

Allendale Christian School

2021-22 School Year COVID Prevention Strategy

The Health and Wellness Committee will continue to communicate with the local Health Department and our colleagues at the other Eastern Ottawa Christian Schools in regards to COVID mitigation. We will continue to monitor the situation at ACS and make decisions that we feel are best for both the physical and mental health of ACS students and staff. Below are the plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – The CDC strongly recommends the use of masks while inside. Additionally, on August 20, the Ottawa County Department of Public Health mandated facial coverings for students and staff in grades Pre-K through 6th grade. ACS will adhere to this mandate, while allowing parental choice in 7th and 8th grade, as well as preschool.
- **COVID symptom monitoring** – ACS staff is expected to self-monitor daily for COVID symptoms. Additionally, parents are expected to monitor students daily for COVID symptoms.
- **Hygiene** – ACS will continue to focus on proper hygiene for staff and students. Frequent handwashing will be important, and there will be hand sanitizer by every classroom door for use by staff and students.
- **Cleaning and Disinfecting** – Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least one time per day to help mitigate the spread of any viruses. The cleaning crew will continue to use a backpack sprayer that effectively covers surfaces with disinfectant that is effective against COVID.
- **Ventilation** – As much as possible, teachers will be encouraged to keep doors and windows open to allow for the movement of air through the classrooms.
- **Spacing & Movement** – As was the case last year, we will continue to encourage outdoor learning opportunities. This is already something that ACS teachers were excited about prior to COVID, so it is already part of the fabric of learning at ACS. We will maintain seating environments that we feel best supports learning opportunities, and protects the health of students. We will have space between students in classes during certain learning opportunities, but will still allow for group learning opportunities when they represent best practices in education. There will be separate recess times for K-2, 3-5, and Middle School, which will allow for less congestion on the playground. This move was already made due to rapidly growing enrollment.
- **Drop-off and Pick-up** - We will continue to follow the same protocols for drop-off and pick-up that were put in place last school year. With 20% enrollment growth since this past school year and through a safety audit, we have determined that the safest and most efficient way to do dismissal is to continue with the same system. Drop-off will remain in front of school along the curb, and afternoon pick-up will occur in both lots
- **Positive COVID cases and close contacts** – Positive COVID cases will have to isolate at home for 10 days. The health department has mandated contact tracing for close contacts at school, and quarantines are in effect when a close contact occurs in the household or is connected to a verified outbreak in the school. By sending healthy kids to school, we will hopefully have minimal situations where there are positive COVID cases within the school. This is our greatest prevention opportunity.
- **Vaccinations** – Although vaccinations have been encouraged by the health department to mitigate the spread of COVID, they will not be mandatory for students and staff at ACS.
- **Mental & Social-Emotional Health** – Last year, ACS introduced a social worker, who was at school 3 days per week. This was beneficial during COVID, but was a decision that had already been made for the long-term. It is likely, for the upcoming school year, there will be a social worker in the building to support staff and students every school day.