

2021-22 COVID-19 Policy

Updated June 2021

In light of the continued decrease of community COVID-19 virus spread, 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 pleased to provide 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 everyone may not fully agree with our decisions, 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 upcoming school year?

- *Continued strict enforcement of our school sick policy:* We believe the primary reason that the school community experience a mostly healthy year 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 the virus wanes, it will be essential to do this so as to keep as much sickness out of the school as possible next year.
- *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.
- *Modified school pick up procedures:* having students mostly stay in their rooms and not congregate together in the hallway 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 iron out the kinks in this process but believe it is something to keep for 2021-22.

- *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.
- *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. This distance learning policy is being reviewed and will be added to our parent handbook for the 2021-22 school year.

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

- *Mandatory Masking:* Unless required by governmental agencies or 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.
- *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.
- *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 will not eliminate them as we did this past school year.
- *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.
- *Strict adherence to quarantining and isolation policies:* Unless required by governmental agencies and deemed necessary by school leadership, we will no longer formally require a mandatory time for quarantining or isolation when a student is sick. Instead, we will rely upon our strict adherence to our sick policies. Should a cluster of sickness in any class break out, we will reserve the right to re-institute a classroom quarantine or isolation policy.
- *Singing and worship:* Singing and worship activities in the classroom and when gathered together will be allowed without restriction.