



# TRINITY

Christian School

Campus Opens August 25, 2021

**Trinity Christian School Plan**

**TCS Board Approved  
Updated August 2021**

August 5, 2021

Dear Trinity Christian School Community:

In a few short weeks, we will once again gather as a school community and begin our 69th year of providing Christian education. As I reflect on the past school year, I am filled with thanksgiving to God for how he sustained us as a school community, blessing us with a full year of in-person instruction with few interruptions.

As I discussed the upcoming year recently with our Health Professional Team, all were grateful for the in-person education that their children experienced last year and believe we **MUST** be vigilant in the year ahead. A reoccurring statement in those conversations was the impact that **our families had by diligently monitoring their childrens' health throughout the year**. As we begin a new year with the hope of returning to normal, *I want to stress to you how important it is that you keep your student at home if he or she has symptoms that are listed in our health plan.*

Masking will be optional for the start of the school year and our hope is that this will continue throughout the year. Students should have access to masks as TCS families utilize local school district transportation services who set their own parameters. The use of masks has been a controversial topic within our community, however, it is vital that charity be practiced as each family determines what is best for their child. I believe that it is also important to note that, even as I write this letter, our local health agencies have stated that mandates are an option on the table.

Our school leadership will closely monitor government mandates, the health effects and risks on our students during the school year, and will reassess applicable policies. It is our desire that our students are safe and that our school remains open for in-person instruction.

As in the past year, Trinity will not require vaccination or COVID-19 testing. However, we recognize that vaccination is effective and increases our chances of not having any outbreaks at school.

Please carefully review the plan that is attached, noting the details, guidelines, and protocols. Also, please understand that adjustments may still need to be made over the upcoming weeks as we respond to changes that develop in our region. A copy of this plan will be available on our website and you will be notified when changes are made.

This pandemic has created a great many challenges for our community. Yet, we are committed to the health and safety of our students and staff. Alongside this commitment, we will hold to our mission to equip our students to fulfill their calling in family, church, and society in a way that is pleasing to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As the people of God, I want to encourage you to join us in praying and trusting in our sovereign Lord as we walk through these challenges together.

Sincerely,

Kennedy S. Henriquez  
TCS Head of School

## A great deal of thanks is given to our TCS Health Professionals Team:

Bree Kost, TCS Parent, TCS Coach, Physician Assistant Allegheny Health Network

Julie Maurer, TCS Parent, Physician Assistant Allegheny Health Network

Jessica Walters, TCS Parent, RN UPMC St Margaret's Hospital

\*Be aware that our protocols refer only to our school and that public school districts will set their own parameters for transportation on their vehicles.

## Life on Campus - At a Glance

The Board and Administration of Trinity Christian School are committed to opening our doors on Wednesday, August 25, and continuing to offer our students a full-time classical Christian education. We will follow health precautions which are in accordance with local, state, and federal mandates.

- Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the main entrance and in classrooms.
- As in the past, we ask that parents monitor the health of their children each morning and keep their child home if their temperature is greater than 100.4° F.
- Presently, masks are optional for students, teachers, and support staff.
- Students will only use their own supplies (no shared tools) at school.
- Thorough daily sanitizing and cleaning protocols will be followed throughout the school day.
- Students will bring a water bottle to school - filling stations for water bottles will be available as a replacement for water fountains.
- All teachers will be encouraged to use outdoor learning spaces.
- The school day will start at 8:10am and end at our usual time of 2:52pm.
- Athletics offerings will be provided as permitted by PIAA recommendations and requirements.

## Phases for Prevention

Until the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, we will provide protocols to safeguard the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. The protocols that follow have been developed with state and federal guidelines in mind and in consultation with our medical professionals. At the present time we are in Phase II.

### Phase I

This phase assumes little to no community spread and negligible absenteeism. Operations as normal.

### Phase II

This phase assumes low community spread and negligible absenteeism. Day-to-day classroom operations will function close to normal with enhanced safety and health precautions in place.

- Cleaning procedures to meet health and safety guidelines.
- Students will transition between classes.
- Desks will be spaced as classrooms allow.
- Accommodations will be made for 50+ person group gatherings, most likely inside the auditorium.
- Masks will be optional unless state or local mandate requires them.

### **Phase III**

Moderate community spread and negligible absenteeism. The following precautions would be added to the already existing ones outlined in Phase II.

- Transitions between classes will be reduced at all grade levels. When feasible, teachers will move from class to class.
- When mandated, students will be required to wear masks indoors that cover the nose and mouth (except for eating and drinking).
- Increased schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.
- No indoor, large-group gatherings (50 or more).
- Outdoor spaces will be maximized.

**NOTE:** In the event of significant COVID-related absenteeism, we will implement strategies to mitigate further spread.

### **Phase IV**

In the event of a state mandated closure, Trinity staff and students will collectively move to Remote Learning.

## **Health Screening and Entry Protocols**

As noted earlier, a great deal of the success of last year's re-entry plan was due to the vigilance of our families. We ask that you continue to monitor the health of your students and keep them at home if they are displaying symptoms.

If a person has any of the following, they should remain at home. If these symptoms develop at school, parents will be contacted to pick up their student.

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever (greater than 100.4° F)
- Chills
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose
- Fatigue, muscle pain and/or body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

### **Existing Health Conditions**

A person with recurring seasonal or chronic mild symptoms that present as questionable, and who has a documented medical condition on file at school that accounts for the symptom(s) may be permitted to enter the building at the discretion of the school.

## Health & Testing Decision Matrix

We will use the following matrix, based on CDC guidelines, to make decisions that support the health of our entire community.

Symptomatic - Tested Positive	Symptomatic - Tested Negative
<p><b>A student or employee can return to campus when the following conditions have been met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 72 hours have elapsed from resolution of fever without fever reducing medication.</li> <li>· 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms appeared.</li> <li>· Respiratory symptoms have improved.</li> <li>· <b>Have a written release from a health care provider.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>A student or employee can return to campus when the following conditions have been met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fever has been gone for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine.</li> <li>· Respiratory and other symptoms have improved.</li> <li>· <b>Have a written release from a health care provider.</b></li> </ul>
Asymptomatic - Tested Positive	Untested – Symptomatic Multiple Symptoms Including Fever
<p><b>A student or employee can return to campus when the following conditions have been met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 10 calendar days have elapsed without symptoms from the testing date.</li> <li>· <b>Have a written release from a health care provider.</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>(Students or employees with cold symptoms and no fever should remain home until symptoms have improved.)</i></p> <p><b>A student or employee can return to campus when the following conditions have been met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medicine.</li> <li>· Other symptoms have improved.</li> </ul>
Contact w/Someone Who Tested Positive and is Unvaccinated	Contact w/Member of Home Who Has Multiple Symptoms Including Fever.
<p><b>A student or employee can return to campus when one of the two conditions have been met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Have completed a self-quarantine for 10 days and symptom free.</li> <li>· Have completed a self-quarantine for 7 days, tested negative, and symptom free.</li> </ul> <p>*A student or employee who is vaccinated and has contact does not need to self-quarantine while asymptomatic.</p>	<p><b>A student or employee can return to campus when the following conditions have been met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· They have remained at home and are symptom free for at least 24 hours.</li> </ul>

Any individual in the school environment who shows symptoms during the school day will immediately be separated from the rest of the school population and be sent home.

# Physical Distancing & Mitigation Strategies

## **Busing from Public School Districts**

We advise you to follow information from your public school district for guidance on masking on buses. Students must obey the rules set by the public school district in order to use transportation.

## **Morning Arrival and Dismissal**

All students will be dropped off at the front of the school and will enter through the main entrance. At dismissal, all bus students will load buses in the front circle. Parent Pick Up students will be dismissed to the rear of the school. Detailed procedures will be emailed to families before the start of the school year.

## **Restrooms, Drinking Fountains and Lunchroom**

In the elementary grades, restroom use will be managed and coordinated by teachers. Drinking fountains will be turned off and water bottle filling stations will be available; all students will be asked to bring a water bottle to use during school. These water bottles should go home periodically, ideally everyday, for cleaning. Students who forget a water bottle can be given a cup by the office. Lunches will be enjoyed in the cafeteria. Microwaves will not be available. Hot lunch service will begin in mid-October. A communication providing further details about hot lunch will be sent as we approach October.

## **Chapels & Assemblies**

Chapels and assemblies will resume in the auditorium.

## **Library, General Music, Art, and Physical Education Classes**

These classes will resume normal activity in their designated rooms.

## **Middle School and High School Choir**

The Middle School and High School choirs will meet in the auditorium for rehearsal.

## **Band**

These classes will meet in the Band room. Instruments will be muffled.

## **Recess Procedures**

We will resume the regular playground protocols.

## **Visitors and Volunteers**

Parents and visitors will only be allowed in the building for essential and critical school and classroom needs.

## **Fresh Air Venting**

The fresh air ventilation systems throughout the school will be operating throughout the school day. Windows will be open to allow fresh air to circulate.

# Daily Sanitation Protocols

## School-Wide Disinfection

EPA registered disinfectants will be used to clean all areas of the building.

## Hand Sanitizer Stations

Faculty, staff, and students will keep their hands sanitized using hand sanitizer or washing hands.

## Hygienic Practices

We believe parents are the most powerful teachers regarding hygiene and health related matters. Therefore, we believe that Trinity's efforts regarding maintaining a safe and healthy environment will only be effective if parents and the faculty of Trinity work together. We rely on parents to promote the same hygienic practices we will direct students to practice at school, including:

- Covering coughs or sneezes with a bent arm or tissue and washing hands or using hand sanitizer afterward;
- Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, drying hands with a paper towel;
- Keeping hands away from nose, mouth, and eyes;
- Avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, and personal items.

## Excused Absences Due to Illness or Exposure

Although we are not offering a remote learning option this year including videos and livestreaming, students who are absent will be given ample time to make up work and teachers will work with them to keep them on track. As in past years, students will have access to our Student Information System to see assignments.

## Procedure for Illness

The following procedure will be used if a student or employee becomes symptomatic during the day:

1. For students, the front office will call parents or guardians for pickup.
2. For employees, the front office will coordinate with school administration to manage follow-up actions.

The following procedure will be used if we learn that a student or employee has tested positive:

1. School administration will contact the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) with appropriate details and exposure information. Those individuals that are determined to have been exposed to COVID-19 will be notified.
2. The front office will coordinate (as appropriate) with parents or guardians of the student or directly with the employee to compile a list of potential exposures (contact trace).
3. School administration will update the school community (parents/guardians) with appropriate details.