PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

EQUIPPING STUDENTS. FOLLOWING CHRIST. CHANGING THE WORLD.

PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
A Classical Christian School
4847 Murphy Mill Road | Dothan, Alabama 36303
(334) 702-8933 | (334) 702-0700 fax | www.pcsdothan.com
- A ministry of First Presbyterian Church -

A Message from Emory

In a time when there seem to be more questions than answers and a future that feels unpredictable, I would like to affirm Providence's commitment to a full-capacity-return to school on August 12th. Our culture is witnessing a time when the fragile form of this world is felt. These uncertain times serve to remind Christ-followers and others that God is not surprised by the instability and disruptions around us. In Psalm 62 verse 2, the psalmist reminds us that, "He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken." The framework of our trust is reinforced when a prudent action plan is enacted to minimize as much as possible the risks of the virus that has shaken our world.

As we began preparing our plan for how PCS will re-open to school in a few weeks, several priorities drove our decisions. The primary concern is the safety of our students and staff. The critical aspect of this decision was to listen to expert opinion and to apply that information explicitly to our situation at Providence. We have consulted several local medical professionals about how to navigate COVID-19 in an ever-changing environment. Doing so well requires an adjustment to procedures in the most practical and safe application of reaching our goal. We believe that we have done that with this plan. It will require some inconvenience and adjustment to doing some things differently, and possibly require some personal sacrifice.

Secondarily, our goal was to do everything possible to open the school in a face-to-face, brick-and-mortar environment. We appreciate the efficiency and the quality in which our teachers produced academic engagement in the spring closure. But nothing replaces the interaction, influence, and fellowship of meeting together and in-person!

To that end, we have a responsibility to put in place the protocol that allow for the least amount of exposure and eventual infection from COVID-19. Direct exposure and confirmed infection are the two things that will prevent students and staff from being able to meet in-person. They will cause students to have to stay home, similar to what we experienced in March through May. If either infection or direct exposure becomes widespread in our school, we will likely have an interruption in meeting together. Our plan is designed to minimize both exposure and infection.

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Face Coverings

As the coronavirus threat is unpredictable and seems to occur in waves, our plan has flexibility by engaging phases of response based on changing community conditions. Phase Two, our response to the threat of infection and exposure, calls for all staff and students in grades 4-12 to wear masks in conditions throughout the school day. We have chosen to approach COVID-19 in the manner used in weather threats. We listen to the authorities, both local and national, and follow their guidelines as they apply to our school in reducing the threat to our students and staff. Exposure and infection both threaten the continuity of in-person academic and school-related activities.

Students and all PCS staff in Phase Two will wear face coverings when moving about the classroom or buildings and at any other time where safe distance cannot be maintained. We will use the phrase, "If you are moving, you are masking" during Phase Two.

Online Option

PCS parents that are not comfortable with sending their students to school in the brick-and-mortar, in-person manner as described in this publication can choose online instruction. This will be available for students in 1st through 12th grades, and students will be responsible for the same classroom content as those on campus. Parents choosing this option will be asked to stay in the online platform for the length of the grading period (9 weeks). There is no reduction in tuition for those making this choice. If you choose this option for your family, we ask that you notify the school by Friday, July 31st through an email or phone call (334-702-8933) to Darlene Jones (dcjones@prov-cs.net) for grammar students, or to Kathy Compton (kcompton@prov-cs.net) for logic and rhetoric students.

In closing, we recognize that COVID-19 has affected every aspect of our lives and our school. With God's grace we pray He gives us the perseverance and patience to face our challenges in a God-honoring way. As Christians we have an opportunity to demonstrate to the world that we can not only survive, but we can actually thrive in an environment that is challenging and disruptive.

Our plan is flexible--it is simple but will not always be easy or convenient. Our desire is that following this plan will allow us to meet as safely as possible and perhaps for the entirety of the school year in-person.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

PCS COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

For students and staff who come in contact with COVID-19

PCS WILL ADHERE TO SEVERAL PHASES OF RESPONSE BASED ON COVID-19 CONDITIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

A. The academic calendar for 2020/2021 remains intact. In the event of required changes, you will be notified.

B. Athletics will follow the AHSAA recommendations and requirements.

C. Students will have their temperature checked daily upon building entry and must not have an elevated temperature to be admitted to the classroom. Temperature will be taken by infrared thermometer and, if needed, temperature will be re-checked.

D. The school will utilize hand sanitizer stations and disinfecting wipes/spray. Sanitization of critical common areas will occur daily along with ongoing spot cleaning.

E. Students and faculty will wash their hands frequently throughout the day to minimize the spread of germs, with emphasis on key risk points, such as pre - lunch, snacks, post PE, and restroom breaks.

F. Parents and outside visitors will have limited access to the school and will be temperature checked in the main office in accordance with the same guidelines applicable to students.

G. In an abundance of caution, any student showing signs of illness or who has known contact with anyone who has COVID-19 will be sent home.

H. Student must be fever-free with no fever reducing medication for 72 hours or have a doctor's excuse in order to return to school.

PCS COVID-19

PHASE GUIDELINES:

Phases of response are based on the COVID-19 conditions in our community

1

PHASE ONE:

FULL CAPACITY ENGAGEMENT

RISK: LOW

Each division and all students will be on campus daily with protocols in place that allow for appropriate distancing. Large group gatherings will be managed to allow for appropriate distancing.
Since risk is minimal, masks are optional.

2

PHASE TWO:

PARTIAL CLOSURE

RISK: MEDIUM

Specific areas of the school affected by COVID-19 may move to the distance learning model. Faculty, staff, and students will wear masks while they are moving.

3

PHASE THREE:

FULLY ON-LINE

RISK: HIGH

All students will move to on-line learning.

- The academic calendar for 2020/21 remains intact. In the event of required changes, you will be notified.

- Athletics will follow AHSAA recommendations and requirements.

- Each division will communicate any changes to the daily schedule.

- Schedules and activities will be adjusted to provide as much distancing as possible.

- Lunch/snacks will be eaten in multiple locations in order to reduce numbers of people in the same area. A rotation will be instituted to allow all students the opportunity to eat outside the classroom when possible.

- All students (Grades 1 - 12) will be utilizing digital platforms weekly.

SECTION ONE

PARENTS:

Monitoring Your Child's Health

PARENT GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

Parents should closely monitor their children and keep any children with a fever of 100 or higher at home.

For tracking the potential spread, parents are required to notify the school of their child's illness and subsequent absence(s).

Any student on campus who is sick with fever and/or COVID symptoms will be isolated from others, and parents will be contacted to pick them up from school.

PCS/PARENT PARTNERSHIP

To protect our community, it is critical that we can rely on a strong, committed partnership with families. We ask that parents be diligent in regularly monitoring their student for symptoms of illness, keep any child exhibiting symptoms at home, and immediately notify the school of any suspected or confirmed illness. While the school is trying to provide a well-rounded experience for our students, it is equally important for parents to encourage their children to practice COVID-19 procedures outside of school.

COVID-19 AGREEMENT

To that end, parents will be required to sign a COVID-19 agreement prior to the start of school. By observing and abiding by these guidelines, each family will have a role in helping us monitor the health and safety of our entire community and further the possibility of brick and mortar instruction.

SECTION TWO

PROVIDING A SAFE CAMPUS:

Safety for Our Students & Staff

CAMPUS SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

Water fountains will be disabled with only the hands-free water bottle refill option remaining functional.

Faculty, staff, and students will be encouraged to wash their hands multiple times per day.

Shared electronic devices, PE equipment, and shared classroom items will be cleaned after each use.

Grammar students on the playground or L/R students engaged in exercise or in elective class activity (chorus, cheer, team practices) will be adjusted to provide as much distancing as possible.

PCS WILL CLOSELY MONITOR HEALTH TRENDS

We are committed to providing safety for all of our students and staff. We will continue to closely monitor health trends and take into consideration the guidance provided by healthcare professionals within our community so that we are prepared and can quickly respond with the necessary safety protocols in the event this situation changes.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS WILL WEAR MASKS ACCORDING TO PHASE GUIDELINES

- Masking is part of our safety procedures when appropriate distancing is not possible.
- Students will be responsible for their masks while at school.
- Masks must be solid color or have school logo. Parents are responsible for providing their student masks.

SECTION THREE

LIMITING LARGE GATHERINGS:

Drop-Off, Lunch, & Assemblies

SOCIAL DISTANCING AT PCS

Lunches/snacks will be eaten in multiple locations in order to reduce number of people in the same area. A rotation will be instituted to allow all students the opportunity to eat outside the classroom when possible. Hot meal, sandwich, and salad options will continue to be offered from the The Gathering Place this year.

Large student gatherings will be managed when appropriate distancing is possible and according to Phase Guidelines.

Upon morning arrival students will go directly to their screening area. Students with an elevated temperature will be re-checked after 10 minutes. Staff will schedule locker visitation at staggered times during the day.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

One of the hallmarks of Providence Christian School is the collective community that we enjoy in gathering together as a school community. In these events, we join together to celebrate, eat, worship, and fellowship. However, to ensure that we can continue to meet in person, all large gatherings need to be adjusted in size and scope. Therefore, an important aspect of the plan that allows us to continue to meet in-person is the reduction of large group gatherings.

SECTION FOUR

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

For students and staff who come in contact with COVID-19

1. STUDENTS IN CONTACT WITH A KNOWN COVID CARRIER

NO COVID SYMPTOMS

a. Stay at home and notify the PCS administrative office.

b. Parents monitor for COVID symptoms.

c. Determine the last day of known contact.

d. If NO COVID symptoms develop, wait 14 days from the last day of known contact before returning to school OR go to the doctor after 4 days from exposure date for COVID-19 testing. In order to return to school, you must have doctor's clearance with a negative test result.

WITH COVID SYMPTOMS

a. Stay at home and notify the PCS administrative office.

b. PCS will notify all parents of students within the school class or grouping.

c. Consult with a doctor if COVID symptoms develop and follow their guidance.

d. Note the day of being symptom free.

e. Wait 10 days from the last day of symptoms. In order to return to school, you must get a doctor's release with a negative test result.

2. POSITIVE COVID TEST RESULT

a. Stay at home and notify the PCS administrative office.

b. PCS will notify all parents of students within the school class or grouping.

c. Follow the guidance of your doctor.

d. Note the day of positive test.

e. Wait 14 days from the date of positive test. In order to return to school, you must get a doctor's release with a negative test result.

** L/R students need to notify their teachers of the need to join class through distance learning.*

** Contact is defined as less than 6 feet separation for more than 15 minutes without adequate personal protective equipment.*

In Closing

While we continue to monitor health trends, review government guidelines, and seek counsel from our healthcare professionals, we remain prayerful and intentional in making decisions regarding in-person instruction on all levels of the PCS campuses and programs. Hopefully, this document has answered many of your questions and provided a higher level of confidence as you prepare your children for a return to school. Be assured that we will continue to plan with purpose so we can complete the task of preparing our students to engage the culture for Christ as we all strive to grow in His wisdom and grace. We thank you for your partnership and commitment to Providence Christian School.