

New Covenant Christian School

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

August 12, 2020

Families and Friends of New Covenant Christian School,

The following is New Covenant's Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. It describes various school policies based on Eaton County's current phase as determined by Governor Whitmer. We are currently in phase four.

Through this document, there are several points I want to emphasize:

1. The health of our school family is important. While this certainly includes physical health, the reality is that we are more than bodies. Thus, while this document only details physical health, we also considered the spiritual and emotional health of our students in the creation of this document.
2. This document is not all-inclusive. In the coming weeks, I will supply you with many more resources in order to make the implementation of this plan clear and simple.
3. This document does not change who we are. While some things may look different, we are still a worshipping family committed to the discipleship of our students.
4. I am listening. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out. My email address is gatlind@nccswarriors.org, and my cell phone number is 814-229-7859.

May God bless you and your families in the days ahead. I am excited to partner with you in this journey.

Sincerely,
Dalton Gatlin
Principal

This COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan is written in response to Governor Whitmer's *Michigan Return to School Roadmap* and Executive Order 2020-142, which can be found at the following links:

Roadmap: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_Safe_Schools_Roadmap_FINAL_695392_7.pdf

EO 2020-142: https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-533311--,00.html

Several sources were considered for the creation of this plan, including:

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD): <https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/school-covid-19-resources>

The CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening>.

Phase Four

Personal Protective Equipment

All Staff will wear masks:

- Inside the school building

All preK through 5th grade students will wear masks:

- In the hallways
- In common areas

All 6th grade through 12th grade students will wear masks:

- Inside the school building

Exceptions:

- Cannot medically tolerate a mask
- Unable to remove facial covering without assistance
- During meals
- Outside activities

Additional Instructions:

A mask must cover an individual's mouth and nose.

A mask can be homemade or disposable. If homemade, it must be washed daily. If disposable, it must be disposed of at the end of each day.

If a student has a medical waiver or is unable to remove a mask without assistance, a parent or guardian must fill out the Facial Covering Waiver and turn it in to the school office.

A reusable cloth mask will be supplied to each student at the beginning of the school year. If a student forgets a mask, disposable masks can be found in the school office.

Hygiene

- NCCS will disperse hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol throughout the building for staff and student use.
- Soap, paper towels, and tissues will be available throughout the building.
- Proper handwashing will be taught and reinforced.
- Signs will be posted in each restroom to help reinforce proper handwashing techniques.

Screening:

Students:

- Every student's temperature will be taken upon arrival. If a fever is present, the student will be asked to return home.
- Families will self-screen their children before every school day. NCCS will provide information from the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) explaining how to self-screen.

Staff:

- Staff temperatures will be taken upon arrival. If a fever is present, the staff member will be asked to return home.
- Staff will self-screen following the BEDHD recommendations.

Visitors:

- Every visitor's temperature will be taken upon arrival. If a fever is present, the visitor will be asked to leave the school campus.
- Visitors will be asked if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (which will be listed), have had a positive COVID-19 test in the last 14 days, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days.

Responding to COVID-19 Symptoms

The following applies to a student who develops a fever or becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school:

- Separate student from others
- Ensure that the student is wearing a mask
- Call student's emergency contact for pickup.
- Encourage parents to get the student off-site testing for COVID-19
- Students will not be allowed back in school until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.

If a staff member or visitor develops a fever or COVID-19 symptoms:

- He/she will be asked to immediately exit the campus and will be encouraged to seek off-site testing for COVID-19.
- Symptomatic staff members and visitors will not be allowed back in the school until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to CDC guidelines.

Phase Four

Responding to Positive COVID-19 Test

The following applies to a staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19:

- The BEDHD will be immediately notified.
- Any close contacts of the individual will have to self-quarantine. A close contact is someone who has spent at least 15 minutes with the affected individual at less than six feet apart from two days before the individual first showed symptoms to the time he/she was last present at school. NCCS and the BEDHD will work together to identify close contacts.
- All school parents and staff will be notified of the presence of a positive test and will be encouraged to watch for symptoms.
- The school will be thoroughly disinfected.
- Individuals with positive tests and close contacts will not be allowed back to school until the BEDHD releases them from isolation.

Spacing, Movement and Access

Social distancing:

- NCCS will not require social distancing in classrooms.
- If a parent or guardian requests that their child be socially distanced, NCCS will accommodate this request.

Visitors:

- Visitors will be allowed during school hours.
- Visitors must be let into the school building by the school's secretary.
- Every visitor will be screened for symptoms upon entry (including temperature), wear a mask, and wash or sanitize his/her hands.
- Records will be kept of non-school employees entering and exiting the building.

Other:

- Physical Education will be held outside as often as possible.
- Outside classes and learning experiences will be emphasized when they can benefit students.

Food Service, Gathering, and Extracurricular Activities

Food Service:

- Elementary students will eat lunch in the cafeteria with their own classmates.
- Students will be socially distance from students in other classes.
- More than 50 individuals will not be in the cafeteria at the same time.
- Middle school and high school students will eat lunch in a classroom socially distanced from other students or outside.

Gatherings:

- There will be no indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom.

Extracurricular Activities:

- Extracurricular activities may continue with the aforementioned requirements in place.

Chapel:

- Chapel is an act of religious worship specifically exempted from Governor Whitmer's executive orders.
- Chapel services will be held according to New Covenant Christian Church's guidelines.
- Students will remain socially distanced from students in other classes.
- Student entry and exit will be staggered to avoid congestion.

Busing and Student Transportation:

NCCS does not bus or transport students

Phase Four

Athletics:

- NCCS will comply with all guidance published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- Students, teachers, and staff must use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering.
- Every participant must confirm that they are healthy and without symptoms prior to any event.
- All equipment will be disinfected before and after use.
- Buses used for inter-school competitions will be cleaned and disinfected before every use and students will wear facial coverings.
- Each participant will have his/her own clearly marked water bottle.
- Unnecessary contact will not occur.

Cleaning:

- Frequently touched surfaces, including light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms, will be cleaned at least every four hours with an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- The library, computer lab, and art room will be cleaned after every class period with an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- Student desks will be wiped down with an EPA-approved disinfectant after every class period.
- Playground structures will undergo normal routine cleaning.
- Cleaning products will be stored away from children. Adequate ventilation will be given during times of cleaning.
- Staff will wear gloves, masks, and face shields while performing cleaning activities.

Phases 1-3

Summary

- NCCS will be closed for in-class learning.
- Staff members and school administrators will be permitted in the building following guidelines for indoor activities.
- Athletics will be suspended.
- Online instruction will be provided for NCCS students.

Phase Five

Personal Protective Equipment

- Facial coverings are recommended for staff and students but not required.

Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the school.
- Common surfaces will be cleaned daily.
- Proper hygiene techniques will be taught and reinforced.

Spacing, Movement and Access

- Congestion in the halls will be avoided.
- When possible, windows will be opened in order for rooms to be aired out.
- Outside classes and learning opportunities will be used whenever profitable for students.

Screening Students, Staff, and Guests

- Parents and guardians will be asked to screen students before dropping them off at school.
- Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home.
- Staff members will be asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. If present, they will be asked to stay home.
- Visitors will be screened through questions regarding their health and exposure to COVID-19.

Responding to COVID-19 Symptoms

- Students or staff members who have COVID-19 symptoms should stay home until fully recovered.
- If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, they will be asked to return home.
- Symptomatic students and staff members will be encouraged to receive COVID-19 testing.

Responding to Positive Tests

The following applies to a staff member or student who tests positive for COVID-19:

- The BEDHD will be immediately notified.
- All school parents and staff will be notified of the presence of a positive test and will be encouraged to watch for symptoms.
- The school will be thoroughly disinfected.
- NCCS will work with the BEDHD regarding close contacts and the required length of quarantine required for an affected individual and his/her close contacts.

Food Service, Gathering, and Extracurricular Activities

- Students will eat lunch with their classmates in the cafeteria.
- Middle school and high school students may eat outside, weather permitting.
- Gatherings will follow the legal guidelines required at the time of occurrence.
- Chapel will follow the guidelines set forth by New Covenant Christian Church.
- Extracurricular activities may occur.

Athletics

- NCCS will follow the set MHSAA guidelines.

Cleaning

- Hand sanitizer will be dispersed throughout the building.
- Frequently-touched surfaces will be disinfected at least once every day.

Busing and Student Transportation

NCCS does not bus or transport students