in-person instruction)
- If the total number of students and/or staff directly infected with COVID-19 is >10% Winston Salem Christian School will consult with local and state health officials and will move to RED status if advised.
- If state or local health officials deem conditions warrant and closures are mandated, WSCS will move to RED Status and implement remote learning protocols.



IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Planning for Health and Safety of Individuals (when in the building)

Teachers and staff will spend a significant portion of our return to school, discussing and reinforcing appropriate protective and preventative behaviors (e.g., social distancing, sneeze and cough protection, etc.) to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. WSCS staff will use the guidelines outlined below to limit the spread and potential infection in our school community.



Home Monitoring and Self-Reporting

The most effective way to prevent the spread of any virus is to isolate infected individuals. Monitoring your own children's health and taking preventative measures at home is the first and most important step in fighting the spread of COVID-19.



If your child has a fever of 100.0 or greater, please do not send them to school. All students and staff will be temperature scanned before entering the building. As has been WSCS' policy in the past, we will notify parents of elevated temperatures (>99) and not allow anyone to enter the building with a temperature greater than 100.0.



IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Additionally, people with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild to severe. If staff or students display any of the CDC’s COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend to school:

- Fever
- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

There is no doubt that PPE has proven effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19. We also recognize that PPE can present challenges to students and teachers in the educational environment. Balancing between safety and effective instruction is challenging and we want to do our best to ensure both. Use of PPE will be designated by the colored tier.



IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

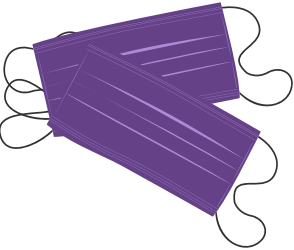


Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Continued...

Winston Salem Christian recommends that teachers and staff and students wear a face mask or covering, but will allow families to decide what is best for their student(s) regarding wearing a mask/face covering while on campus in green and yellow status.

Extended Day staff will follow the same protocols as staff during the school hours. Students are recommended to wear face masks or shields in common areas and classrooms during Green and Yellow status. We will be utilizing outdoor space and the ability to socially distance to offer time without a mask. We are also looking into desk shields as an alternative to student masking.

Visitors in the building will be limited and those required to enter the building (e.g., limited volunteers, UPS/FedEx deliveries, maintenance workers, etc.) will be required to wear face masks while in the building. WSCS masks and disposable masks will be available for purchase in the school office.





IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Social Distancing

In addition to PPE, we know that distancing from one another helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. Within the common areas of the building (e.g., hallways) students will be encouraged to maintain appropriate distances from one another. Teachers and staff will monitor, remind, and correct students as needed during passing periods and other times when students are in common areas.



Lines, space markers, and other visual devices will be in place to assist staff and students to appropriately distance in the hallways, restrooms, and other common areas of the building. Classroom desks will be spaced as much as the physical space of our classrooms permits to encourage distancing of students. A plan is currently being developed by classroom teachers to stagger morning and lunch recesses to reduce student interaction between classrooms and reduce potential exposure from student to student. Walking to and from specials, recesses, etc. students will maintain appropriate distance from one another. Recess and specials (co-curricular classes) lengths may be adjusted to allow for additional time necessary for distancing in hallways, surface disinfecting, and hand washing.



IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

Hand washing/sanitizing, sneeze, face-touching precautions.

Some of the most effective measures related to combatting the spread of COVID-19 are precautionary. Staff will work to ensure the following safety procedures are taught and used throughout the building. Planned activities include:

- Providing instruction and signage on how to properly wash hands and use hand sanitizer.
- Planning for students to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer after coughing/sneezing, before and after meals/snacks.
- Providing hand sanitizer in all classrooms and including time into instructional transitions for students to wash and/or sanitize hands.
- Providing hand sanitizer to all students when entering the building (e.g., before school, after recess, after group activities, etc.) and encourage frequent hand washing.
- Working to regularly disinfect hard classroom surfaces throughout the day.
- Additionally, posters reminding students and staff of hand washing and sneeze/face-touching etiquette will be displayed throughout the building and frequent reminders made to our school community.





IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Plan for shared classroom materials/resources

Within the educational setting, there are often shared materials among students in the classroom (e.g., computers, math manipulatives, science equipment, etc.). Ensuring that these materials are properly disinfected and cleaned will be an important step in slowing the spread of the COVID virus. Each classroom will establish a routine for limiting the use of shared materials and for wiping down shared spaces and equipment. This will vary across classrooms and age groups but will include such areas and equipment as:



PreK and Kindergarten.

- o Converting sensory tables into sensory tubs.
- o Eliminating shared classroom teddy bear/stuffed animals.
- o Ensuring there is a procedure for wiping down and disinfecting laptops/iPads.
- o Ensuring students have their own crayons, markers, writing instruments in their own desks/containers rather than shared bins.



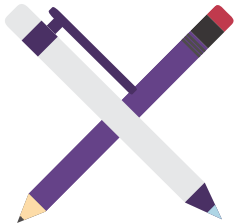
IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

1st – 5th grades

- Students and teachers wiping down shared spaces within the classroom.
- Assigning textbooks to each student rather than allow general classroom use.
- Ensuring there is a procedure for wiping down and disinfecting laptops/iPads.
- Ensuring students have their own crayons, markers, writing instruments rather than shared bins.
- Creating a method for students to utilize classroom libraries that limit the number of books they touch and a procedure for checking books in that allows for their cleaning.
- Determining a method for cleaning shared classroom furniture (e.g., beanbags, chairs, couches) or eliminating their use during COVID outbreaks.

Upper School

- Utilizing same methods as in grades 1-5.
- Creating a 2-3 minutes gap at the end of the instructional period for students to wipe down desk surfaces before leaving the classroom.
- Ensuring students have ample writing instruments in their possession. Eliminating classroom sets or bins of writing instruments. Students should come prepared to class and not share materials.





IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Water Fountains & Water Bottles

Drinking Fountains and water bottles Students should plan to bring water bottles to school. Drinking fountains in the building will be turned off to avoid the potential spread of the virus. Students will be able to refill water bottles using our new bottle fill water fountains.



Locations for Sick Students/Staff.

Students who come to school with, or develop a temperature greater than 100.0 during the school day, will be isolated from other students and staff.



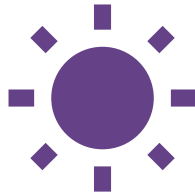


IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

Building Entry and Exit Points.

During the 2021-22 school year, WSCS will ensure one-way traffic into and out of the building.

In order to limit the number of individuals in the building and decrease the risk of spread of the virus, WSCS will limit entry to the building. Parents will not be allowed in the building during drop off or pick up. ELC parents will drop off and pick up at the ELC playground entrance.



Morning Drop-off

- ELC students will enter the building through the ELC playground entrance
- Kindergarten through 5th Grade students will enter the building through the main administrative entrance.
- 6th through 8th grade students will enter the building through the gym door lobby
- 9th-12th grade will be dropped off at the lighthouse and enter through the breezeway
- Staff will be present in the morning to greet students, ensure they enter the building safely, and provide hand sanitizer prior to entering the building.
- By utilizing three doors for student entry, students will enter the building closer to their classrooms and reduce congestion in the entryways and halls.




Afternoon Pick-Up

- All students will remain in their classrooms and be called out as parents arrive in the pick-up lane.
- All students (K-5th grade) will exit the building through the main doors.
- All students in 6th through 8th grade will exit the building through the gym lobby.
- 9th-12th grade will exit the Lighthouse through the breezeway
- Student Drivers will be dismissed from the lighthouse.
- After School students will transition to the fellowship hall.




IV. HEALTH + SAFETY

Cleaning and disinfecting.



WSCS will work with the janitorial staff to ensure that nightly cleaning includes the disinfecting of high touch surfaces (e.g., desks, lockers, door handles, etc.). Throughout the day, staff and students will work to disinfect high touch areas in classrooms and common areas: door handles, lockers, etc. Surfaces will be disinfected with an EPA approved product that meets CDC guidelines for COVID-19.



We have maintained our Environmental Services team to address this cleaning. Any classroom or space used by a student or staff member who directly contracts COVID-19 will be closed and returned to service only after it has been cleaned and disinfected utilizing EPA approved products that meet CDC guidelines for COVID-19.

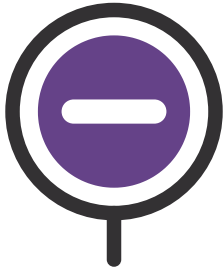


IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Visitors in the Building.

During the 2021-22 school year, WSCS will limit entry to the building to students, staff, and official visitors only (needed volunteers, deliveries, maintenance, etc.). This policy change has implications for parents and volunteers. By implementing this change, the school can limit the potential introduction and/or spread of the virus in the building.

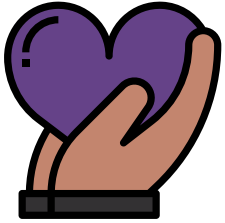


Practically, for parents this means:

- Parents will not be allowed in the building during drop-off or pick-up of students (see Entry and Exit Points section)
- Parents will not be allowed to bring lunch to, and/or eat with, their student
- Parents will not be allowed to join their students during chapel
- Teachers will be eliminating/modifying certain class activities
- We understand this is a major change for many parents and we continue to pray this is temporary. The health and safety of your children and school staff are paramount this year. We will work to create virtual platforms for you to interact with your children's school experience.



IV. HEALTH + SAFETY



Volunteers.

We know that volunteers (typically parents and grandparents) are essential to many of the activities on our campus. We are currently evaluating the types of activities on campus that will require volunteer staffing, and how we can accommodate this. More information on volunteer opportunities and guidelines will be coming soon.

Plans for Essential Staff in the event of a COVID Outbreak

If WSCS must move to remote learning in either **ORANGE** or **RED** operating status conditions, the building will be closed to the public.

- Classroom teachers, Before and After School Care staff, Administration and the Head of School are designated as essential staff and may enter the building.
- Essential Staff members may access the building during remote learning times under the following conditions:
 - Teachers and staff working in the building must be in their classrooms/work areas with the door closed.
 - When in common areas (e.g., hallways, office, teacher workroom, etc.) all staff are recommended to wear masks and remain appropriately distanced from one another.





V. INSTRUCTION + LEARNING



Plans for In-School, Face to Face Instruction

WSCS implemented a Google Classroom environment over the summer that will be utilized to support direct instruction. Teachers will work with students early in the year to ensure student (and parent) understanding and usage of the Google environment.



Plans for Remote Learning

Teachers worked during the summer months on professional development activities to better prepare themselves and their students for remote learning. While we hope and pray this option is not required, we are prepared to implement remote learning if required to do so. Any remote learning will be completed through Google Classroom. This is only available for school-directed quarantines.



Required Attendance.

students are expected to be in the classroom for in-person education. The only exception will be a school directed quarantine.



V. INSTRUCTION + LEARNING

Required Attendance.

students are expected to be in the classroom for in-person education. The only exception will be a school directed quarantine.





VI. SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CARE



Social and Emotional Care

WSCS realizes our previous COVID-19 school closure was difficult on many students and families – it was difficult for teachers and staff as well. A priority of Winston Salem Christian School in any future Remote Learning effort will be to ensure for the social and emotional care of our students and families. Research suggests that students with a high sense of belonging are happier, healthier, and more engaged learners. We know that students who feel connected to school are less likely to have emotional distress, be involved in fighting or bullying behavior, and be more engaged in their community and family. While challenging, we want to ensure that we are connecting and engaging students during any remote learning scenario.



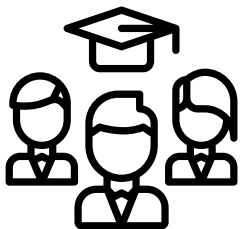
Identify student and family needs

Early in the 2021-22 school year, WSCS will survey parents and students to better understand family needs during remote learning (e.g., technology and equipment, self-care, coping strategies, prayer/devotion needs, etc.) that will help staff identify ways the school can continue to support families during any remote learning activities.

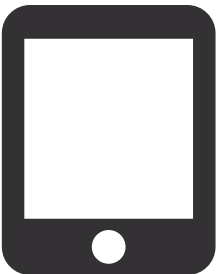




VII. EQUITY



Winston Salem Christian School desires to ensure all students have access to the learning supports and technology necessary to participate in meaningful learning.



Planning for access to technology and learning materials

A variety of options will be utilized should WSCS be forced to implement remote learning options during the school year. Students are encouraged to have a personal device to ensure optimal remote learning. For individuals that cannot obtain a personal device, we will work to help secure technology. WSCS has worked with several partners to help ensure an affordable option for digital learning.