

COVID-19 POLICY

Scenario Planning for ECCS

Updated December 2020

With all of the available information regarding COVID-19, we want to provide clear guidance on what ECCS's policy will be in response to possible illness or exposure to illness for our students, staff, and parent volunteers as we start the school year. The following scenarios describe how ECCS plans to address these three possible situations. In any occasion, we will seek to follow the best and most recent guidance from the CDC as well as state and local health officials.

For the purposes of understanding what to do in these scenarios, it is important to know that COVID-19 symptoms are also common to many other illnesses. According to the CDC website and local department of health, common COVID-19 symptoms include any or all of the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, and sore throat.

We are aware that our planned procedures do not address every possible situation, however, we believe that they cover a large majority of them. In situations where further guidance is required to make an informed decision, we will seek that guidance from local health officials. **Please be advised that these are provisional plans and could require adjustment or revision as determined by ever evolving county, state, and national health protocols.**

ON-GOING STANDARD PRACTICES



Hand Washing

The school will be providing hand washing times during the course of the school day as needed (between specials, before snack or meal times, after recess) as well as alcohol based hand sanitizer for students when hand washing is not possible.



Regular Sanitizing

Touch point cleaning, including wiping down desks and other high contact surfaces, will occur on a regular basis. Use of classrooms in off hours will require further cleaning according to building protocol.

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SOMEONE BECOMES ILL, INCLUDING AN ILLNESS WITH ANY OF THE COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 (AS LISTED ABOVE)?

Before Coming to School: Those with a fever should not come to school until they have been fever free for 48 hours. Those without fever, but with any other significant symptoms as listed above (or other symptoms of illness not listed above) should follow our normal sick policy which requires being symptom free for at least 24 hours before coming to school. Students or staff may return sooner than 48 hours from the last day of fever with a doctor's note allowing their return, or a negative COVID-19 test.

During the School Day: Any student, staff member, or parent volunteer experiencing any significant symptoms as listed above (or other symptoms of illness not listed above) will first be sent to the office (and isolated from others as necessary). Parents of the ill student will be promptly notified and the student will be sent home. Parents will be asked to pick up their child within 30 minutes. Staff will be sent home. Instructions on when staff or students can return to school are the same as in the previous paragraph.

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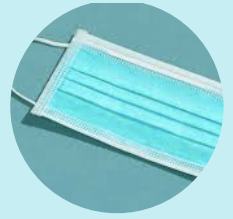
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19?

If a student, staff member, or parent volunteer tests positive for COVID-19, the school should immediately be notified and provided with the results of the positive test. The school will communicate this positive test result to the local department of public health and cooperate with the health department on how to contact the individual, their family (if a student), as well as any close contacts from school. The individual will be required to follow public health guidance, which will include self-isolating for a period of time.

If the student, staff member, or parent volunteer is symptomatic, the individual will be able to return to campus once at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, and respiratory symptoms have improved.

If the student, staff member, or parent volunteer is asymptomatic, the individual will be able to return to campus when at least 10 days have elapsed since the positive test.

ON-GOING STANDARD PRACTICES



Situational Masking

Due to appropriate distancing practiced in the classroom, students will not be required to wear facial coverings during normal instruction time or throughout the school day except in the following circumstances: whenever occupying school / church common areas where social distancing cannot be maintained, during classroom activities that require students and/or teachers to be within close proximity to one another, traveling in cars to a field trip, gathering in any space or group where distancing cannot be provided..

**Please see the comprehensive facial covering policy in the Q&A section that follows*

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WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SOMEONE IS EXPOSED TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO TESTED POSITIVE TO COVID-19 EITHER AT SCHOOL OR AWAY FROM SCHOOL?

Any student, staff member, or parent volunteer who is exposed to someone with COVID-19 should report this exposure to the school office and plan to self-isolate as follows:

- If showing any symptoms, for a period of 14 days from the date of known exposure
- If showing no symptoms, for a period of 10 days from the date of known exposure
- If showing no symptoms, for a period of 7 days from the date of known exposure with a negative test result (test ideally to be procured no earlier than day 5)

To be considered "exposed" you must have been in close contact with someone known to have tested positive (infected individual) for COVID-19. Being in close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of them for more than 15 minutes, providing care at home for someone sick with COVID-19, having direct physical

contact with the person, sharing eating or drinking utensils, or the person sneezing, coughing, or somehow getting respiratory droplets on you.

A positive case within a classroom or carpool group could mean that close contact with the infected individual has occurred with everyone in that classroom or in that student's carpool group. In that case, we will contact the local health department and follow their guidance on how to proceed, including the possible quarantine of the entire class or carpool group for up to 14 days.

Additional Questions and Answers Regarding Returning to Campus

ILLNESS PROTOCOL

Q: Will the school require COVID-19 testing?

A: In most situations, the answer to this question is "No." If, however, you do not recover in a timely basis from COVID-19 related symptoms, you should contact your doctor about testing. Also, whether you have symptoms or not, there may be situations where testing is recommended. If so, among other testing options in the community, you can go to www.cdphcovid19testing.org to complete a testing referral form or you can call the Cobb and Douglas County Public Health Department at 770-512-2300 to schedule a test.

Q. My child or I were around someone who exhibited symptoms of being ill, though they are not known to be COVID-19 positive. What should I do?

A: You should monitor any symptoms that you or your child may develop and, if they do, treat them according to the directions in scenario #1 above.

Q. My child or I know someone who was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do?

A. You are not a close contact in this situation, therefore you are not asked to self-isolate. You should, however, monitor any symptoms that may develop and, if they do, treat them according to the directions in scenario #1 above.

Q. When am I considered a close contact to someone who is ill?

A. According to the CDC, you are considered a close contact to someone if you are within 6 feet of them for more than 15 minutes, you provided care for at home to someone sick with COVID-19, you had direct physical contact with the person, you shared eating or drinking utensils with them, or the person sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you. As it pertains to our ECCS community, classmates and their classroom teacher could be considered close contacts. Additionally, families that opt to carpool together could be considered close contacts. Should a student, teacher, or ECCS parent or immediate family member become ill with COVID-19 symptoms, we request that the school is notified immediately so that we are able to consult with the local health department to determine immediate best practices.

Q: How will the school minimize the number of close contacts during the school day?

A: While this will be difficult, the focus will be for us to minimize the contact between students in different classes. We plan to do this by having separate lunch and recess locations for each class (or grade level) and initially not having large group activities (beyond one class or grade level). We are also encouraging parents to avoid carpooling unless the families who carpool are already close contacts.

Q: Will the school close down if there is a positive COVID-19 case or an exposure to COVID-19 that is reported in our school community?

A. There are no plans to close the school due to any cases of, or exposure to, COVID-19 cases reported in our school community. We will follow local health department guidelines related to any positive case or exposure to someone who is positive consistent with scenarios #2 and #3 above. While there is no guidance that encourages closing school in these circumstances, we would only consider doing so if we were unable to appropriately staff our classes.

Q. Can the school assure me that my child will not get sick with COVID-19 at school?

A. Unfortunately, the risk factors of both symptomatic and asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 are real and there is no guarantee that any of us can avoid becoming infected with this virus wherever we are. Instead, we are all committed to following recommended health and safety protocols as outlined in this and previous school communications (as well as on the CDC website and as advised by local and state health officials). With reasonable precautions being taken in homes and at school to avoid illness, we believe we can safely enjoy the positive benefits of in person instruction at ECCS.

ENSURING HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS

Q: How will you ensure symptomatic students and staff will not be on campus?

A: This will be a shared partnership between parents and the school. Parents will be expected, per usual, to screen their children at home and not send any students to school who have any symptoms of being sick according to our parent handbook. Understanding that a fever is one of the most significant symptoms that could lead to the spread of illness, the school is currently scanning all students, staff, and

parent volunteers for a fever. Anyone who fails the screening or who is scanned and shows a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher will be asked to not come on campus until they are fever free for 48 hours (or sooner with a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test).

Q. Why is school only doing temperature checking of staff, students, and parent volunteers and not checking other symptoms?

A. Understanding that a fever is one of the most significant symptoms of a contagious illness, and understanding that parents are ultimately responsible to regularly check health and wellness symptoms of their children, we trust parents to screen their own children thoroughly before sending them to school each day. The school will temperature check daily as a service to the overall school community to help ensure wellness to the best of our ability before someone enters a classroom. We believe this service will assist parents in all they have to do each morning to get their child(ren) ready for school.

Q. What is the best way to keep from getting sick?

A: As always, follow appropriate health and safety protocol such as: cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the crook of your elbow if tissues are not available, wash your hands regularly with soap and water, use hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, maintain appropriate physical distancing (6 feet or more) where possible, avoid sharing personal items, and clean and disinfect high touch surfaces.

Q: Will you require face coverings for students, staff, or parent volunteers while on campus?

A: It is recommended by the CRT that due to our plans to practice appropriate distancing in the classrooms (where possible), the wearing of face coverings will not normally be required during instruction time in the classroom or throughout the school day except in the following circumstances:

- Whenever in school/church common areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Classroom activities that require students and/or teachers to be in close proximity to each other
- Traveling in cars to field trips
- Gathering as a group in any space where distancing cannot be provided

Q: Will developmental differences be taken in to consideration when enforcing the use of face coverings?

A: While we will expect everyone to follow ECCS requirements to help ensure the health and safety of our school community, we understand that some children (especially the youngest among us) will have more difficulty in learning to follow these expectations. Therefore, we will utilize a gracious approach in helping to train our students in these new habits. Reinforcement and support from parents with their children will make a big difference.

Q: What are defined as common areas where face coverings are required at ECCS?

A: Common areas in the school/church building include hallways, bathrooms, school office, church office, and any meeting space where more than one class is gathering and proper distancing cannot be maintained. It is not normally expected that face coverings will need to be worn when classes are outside for class activities or recess.

Q: Will face coverings be required of any visitors who come on campus?

A: We will require face coverings for non-ECCS individuals (e.g. vendors, special guests, parents who come to the office) who come on campus during the time of their visit. Children under the age of 2 are not expected to wear a face covering.

Q: If we are more comfortable with our child wearing a face covering throughout the school day, will this be allowed?

A: Yes. This will be allowed, though the teacher will not be responsible to ensure that students in this situation are wearing their face coverings outside of ECCS requirements.

Q: Will the school require a particular type of face covering to be worn?

A: No. However, to facilitate the facial covering requirement, ECCS will provide two facial coverings per student this academic year. These facial coverings are "buffs" or "gaiters" in ECCS colors with the school name/ logo that students will be able to wear around their necks comfortably throughout the school day, enabling easy access and avoiding the burden of having to regularly locate, adjust, and safeguard a mask style facial covering. Parents can have their child use these, or chose a different style of face covering for their child to wear. Any non-ECCS supplied face covering used should be a solid color or non-distracting print fabric. Parents should label their students' face coverings. The school will also have disposable face coverings in the office if a student occasionally forgets or loses one.

Q: How will you ensure appropriate physical distancing in classrooms and throughout the school day?

A: School leadership has looked at the size of existing classes by grade and adjusted room assignments to accommodate individual desks or tables to be as close as possible to 6 feet apart (most will be 4-6 feet apart). We are planning on modifications to lunch and recess schedules, morning drop off, midday and afternoon pick up times to minimize students mixing with those of other grades. In some cases, students will remain stationary and teachers will move from class to class to minimize the numbers of students in the hallways. We are not, however, able to ensure students will never be within 6 feet from one another or ever mix with students of other grade levels.

Q: What enhancements will be made to school hygiene/sanitizing practices and building cleaning protocol?

A: The school will be providing regular hand washing times as well as alcohol-based hand sanitizer and tissues for students when hand washing is not possible. Teachers will ensure desks and surfaces are wiped

down regularly during the school day, especially after eating or other activities that require cleaning. Church and school developed protocols for off hours use and cleaning of each room. Additionally, students should bring water bottles and not use water fountains. Sharing of student supplies will be discouraged.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Q: What about field trips and traditional school activities and events?

A: We have determined that because these kinds of hand-on learning experiences are educationally and developmentally meaningful, and a foundational component of our educational philosophy, we will not automatically cancel them. We are in the process of evaluating each field trip, school activity, and event and, where possible, will keep them on the school calendar. We will reserve the right to cancel or postpone any field trip, activity, or event based on situations such as closed venues, not being able to ensure adequate health and safety practices, or a determination that the field trip, activity, or event is not necessary to effective learning or can be done differently.

Q: How will you handle lunch and recess?

A. Each class (or grade level) will have a specific location assigned for lunch and recess each day. Most classes will either eat lunch in their classroom or in a specific outdoor location. Classes will be assigned a specific area outdoors and will not be allowed to mix by grade level during recess. Students will be given guidance on appropriate recess activities and will be asked to find activities to participate in that do not require close physical contact or will be asked to wear face coverings if they are close together.

Q: What about chapel programs and any other activity that requires classes to join together?

A. For now, these types of activities will be suspended or will be held virtually. Some activities may be able to be modified and held in large spaces with appropriate distancing. The sanctuary will be available for any individual class (or grade level) to reserve for activities including musical worship with appropriate distancing.

Q: Will we continue having pizza lunch and Chick-Fil-A biscuits available for purchase?

A: Pizza lunches are currently suspended due to the challenges involved in strictly following health and safety guidelines while preparing plates and serving food. We are continuing to serve Chick-Fil-A biscuits each week as this service involves distributing pre-wrapped food items.

Q: What about Parent-led Enrichment Days?

A: Believing that parent-led Edays are core to our school philosophy, we are continuing with parent-led Edays. 1st and 2nd grade parents are charged to strictly follow the COVID-19 policy and activities are

modified as necessary (see previous question regarding field trips). For other questions about Parent-led Enrichment Days, please contact the Parental Roles Coordinator.

Q: Will parent volunteer or attendance commitments for certain activities or events be modified?

A: Overall the answer to this question is “No”, though there may be some practical temporary changes to these commitments based on the need to honor physical distancing requirements, or changes in how we approach certain school activities or events. Currently campus meetings and parent meeting are being held virtually, though there are occasions where smaller activities (e.g. parent/teacher conferences) are able to be held in person.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Q: Do we have to follow the plans that Cobb County or any other school entity puts in place?

A: No. ECCS will make plans based on what is best for our school community with reasonable consideration of how to most effectively balance the health and safety needs of our school community, as well as the educational needs of our students. Ultimately, our School Ministry Team (based on recommendations from our CRT) is responsible for making our school closure or return to campus plans.

Q: Could circumstances change that require our return to school plans to change?

A: While we do not anticipate that circumstances will change and require adjustment of our return to school plans, our SMT (with input from our CRT) will continue to monitor current circumstances and how to best balance the health and safety needs of our school community, as well as the educational needs of our students. If school leadership determines a need for a change to our plans at any point, you will be notified as soon as possible.

Q: How will you safely conduct any in-person meetings / events / activities (beyond normal school operations)?

A: In general, based on current circumstances, we are limiting in-person meetings / events / activities (beyond normal school operations). When on-campus meetings / events / activities are scheduled, those visiting campus, beyond students and staff must:

- * Register / reserve a time to be on campus
- * Check in at the school office to be temperature and/or symptom checked
- * Follow any posted health and safety protocol (listed on the doors entering the building) while on campus

Q: How is the school calendar being impacted due to COVID-19?

A: Beyond the major dates listed on the preliminary school calendar announced at the beginning of the year, you can expect a more detailed monthly calendar to be shared in the 4th Wall each month and periodically by your classroom teacher. In recognition of the ever-evolving circumstances regarding COVID-19 and its impact on our community and school, we reserve the right to make calendar changes at any time.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Q: What will it look like if ECCS is required to move to distance learning?

A: Revised standards to our possible distance learning program are being developed in response to parent and teacher feedback from this past spring, and survey feedback. While we do not anticipate having to return to a distance learning, we will be prepared with reasonable student and parent expectations, as well as consistent technology platforms and training for elementary and middle school teachers, students, and parents. More information will be shared as soon as it is finalized.

Q: What can we expect if we are required to move to a distance learning program for more than 30 days?

A: While we do not anticipate for this outcome, we understand that if local health conditions were to significantly deteriorate, we could be required to make this move. The SMT is prepared to revisit, and potentially revise, family financial commitments should a return to a sustained distance learning program become a reality.