

2021-22 COVID-19 Policy for ECCS

Updated September 7, 2021

In light of the recent increase of community COVID-19 virus spread (Delta variant), along with the increase in the numbers of people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, ECCS leadership (School Administration, Crisis Response Team and Student Ministry Team) is providing the following updates to our COVID-19 policy for the 2021-22 school year.

Our school leadership provides these updates in reliance upon input not only from community, state and federal health agencies, but also based on our experience at ECCS this past year where we have experienced a limited amount of virus spread along with a significant amount of support and cooperation from our school community.

While we realize that conscientious Christians may have different opinions, we believe most people will be pleased with the path we are choosing. We are grateful for the unity of our ECCS community from this past year and are hopeful and prayerful for continued unity as we move forward with our revised protocols.

Please be advised that these are provisional plans and could require adjustment or revision as our school leadership considers information from our school community as well as our local, state and national health and governmental officials. As always, if you have questions or concerns about this or any area of school policy, please contact the school office.

What Covid-19 Protocols is ECCS committed to follow for the 2021-22 school year?

1. *Continued strict enforcement of our school sick policy:* We believe the primary reason that the school community experience a mostly healthy year in 2020-21 is that both the school and parents were diligent to monitor student and staff symptoms and err on the side of caution by staying or keeping students at home. As a new year begins, it will be essential to continue this policy in order to keep as much sickness out of the school as possible in 2021-22.
2. *Maintaining the 48-hour fever free policy before someone can return to school:* This change from 24-hour fever free along with the strict enforcement of our sick policy were both instrumental in reduced sickness at school this past year. We will maintain this policy in 2021-22.
3. *Modified school pick up procedures:* Having students mostly stay in their rooms and not congregate together in the hallway during pick-up times was a positive change not only to reduce the possible transmission of illness but also less

confusing for teachers and students in monitoring the pickup process. We will continue to improve this process but believe it is something to keep for 2021-22.

4. *Modified attendance requirements for certain campus events:* As in this past year, we are committed to maintaining school and the various school activities on campus. For parent meetings and campus meetings, we will ask both parents to attend in person (per existing enrollment commitments) with the option of only one parent attending if there is a health concern that requires a parent to remain at home. There is not currently a plan for zoom attendance though this will be re-evaluated if deemed necessary. Other on campus activities will continue as normal though we will continue to evaluate whether there should be any modifications based on health conditions.
5. *Isolation for confirmed COVID-19 cases:* Any staff member or student being diagnosed with a positive case of COVID-19 will be required to isolate according to CDC guidelines (10 days from first sign of symptoms or 2 days from before a positive test when asymptomatic). Any student or staff member who develops COVID-like symptoms after being exposed will also be asked to isolate for 10 days. They will be allowed to return after 10 days if they are no longer symptomatic or have been fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications.
6. *Quarantine for close contacts:* Any staff member or student determined to be a close contact to someone confirmed to be COVID positive will be asked to quarantine in one of two ways:
 - *Modified option (new):* The staff member or student may return to school if they remain asymptomatic and agree to do the following:
 - Correctly and consistently wear a mask (except for eating, drinking, PE, recess outside and other reasonable times the school may designate)
 - Physically distance as much as is possible
 - Limit school-sponsored extracurricular activities during the first 7 days (until negative test on day 5 or later) or until after the 10-day quarantine
 - Discontinue modified quarantine after 10 days from exposure (date to be communicated by school office)
 - *Standard option (previous):* If there is not a desire or ability to follow the modified quarantine option, the student or staff member should quarantine at home according to DPH and CDC guidelines*. Those exposed to a family member, will normally be asked to follow the standard quarantine option unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

In addition, ECCS will participate in contact tracing efforts with the local health department with the goal of reducing community spread of COVID-19. Staff members or parents of students who believe they may have a close contact situation should contact the school office.

7. *Formalization of a distance learning policy that can be used for an extended sickness:* While we did not offer elective distance learning this past year and will not offer it in 2021-22, we do recognize that having a clear distance learning policy is important for those rare occasions where a student or staff member may need to be out due to sickness for an extended period.

What Covid-19 Protocols at ECCS are ending for the 2021-22 school year?

1. *Mandatory Masking*: Unless required by governmental agencies and by the session of ECPC, students, staff and parent volunteers will not be required to wear a mask when on campus in 2021-22. Masks will become optional for those on campus to wear. We encourage those who would feel more comfortable to wear masks on campus.
2. *Temperature Checking*: coupled with our plans to remain vigilant to enforce our sick policy, we believe we can forego temperature checking by the school for 2021-22. We will rely upon parents (as they did throughout this year) to monitor their students' health and not send them to school if they believe they have a fever or are not feeling well.
3. *Pod/cohort environment*: Rather than require individual classes or grades to remain separate throughout the day, we will allow for classes to mix where appropriate to promote community at ECCS. While we may modify how we host large gatherings, we do not plan at this time to eliminate them as we did this past school year.
4. *Limiting seating in classrooms to 4-6 feet apart*: While we will work to avoid overcrowding in any classroom, we will not require the distancing we did for this past school year.
5. *Singing and worship*: Singing and worship activities in the classroom and when gathered together will be allowed without restriction.

*** Below are are some of the recommended [Georgia DPH guidelines](#) (click link for more detailed information) about quarantining we will follow if students or staff members are determined to be close contacts of a COVID positive individual and the student or staff member choose the standard quarantine option:**

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially people who are at [higher risk](#) for getting very sick from COVID-19.

After quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider.

You may be able to shorten your quarantine

- After day 10 without testing
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)