



July 23, 2020

Dear TCS Parents and Guardians,

Beginning in June, Trinity Christian School formed a taskforce of school board members, teachers and parents to research and determine the necessary changes to school policies and procedures due to COVID-19. We listened and took input and opinions from our school families; we appreciate this guidance, and it has been a valuable part of the decision making process. The following information represents the necessary precautions for the 2020-2021 school year, which is subject to change at any time due to release of additional information and/or national/state/local guidelines. We all know that things are changing.

Trinity Christian School students return to school in person this fall following our previously released school calendar (first day is Wednesday, August 26). COVID-19 has not been eradicated; therefore, it is important that we take the necessary precautions to create the safest environment possible for everyone. This entails us taking needed steps to protect others, not just ourselves. Trinity has already upgraded the air filters in the school and church buildings to filter out more germs and iWave-C-4900-10 NU Calgon air purifiers have also been installed that kill SARS and other related viruses.

### **Mask Usage**

- When entering the school building, we'll require that masks be worn by parents, students, and visitors and everyone should maintain social distancing.
- Students are not required to wear masks in the classroom, but masks are required in limited situations, e.g., when social distancing is not possible, entering and exiting the car line. Families may request that their children wear masks for the entire day, and the teachers will do their best to enforce it, but they may not be able to guarantee compliance.
- Masks will not be provided for students' use. Students should keep have at least one mask available while at school.
- In the classroom some teachers may wear masks, but teachers are not required to wear masks in the classroom unless social distancing is not possible, e.g., hallways or working closely with a student.

### **New Drop off/Pick up Procedures**

In the effort to social distance while entering and exiting the Trinity campus during school hours, the following procedures will be in place starting on the first day of school. We appreciate your compliance with these new guidelines which are in place to increase safety and cleanliness for students, staff, and families.

- When entering the school building during morning drop off and afternoon pick up, masks will be required for parents and students.
- Elementary and middle school students will be dropped off in the car line in the rear of the school building starting at 8:10 each morning.
- All students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> *MUST* be dropped off and picked up using the rear car line. Car attendants will be present to help students and ensure appropriate 6-foot distancing. Students will need to wear masks when they enter and exit the car line.

- If a family has students in elementary and middle school grades as well as early childhood, the students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades *MUST* be dropped off and picked up using the rear car line, and then the parent/care giver needs to park in order to walk in or pick up the younger children.
- Preschool and kindergarten students *MUST* be dropped off and/or picked up at their respective classrooms. When doing so, we ask that you adhere to a one-way flow of traffic. Families will enter through the main school doors and proceed to the classrooms.
- When leaving the classrooms, parents and care givers will exit down the hallway towards the fellowship hall/lunchroom and exit through the church doorways. Look for signage that will direct the follow of traffic in the early elementary hallways.

### **Daily Temperature Readings**

As we determine new guidelines or changes to policies and procedures, it is important that Trinity is respectful of the vulnerable groups amongst our students, staff, and families and well as follow any national/state/local guidelines. Therefore, we will be taking temperatures of staff and students daily.

- Students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be scanned with a temporal thermometer when exiting from their vehicle in the car line. Any child with a temperature above 100.4 will not be allowed to continue to school.
- If a student registers above 100.4 and wants to be scanned again, and we'll ask the parent/care giver to pull aside, so the student can be re-tested after several minutes.
- Preschool and Kindergarten students will be scanned at their classroom door by their teachers. Parents dropping off need to wait until the temperature scan is completed before leaving.
- Staff will be scanned each morning upon arrival to school.

Even if a child does not present a fever, but appears sick (cough, running nose, etc.) the Trinity staff has the right to deny the child's attendance for a school day or days thereafter.

If a child has an underlying health condition, it is imperative that this information is communicated by the child's parent/guardian to the school administration assistant or school principal.

### **Additional Methods for Safety and Cleanliness**

Trinity recognizes that there are a variety of ways to assess cleanliness and safety due to COVID-19. The following practices will also be in place starting on the first day of school and may be amended as needed.

- Desks will be distanced within each classroom. When a larger gathering of school children occurs (i.e. chapel, lunch), social distancing will be practiced within the spaces currently used or other space made available.
- Additional hand sanitizer stations will be installed in the school hallways and lunchroom. Teachers will determine their own processes for regular hand washing and will communicate that to parents and students during back to school orientation meetings.
- The janitorial company has upgraded their cleaning supplies and are following the CDC guidelines relative to schools. The building and each classroom are cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day; teachers will sanitize and clean rooms as needed.

- Field trips will be cancelled for all grades for the fall semester; consideration for the spring semester will occur later in the calendar year.
- Fundraisers involving any prepared food on campus are suspended indefinitely (popcorn, breakfast for lunch, bake sales, etc.). Pizza Fridays and other food that is professionally prepared off campus will still be allowed.
- On gym days, students will be able to wear 'gym attire' per the dress code listed in the parent student handbook to eliminate the need to change clothes prior to gym class.
- Guidelines and processes for Extended Care will mimic drop off and pick up from school. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival by Extended Care staff; parents must stay until it is confirmed there is no fever. Exiting Extended Care will proceed through the fellowship hall and exit through the church doorways.

### **Positive Diagnosis**

Parents and Guardians should screen their children for symptoms or risk factors daily before the student travels to school. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first.

When students demonstrate symptoms in school, the students' parents will be contacted and the parents will take them from school to contact their health care provider to test them for COVID-19.

If they test positive, they'll quarantine at home and assignments will be provided with appropriate grade-level remote learning-procedures provided. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services will be contacted for the school's subsequent directions.

Returning to in-school instruction will allow students and teachers to regain some sense of normalcy for the 2020–21 school year. Despite a return to familiar faces and routines, however, the reality of COVID-19 continues to require that educators, parents, and students consider a new lens for classroom instruction. We all will need to get used to new procedures to protect others.

Trinity teachers will begin the school year with the usual procedure-training, habit-forming behaviors, and the new COVID-19 behavior training. Teachers' and parents' age-old etiquette and politeness training now requires more diligent monitoring and follow-through. We'll work together to ensure all our community members receive effective precautions and proper care. We thank you for your support.

All told, this has been an extremely trying time for everyone. The one constant these last few months has been God's grace in Christ, which not only covers our own sinfulness, but that of this world He created, redeemed, and *still* keeps in His care. Out of His great love for us, may we strive to continue to show compassion and grace towards all. Thank you, in advance, for demonstrating that love of Christ to each other and towards us. It is a joy and privilege to serve you in our Savior's name.

Yours in Christ,

*George Evensen*, Principal

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/self-isolation-covid.pdf>

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/covid-mask-guidance.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>