



# RIVER HILLS Christian Academy

## **RETURN TO LEARN 2020-2021** CAMPUS SAFETY GUIDELINES

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### **CAMPUS LIFE**

#### Cleaning & Sanitation

RHCA is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and adaptable environment for learning. We have synthesized guidance from multiple resources regarding a custodial plan, will remain informed regarding new developments in transmission of infectious disease and sanitation practices, and adapt as needed.

- Buildings will be deep-cleaned daily, with special attention given to high-traffic and high touch areas such as handrails, handles, and tabletops twice per day.
- Outdoor spaces will undergo routine cleaning, as directed by CDC guidelines, with additional measures when the clinical situation warrants more aggressive disinfecting.
- Cleaning of spaces shared with Calallen Baptist Church will be completed by the RHCA custodial staff prior to use by RHCA students following each church usage.
- RHCA will utilize the EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) approved list of disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in conjunction with the CDC's publication regarding cleaning and disinfecting public spaces when procuring custodial products.  
[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening\\_America\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf)  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>
- All students and staff will be provided with signage to increase sanitation practices in accessible and high-visibility locations such as above sinks, restrooms, hallways, etc.
- Students and staff will wash and/or sanitize their hands and surfaces at regularly scheduled intervals throughout the school day.
- Restrooms will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day.

- Outside doors will be propped open during before and after school cleaning times to support ventilation.
- In circumstances where a building or portion of a building is closed due to spread of infectious disease or exposure concern, all facilities and equipment will undergo thorough decontamination.
- Partitions will be used when applicable to separate staff and non-staff in administrative areas.
- Students will be allowed to use drinking fountains to refill their own refillable water bottles only. **Fountains will not be for drinking**, and will be sanitized regularly. Handwashing or sanitizing will be required before and after use of water bottle refill stations.
- Shared materials will be thoroughly cleaned after each use. Students will maintain individual supplies when practical.

## Protective equipment

- Faculty and staff will wear masks throughout the day and face shields as needed based on student activity and grade level.
- Face masks are **recommended** for Pre-K and Kindergarten.
- Face masks are **required** for 1st grade and older anytime students move around campus. Students will not be required to wear a mask when seated in their desks in the classroom or during PE activities. Our school motto for student masks will be "if you are on the move, you wear your mask."
- Face masks must be within uniform guidelines (no cartoon characters or inappropriate logos/pictures). Please label all face masks with your child's first and last name. Here are some suggested sites to get clothing labels for masks ([namebubbles.com](http://namebubbles.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [appliedlabels.com](http://appliedlabels.com))
- Simple and clean logos are allowed, but no references to designs of drugs, sexual emblems, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or politics.
- We will have disposable face masks on hand for students who forget theirs.
- Lanyards will be provided for each student to wear around their neck to clip their face mask to.
- Exceptions for an alternative face covering will be made for students and staff with a documented health condition that medically prevents them from wearing a face mask.

## VISITORS

In an effort to reduce infection exposure from outside sources, our visitor policy will be tightened considerably. Only internal school and church personnel- students, teachers, employees- and a few essential services will be allowed

inside campus facilities. Parents should remain in their vehicles when dropping off or picking up students. Essential personnel such as speech therapists and repair/maintenance workers will be permitted on campus following a thorough health screening. All volunteer opportunities will be conducted virtually or off-campus.

## WATER FOUNTAINS

All water fountains will be utilized as refilling stations only. Students should bring a reusable (not disposable) water bottle of at least 20 oz. to school each day. We recommend one that doesn't "sweat" condensation as the students will keep it on or near their desks. Water fountains will be disinfected between use.

## SCHOOL DAY

### Drop-off/Pick-up

Arrival and dismissal procedures will be modified to eliminate large gatherings of students in different grade-levels.

- Morning drop-off will begin at 7:50 and students will go straight to their classrooms upon arrival. \*8:15 arrival on Thursdays.
- Staggered drop-off areas will be designated for grade-levels.
- During afternoon pickup, students will be dismissed from their classrooms.
- Afternoon pickup will be staggered as follows:
  - Preschool: 2:45
  - Kinder-2nd: 2:55
  - 3rd-5th: 3:05
  - 6th/7th-3:15
    - Younger siblings will be dismissed at the same time as older siblings.

*We know from experience that carpool takes longer during the first two weeks of school. This year will be no different. We will share more detailed procedures and carpool routes during Meet the Teacher updates.*

## Classrooms

Physical distancing is fundamental to lowering the risk of spreading COVID-19. All classrooms can safely accommodate students within the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics, with plexiglass dividers as an additional layer of protection. Desks will face a single direction where possible.

## Early Academy (PreK and Kindergarten)

The relative impact of physical distancing among preschool and Kindergarten children, according to AAP, is likely small based on current evidence and certainly difficult to implement. We will focus on more effective risk mitigation strategies for our young learners through hand hygiene, cohorting and spending time outdoors.

Hard to clean, plush surfaces like bean bag chairs and stuffed animals will be removed from the classrooms. School supplies will be kept in individual boxes rather than shared among students.

Nap mats will be kept in separate plastic bags for storage and sent home with students each Friday for cleaning. Students will lay down for nap in a configuration that allows for 6 feet of separation and head to toe arrangement.

## Grammar School and School of Logic

Classroom areas will be set up to allow for 6 feet between student desks.

Grade levels will work in cohorts, the same students will be in the same group throughout the day, limiting the amount of cross interaction. Class sizes are small (less than 16) as usual in our RHCA school community.

Fine Arts and other special classes contribute to the quality education of mind, spirit, and body that we are committed to upholding at RHCA. While some lessons or activities are not safe (for example, choir), we are using this opportunity to explore new options of teaching music lessons through music history study and using instruments. Class sets will be disinfected following each lesson.

Special area teachers will travel to the student's classroom rather than students traveling in and around hallways to get to special area classrooms.

## Lunch

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms each day, where they can remain with their cohort and eliminate the use of shared table surfaces. Lunch service will be available for students in grades 1st-7th grade on specified days of the week.

## After Care

After school care will only be available on a necessary basis for parents that are working. After school care will be limited to 10 children.

## Assembly

All students will continue to attend Friday Assembly. The beginning of the school year will require live-streamed Assembly to the classrooms and parents are invited to join online. Once the campus is in a safe health pattern, cohorts will attend in person, spreading out in the sanctuary to allow for social distancing. The ultimate goal is to have a full school Assembly with social distancing in place. This will be decided on as the health and safety of staff and students remain stable during the school year.

## FIELD TRIPS

Until further notice, all field trips will be virtual. RHCA is also looking for additional virtual opportunities in classes that do not normally have scheduled field trips. Overnight field trips for the School of Logic are being reviewed to determine how to best provide these experiences.

# ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

## Screening Procedures

Communication about health and wellness is essential for a safe school environment.

- CDC does not currently recommend symptom screenings on campus of students. Therefore, RHCA will not be doing temperature checks at arrival of Grammar School or School of Logic students. This may change based on CDC guidelines.
- Temperature checks are required by Child Care Licensing at this time and will take place for PreK-3 and PreK-4 students each day upon arrival on campus.
- Temperatures of students and staff will be checked at any point a concern of health is raised during the school day.
- Parents or caregivers will be required to complete a health assessment of their children every day before attending school.
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.
- School staff will monitor children throughout the day as usual for symptoms of any illness that may develop.
- RHCA cannot emphasize enough how important it is to keep your child at home if they have a temperature over 100.4 due to a routine childhood illness and remain at home until they are fever free without medicine for 24 hours. This is one of the best ways to help prevent the spread of illness including COVID-19 and allows RHCA to remain open
- Families need to be aware that weekends and school breaks require everyone to be vigilant about their exposure and risks.
- Parents will sign a Health and Wellness Pledge and Waiver at the beginning of the school year.

# Response Plan

## Clinical Protocols

If a child becomes symptomatic at school, they will be separated from their cohorts. The sick child will wear a mask and staff will wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to assist them with their belongings to a designated quarantine room. The student will be isolated until arrangements can be made for them to be transported home safely. Any resources used by them (desks, chairs, etc) will be sanitized.

Staff or students who are sent home with fever and/or symptoms of COVID-19 that last more than one day **are required** to speak with their physician to determine necessity of testing.

Staff or students who are sent home with fever and/or symptoms of COVID-19 without lab confirmation may return to campus after they are fever free and symptom free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication.

Staff and students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have a known direct exposure will be required to quarantine for 10 days. If a family member is positive, all other family members will be treated as positive cases and should quarantine for 10 days.

When a staff or student is identified to be positive for COVID-19, possible contacts will be notified according to CDC recommendations. One staff member will be designated as the COVID contact person who will relay the necessary information and protect privacy of those affected.

Any staff or student who tests positive for COVID-19 or family members test positive may return to school when the following conditions are met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication)
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Further Information from CDC:

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html)

## Safety equipment

### **Personal Protective Equipment Practices - Staff/Faculty**

- Staff will be provided with CDC-recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed. Faculty and staff will wear face coverings when on campus when social distancing is not practical.
- For high risk interactions, staff will be provided with additional measures of PPE.
- When isolating school attendees with identified potential illness, staff members will don CDC-recommended PPE, including medical mask, face shield, gown/barrier garment, and medical, non-latex gloves. These items are single use and will be disposed of according to regulatory guidelines.
- Staff members will undergo safety training regarding proper and safe usage of PPE, including donning and doffing of personal protective equipment, consistent with CDC guidelines.