

# CLS PLAN FOR SAFELY OPENING SCHOOL

August 18, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

Covenant Life School has developed this comprehensive plan for the safe return of faculty and staff on August 20<sup>th</sup> and for students on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

We are grateful to the CLS COVID-19 Task Force that helped shape these plans to safely open CLS for in-person instruction, and may be called on for assistance as future needs arise during the year to determine our response to new or changing circumstances. The CLS COVID-19 Task Force includes medical professionals, school leaders, teachers and parents. This plan leans strongly in the direction of safety in all of the following guidelines and procedures, meeting or exceeding recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Health Department. These plans will be submitted to the local health department for review.

A theme at Covenant Life School has always been, ***school safety is a shared responsibility***. We believe this plan is a good faith effort to maximize safety and in-person instruction, but the actual success of this plan will require strict adherence to all aspects of this plan by all members of the CLS community.

Over the summer our planning has been intensely focused on modifying how we provide in-person instruction implementing all of our safety guidelines. Our commitment is to provide the highest quality of instruction, within the limits of changes in our normal in-school operations for safety reasons. We encourage all CLS families to recognize and carefully consider all that we are doing to provide a safe school environment this fall and choose to send your children for in-person instruction.

We understand that some families with students in the high-risk category need or strongly prefer to have their students participate via remote learning. Parents that choose this option should understand that they will not have the same experience as those inside the classroom learning environment. Remote learning will include synchronous and asynchronous instruction. In other words, the students will not be viewing a live stream of the classroom all day. Our goal is to provide the same academic learning *opportunity* for all, but there will be significant differences in the overall *experience*, and parents with students at home will have to play an important role to get the full benefit of that opportunity.

While all CLS teachers would acknowledge that there will be challenges to overcome this fall, everyone is committed to providing excellent instruction. Last spring our teachers pivoted quickly and successfully to distance learning. Understandably it took a couple of weeks to find the best rhythm for each grade, but the feedback we received was that CLS teachers did an excellent job. Unfortunately, not all families were able to thrive during that time, but this was because of factors beyond the school's control.

The changes this fall will present a new experience for us all, and necessary procedures and precautions may be inconvenient at times. We anticipate that it may take a week or more to refine or build new habits around some of our procedures and optimize instruction given the circumstances. Productive feedback from parents will be welcome and critical to help each student succeed.

We cannot say enough about the vital, practical support the school is receiving from Covenant Life Church. We benefit directly from the Proactive Pandemic Site Inspection, coordinated cleaning services, and not the least, approving 7 additional classrooms to be utilized to make smaller class sizes possible. We cherish our partnership in ministry with Covenant Life Church!

We sincerely believe that as we pray for and support one another, we will be able to thrive, glorify God and fulfill our mission to educate students who will think biblically and live passionately for Christ.

We are grateful that you are a part of the CLS community! It is our joy and privilege to partner with your family.

Jamie Leach, Head of School  
Bob Schickler, Assistant Head of School

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **HEALTH SCREENING PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF:**

We have established a daily health screening protocol for students and staff entering the building. The objective is to verify the absence of symptoms and known exposures. The protocol includes submitting a Health Screening Survey and temperature check before entering the building each day.

The Health Screening Survey will ask the following questions:

- 1) In the last 72 hours have you had any of the following symptoms?
  - a) Onset of cough
  - b) shortness of breath
  - c) fever of 100.4° or higher
  - d) chills
  - e) shivering
  - f) muscle pain
  - g) sore throat
  - h) headache
  - i) loss of sense of taste or smell
  - j) gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)
- 2) Have you or the named person had a temperature of >100.4° in the past 72 hours?  
Individuals should not come to CLS until that person's temperature has been below 100.4° for at least 72 hours and without the help of fever-reducing medication.
- 3) Since last here, are you or the named person waiting for a COVID-19 test result, been diagnosed with COVID- 19, or been instructed by any health care provider or the health department to isolate or quarantine?
- 4) In the last 14 days, have you or the named person had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19 (i.e., tested due to symptoms)?

Parents and students will access to the Health Screening Survey from the home page of the CLS App, the CLS Website or by scanning the QR Code that will be posted by the school entrances. Paper copies of the survey will also be available at the school entrances.

### **TEMPERATURE CHECKS**

Faculty members will be required to take their temperature prior to entering school facilities each day. Students in grades K through 12 will be required to have their temperature taken by a staff member prior to being admitted into the school. Anyone registering a temperature greater than 100.4° F will be required to go home. Records will be maintained per guidance from the Health Department.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (Face Masks)**

All faculty, staff, and K-12 students are required to wear an effective face covering at school. Effective face coverings for students include the following:

- Three-layer disposable masks
- Two or three-layer cotton masks
- Smile masks (cloth masks with a window over the mouth), as long as there is a sufficient two or three-layer cloth rim around the window and the seam between the window and rim does not leak.

The following kinds of face coverings are not effective and will not be permitted:

- Shields
- Neck fleeces or gaiters
- Folded bandanas
- Masks with a one-way breathing valve

For masks to be effective, note the following requirements:

- Masks must be new or clean every day.
- They must cover the nose and mouth.
- They must fit snugly over the nose and under the chin.
- They must be worn properly to cover the nose and mouth and stay in place.

Specific guidelines will be followed for when students and staff are permitted to be without a face mask while on the school campus, such as during meals. Efforts will be made to get students outdoors for occasional mask breaks.

Disposable masks will be provided in the event a student or staff member forgets to bring their mask to campus or to replace a mask that gets soiled during the day.

Parents are urged to instruct children how to properly wear and care for a mask, and to practice wearing a mask for longer periods of time prior to the first day of school.

## **HAND SANITIZER AND HAND WASHING**

Hand sanitizer stations are placed throughout the building, in classrooms and at entrance/exits for use prior to entering the building.

**Students are required to have a personal bottle of hand sanitizer with them at school.**

Hand washing or the use of sanitizer will be required before and after meals, as well as encouraged throughout the day. Signs will be placed in all restrooms with proper hand washing procedures.

## **HEALTH ROOM**

Covenant Life School has hired a full time Registered Nurse and will establish a health room to effectively support all health safety protocols and care for the students and school employees on campus. The school nurse will be responsible for overseeing and maintaining health screening records in addition to managing student health files and medications and providing basic school health care. The health room will establish an isolation area where students and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 can be separated from the rest of the school population until they leave campus. The school nurse will follow CDC and Health Department guidelines in caring for individuals with COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms, reporting cases to the Health Department, and directing those individuals required to quarantine.

Refer to Appendix A - Health Scenarios and Planned Responses

## **COVID-19 TESTING**

Students and staff with possible exposure to COVID-19 will be investigated, and those who are exhibiting symptoms will be required to be tested in accordance with recommendations of state and local health authorities.

## **FACILITY MANAGEMENT**

### **CLEANING AND DISINFECTING**

To mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we have contracted with a professional cleaning service to implement a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting all frequently touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, sink handles, stair railings) multiple times during the school day in addition to each night.

Teachers and Staff will also clean frequently touched surfaces in the classroom periodically throughout the day.

### **SIGNAGE**

Signs will be placed at all entrance/exit doors stating the mask policy.

Posters on proper hand washing will be displayed in every bathroom, along with signs citing the permitted number of occupants per bathroom.

Directional signs will be placed on floors, guiding the flow of traffic in the hallways to mitigate risk and to promote social distancing.

There will be designated entry and exit paths.

Markers on floors will indicate proper social distancing intervals for waiting areas and lines.

Signs will be placed throughout buildings noting the number of occupants allowed at one time in the room to maintain recommended social distancing.

### **MODIFIED LAYOUT FOR CLASSROOMS AND COMMUNAL SPACES**

Students will be spaced 6 feet apart in each classroom and student desks will face in one direction.

In order to maximize space to allow for proper social distancing, some classrooms have been reorganized and other non-essential classroom items have been removed.

Communal gathering spaces will be closed and furniture has been removed.

### **CLOSED COHORTS AND TRANSITIONS**

Elementary classes will maintain a “closed cohort” as much as possible, limiting interaction with any individuals that are not part of the class. Middle and high school *teachers* will transition between closed cohort classrooms as much as possible, reducing the number of people the students come into contact with during the school day.

For those times when middle and high school students do change classrooms, movement in the corridors and stairwells will be monitored, the number of students in transition at any one time will be controlled, and traffic will move in one direction as much as possible.

### **VENTILATION**

Ventilation and HVAC systems have been enhanced to the practical limits of the system to maximize air flow, filtering and air quality.

Covenant Life Church commissioned Healthy Buildings International this summer to conduct a Proactive Pandemic Site Inspection as part of a Re-occupancy Building Inspection Program. During the inspection, the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems were examined, the ventilation rates and filtration standards were reviewed, overall maintenance levels and janitorial effectiveness were assessed, and representative samples of indoor air and water were collected for analysis. The conclusion of their investigation included the statement, “All qualitative and quantitative analysis conducted during this proactive inspection indicate excellent indoor environmental quality in this building. Covenant Life Church demonstrates a commitment to providing high standards of indoor environmental quality and janitorial effectiveness for building occupants and staff.”

A follow-up inspection will be scheduled a few months after school opens.

## **MATERIALS AND STUDENT SUPPLIES**

Shared resources will be utilized only as necessary and be kept to minimal use with hand sanitation before and after use as well as the nightly cleaning of shared resources.

Each child's belongings will be separated and stored in student lockers (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) or individually labeled storage cubbies. Student belongings will be taken home each day and cleaned.

## **RECESS**

Recess is an important part of the school day for students and will continue to be incorporated into the schedule. According to The American Academy of Pediatrics, outdoor transmission of virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission. However, to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, recess procedures will include the following practices:

- Direct activities that provide enough space to accommodate proper social distancing.
- Minimize the use of playground and recess equipment.
- Clean and disinfect playground and recess equipment between class cohort uses.
- Students will sanitize their hands before and after recess.

## **FOOD SERVICE GUIDELINES**

- Students must exercise proper hand hygiene before and after eating.
- Students may bring their own lunch or lunch may be ordered through My Hot Lunchbox.
- Third-party vendor lunches are to be served individually packaged.
- No microwavable foods will be allowed.
- No sharing of food/drink.
- Social distancing guidelines will be followed during lunch with a limited number of students at each table to maintain 6 feet distancing.
- Lunch tables and chairs will be disinfected before each use.

## **WATER FOUNTAINS**

Water fountains have been turned off. Students should bring a fresh supply of water each day.

## **AFTERCARE**

Plans for Aftercare are currently on hold for the start of school. When the time comes to reopen the program, parents will be notified.

## **VISITORS**

CLS will strictly limit who is permitted to visit during the school day. This will include restrictions on visits by parents and other family members.

The policy shall provide exceptions to include visits by emergency personnel responding to a call for assistance, vendors and contractors to address emergency situations, substitute teachers, and other individuals as necessary and approved by the principal or their designee.

Deliveries during the school day must be directed to a receiving area away from and isolated from student and staff, except for the employee who handles the delivery.

Authorized visitors to the school, must comply with all requirements related to the health screening survey, social distancing, wearing PPE and hand sanitizing.

Tutors, therapists, or other individuals who previously were granted access to the school to work with a child, must now arrange to provide those services remotely (as applicable) and work with school principals to develop schedules to meet student needs.

## **LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Faculty and staff will receive ongoing professional development to implement all safety procedures and provide quality instruction to all students, such as the following:

- Guidance to safely set up classrooms and clean materials used in class.
- Technology training. A professional development library of training videos was put together over the summer for asynchronous training as necessary.
- Guidance for engaging all students while some are in the classroom and others are at home.
- Ways to effectively assess student learning in order to provide high-quality instruction based on student knowledge and skill acquisition.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

CLS has purchased 10 new Promethean Panel Boards to supplement our 6 SMART Boards. The school has also purchased additional chromebooks to increase our inventory to 140 devices. The school also has 30 iPads.

Interactive technology (SMART and Promethean Panel Boards) will be utilized for instruction without students touching the devices.

Students in grades 6-12 will provide their own computer or be individually assigned a CLS chromebook for use at school and at home. Students will be provided with a list of responsibilities that must be adhered to for using their assigned device.

Individually assigned devices are not available for elementary students. Use of shared devices will be limited to use by a specific student cohort until the equipment can be disinfected per appropriate guidelines between uses.

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Families choose Covenant Life School because of our mission, biblical values, the Christian role model of our teachers and staff, and the blessing of participating in a Christian school community.

While some of our usual strategies for the spiritual nurturing of students may be suspended or altered during this season, such as retreats or large group worship, our commitment to helping students grow closer to God through Jesus Christ and become conformed more to his image is unchanged. Class devotions, prayer, Bible classes, chapels, individual encouragement and support will be provided while navigating space and group size limitations, and also for students learning at home.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Our Student Advocate will continue to support the social, emotional, and mental well-being of students in all grades.

Our Educational Support staff will continue to serve students with diagnosed learning differences and will oversee the implementation of a student's individual accommodation plan. A student's accommodation plan may be revised during times when they are learning at home.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities will be cancelled, postponed or if deemed necessary, limited to those where social distancing and safety precautions can be maintained.

Athletics teams will be formed if possible to compete with other schools in the Maryland Independent Athletic Conference, MIAC, as long as our students can participate safely. MIAC is working to develop and maintain standards of safety for practices and games. The number of fans will be limited and likely be required to submit a health screening survey and have a temperature check to remain at the event.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Covenant Life School does not provide transportation to or from school. All off-site events have been canceled until further notice. Transportation guidelines regarding athletics events are forthcoming.

## **STUDENT ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

A plan has been established to separate the student body by school level as they arrive for school by having them enter through different locations. School staff will supervise students arriving for school to make sure they have appropriate face coverings, have completed a health

screening survey, take their temperature with a thermal scanner, and monitor students for social distancing. The pace of admitting students to the facility will maintain a steady flow of a moderate number of students in the corridor. Students will not congregate on their way to class.

Dismissal procedures will prevent congested corridors and limit the ability for students to congregate inside or outside the building. It will be critical for parents to arrive at the appropriate time to pick up their children from school.

As much as possible, parents and caregivers should remain in their car.

## **THE CLS COVID-19 TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS**

### **Task Force Chairs**

Jamie Leach, *Head of School*

Bob Schickler, *School Safety Chair, Assistant Head of School*

### **Health Professionals**

Dr. Jennifer Chang, *US Air Force, Family Medicine Physician*

Charissa Cleveland, *Registered Nurse, Covenant Life School Nurse*

Danielle Johnson, *Family Nurse Practitioner-BC*

Cindy Leach, *Registered Nurse*

Dr. Tony Matthews, *Physical Therapy*

Dr. Nelson Niu, *Pediatric Medicine*

Dr. Rob O'Connell, *US Army Physician, Infectious Disease Specialist*

### **Faculty and Staff Members**

Charlotte Deibel, *Elementary Teacher*

Alex Goodling, *Fine Arts Department Head, Secondary Teacher*

John Leach, *Assistant Middle School Principal, Secondary Teacher*

Cindy Petronic, *Elementary Teacher*

### **Parents**

Kevin Dabbondanza

Pauline Matthews

Sandra Tilles

### **Special Assistance**

Dave Wilcox, *Covenant Life Church Administrator*

Gammon and Grange, P.C., *Legal Counsel*

## **RESOURCES**

### **CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

CDC: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>

CDC: Resources for Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

CDC: Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2020

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>

CDC: Guidance for K -12 School Administrators on the use of Cloth Face Coverings in Schools.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>

CDC: Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html)

CDC: Hygiene Etiquette

[www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing\\_sneezing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html)

CDC: Social Distancing

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

CDC: Sickness Steps

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html)

CDC: When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19

[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)

### **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**

COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

### **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): FAQ's about Isolation and Quarantine

[https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ\\_covid19\\_stay\\_home\\_isolation\\_033120.pdf](https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ_covid19_stay_home_isolation_033120.pdf)

**APPENDIX A**  
**Health Scenarios and Planned Responses**

CLS will follow certain protocols if a student or staff member presents with COVID-19 symptoms and/or is positively diagnosed with the virus. These responses are derived from both Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for the purpose of limiting exposure and protecting other students and staff members at CLS.

**SCENARIO 1:**

**A CLS student or staff member develops a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms while at CLS.**

The individual will go to the Health Room (isolation room) and the CLS Nurse will assess the individual. COVID-19 associated symptoms include:

- Having one primary symptom: fever, persistent cough, shortness of breath, vomiting and/or;
- Having two or more secondary symptoms that are new or worsening: chills, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, runny nose and/or congestion (not associated with known allergies), sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, loss of taste or smell.

In the case of a student, parents of the affected student will be notified and will need to pick up their child from CLS within 30 minutes. In the case of a staff member, the staff member should leave CLS facilities without further contact with others within 30 minutes. Any family member of the individual who is also at CLS (e.g., a sibling, parent) will also be sent home given his/her “close contact” exposure within the household.

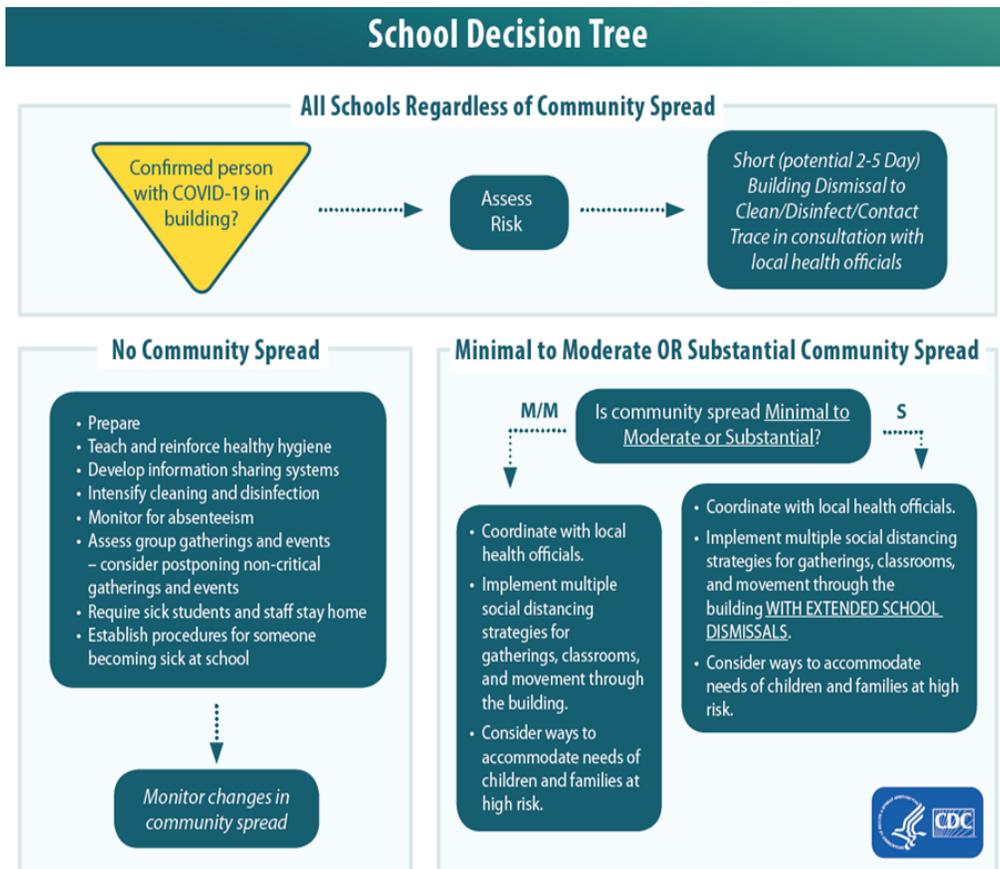
To best determine next steps on the recommended length of time to recover at home, CLS will require a documented evaluation by a health care provider. A diagnostic laboratory test may also be important to differentiate symptoms as COVID-19 or another illness. Parents of an affected student will also be required to communicate with the CLS School Nurse prior to return to CLS.

While maintaining confidentiality and for the purpose of monitoring personal health, CLS will communicate with colleagues and/or families of classmates that an individual in their particular class or work area presented with symptoms and was sent home.

Dismissal of the affected student’s class (or beyond) will be evaluated after a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 and coordination/consultation with local health officials.

## SCENARIO 2:

A CLS student or staff member has been confirmed positive for COVID-19.



When a confirmed case has entered a school like CLS, regardless of community transmission, CLS may need to implement short-term closure procedures **if an infected person has been in a school building**. If this happens, the CDC recommends the following procedures regardless of the level of community spread:

1. **Coordinate with local health officials.** Once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in CLS facilities, immediately notify local health officials (i.e. MDH). These officials will help administrators determine a course of action.
2. **It is possible that staff and students may need to be dismissed for 2-5 days.** A potential, initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting CLS to determine appropriate next steps:
  - Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.
  - During school-wide dismissals, extracurricular group activities and sports events may also be canceled.
  - Discourage staff, students, and their families from gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes group childcare arrangements, as well as gathering at places like a friend's house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.

3. **Communicate with staff, parents, and students.** Coordinate with local health officials to communicate dismissal decisions and the possible COVID-19 exposure. *CLS will maintain confidentiality of the affected staff or student as required in any communications with the CLS community.*
4. **Clean and disinfect thoroughly.**
  - Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19 and *wait (if possible, up to 24 hours)* before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
  - Cleaning staff will clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
  - Visibly dirty surfaces should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective for disinfection:
    - A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
    - Additionally, diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted. Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
      - 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water or
      - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
  - Additional information on cleaning and disinfection can be found on the CDC’s website.
5. **Make decisions about extending the school dismissal. Temporarily dismissing school is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities.**
  - During school dismissals (after cleaning and disinfection), CLS may remain open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open: a) allows staff members to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts. Decisions on which, if any, staff should be allowed in the school should be made in collaboration with local health officials.
  - CLS administrators will work in close collaboration and coordination with local health officials to make dismissal and large event cancellation decisions. School dismissals and event cancellations may be extended if advised by local health officials. The nature of these actions (e.g., geographic scope, duration) may change as the local outbreak situation evolves.
  - CLS will seek guidance from local health officials to determine when students and staff should return to schools and what additional steps are needed for the CLS school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instructions from local health officials to determine when to return to school.
6. **Implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students.** Ensure continuity of education, including virtual learning options where possible and applicable (as determined by CLS).

Anyone who has had **known, close contact** with someone (on or outside the CLS facilities) who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after exposure due to the incubation period of the virus. “Close contact” includes:

- Living with a person who has COVID-19, or

- Providing care for a person who has COVID-19, or
- Being within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for ≥15 minutes, or
- Having exposure to respiratory secretions (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on; sharing a drinking glass or utensils; kissing) from a person who has COVID-19.

### **Scenario 3:**

**An immediate household member(s) of a CLS student or staff presents with COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosis.**

[Virginia Department of Health Quarantine Release Algorithm](#) (CLS believes this guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) provides clear, sound procedures to follow at this time; CLS reserves the right to update these response protocols further should Maryland issue similar procedures or VDH update its procedures).

Any CLS student or staff member whose household member (“close contact”) has COVID-19 symptoms should:

- Self-quarantine while the household member is at home **AND** for 14 days after the person has been released from isolation (exposure is considered ongoing during this time), **OR**;
- Until the symptomatic family member has received a negative virologic test result that differentiates their symptoms from COVID-19.
- If at any time the CLS student or staff member begins experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should subsequently self-isolate and may consider returning to CLS facilities based on symptom-based or time-based strategies described in **Scenario 4**.

CLS students (through their parents) and staff members are required to communicate with the School Nurse when starting a self-quarantine period and prior to returning to CLS facilities.

## Scenario 4:

### Return to CLS facilities following symptoms or positive diagnosis of COVID-19.

[Virginia Department of Health Quarantine Release Algorithm](#) (CLS believes this guidance from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) provides clear, sound procedures to follow at this time; CLS reserves the right to update these response protocols further should Maryland issue similar procedures or VDH update its procedures).

If a CLS student or staff member thinks that he/she has COVID-19 based upon symptoms, return to CLS facilities is determined by either a symptom-based or time-based protocol.

- Symptom-based strategy:  
If a person had COVID-19 symptoms and was directed to stay at home (but did not undergo diagnostic laboratory testing), that person can end isolation and consider returning to CLS facilities after:
  - 24 hours with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol), **and**;
  - Respiratory and other symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) have improved, **and**;
  - 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, **then**;
  - Contact the School Nurse to return to CLS. CLS may require documented evaluation by a health care provider.
  
- Time-based strategy:  
If a person **tested positive for COVID-19**, never had **any** symptoms and was directed to stay at home, that person can end isolation and consider returning to CLS facilities when:
  - At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, **and**;
  - No symptoms have occurred since the test, **then**;
  - Contact the School Nurse to return to CLS.

If a CLS student or staff member has a weakened immune system (i.e. immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication:

- [People with conditions that weaken their immune system](#) may need to stay home longer than 10 days and should consult a healthcare provider for more information.
- If testing is not available, a person's doctor should work with [an infectious disease expert at your local health department](#) to determine if that individual is likely to spread COVID-19 to others and need to stay home longer.

## APPENDIX B

### Acceptance of Risk and Release of All Claims

By my signature below, I hereby certify that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am fully competent to agree to this Acceptance of Risk and Release of All Claims (hereinafter “the Agreement”).

I am thankful for the opportunity for my child/children (whose name(s) are listed below) to attend Covenant Life School (CLS) for the 2020-21 school year. I acknowledge and agree that there are inherent risks to my child/children and to myself from my child/children attending CLS, participating in any educational, athletic, and any other CLS sponsored activities, and accessing CLS facilities (collectively “attending CLS”). In making the voluntary decision to have my child/children attend CLS, I hereby state that I understand and fully accept and agree to all risks to my child/children and to myself associated with my child/children attending CLS. I agree that these risks include, but are in no way limited to illness, including exposure to and infection with viruses or bacteria, including, without limitation, the coronavirus and/or COVID-19. I further acknowledge that the preceding list is not inclusive of all possible risks associated with my child/children attending CLS and that this list in no way limits the operation of this Agreement.

With regard to the specific risks of COVID-19, I further acknowledge that

- Coronavirus, COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily through person-to-person contact;
- Federal and state authorities recommend social distancing and wearing a face mask as means to prevent the spread of the virus;
- COVID-19 can lead to quarantine, severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death;
- My child/children attending CLS could increase the risk of my child/children or myself contracting COVID-19;
- My child/children and myself are expected to follow instructions that CLS staff give to my child/children or me concerning actions to take while attending CLS or accessing CLS facilities that could reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19;
- I have personally read and understand the CLS plan for operating the school and have reviewed this plan with my child/children. I understand the expectations for my child/children and myself in that plan and agree that my child/children and I will comply with the procedures and expectations in that plan and future iterations of that plan by CLS administration.

I understand that CLS does not warrant in any way that infection with COVID-19 (or any other virus, bacteria, or illness) will not occur as a result of my child/children attending CLS or my child/children or myself accessing CLS facilities. I certify that CLS has advised me of the risks involved in my child/children attending CLS and/or my child/children or myself accessing CLS facilities.

I certify that I have had the opportunity to undertake an independent investigation of the risks of my child/children attending CLS, including an opportunity to review any information provided by the Center for Disease Control, the Maryland Department of Health, and other public health resources. I further certify that I have had the opportunity to consult my own attorney and other advisors of my choice prior to agreeing to this Agreement.

Being fully aware of the risks to my child/children and to myself, I, to the fullest extent permitted by law, hereby agree to release and on behalf of myself, my child/children, household, family, heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, assigns, and anyone else who could bring a claim on behalf of myself or my child/children hereby do release CLS, and its officers, directors, employees, members, students, volunteers, agents, representatives and insurers (“Releasees”) from any causes of action, claims, or demands of any nature whatsoever including, but in no way limited to, claims of negligence, which I, my child/children, the heirs, household and family, representatives, executors, administrators, assigns, and anyone else who could bring a claim on behalf of myself or my

child/children may have, now or in the future, against any Releasees on account of personal injury, illness, property damage, death, or accident of any kind, arising out of or in any way related to my child/children attending CLS, participating in any educational, athletic, or any other CLS sponsored activities, and my child/children or myself accessing CLS facilities, whether the activity is supervised or unsupervised, however the injury or damage occurs, including, but not limited to the negligence of any Releasee.

In consideration of the opportunity for my child/children attending CLS, I hereby, to the full extent permitted by law, agree to indemnify and hold harmless Releasees from any and all causes of action, claims, demands, losses, or costs of any nature whatsoever arising out of or in any way related to my child/children attending CLS or my child/children or myself accessing CLS facilities.

*Acceptance and Release of All Claims (Children Attending CLS) Rev. 08-17-2020*

I hereby certify that I have full knowledge of the nature and extent of the risks inherent in my child/children attending CLS and my child/children or myself accessing CLS facilities and that I voluntarily assume all of these risks on behalf of my child/children and myself to the fullest extent permitted by law. I understand that I will be solely responsible for any loss or damage, including personal injury, illness, property damage, or death, my child/children and/or I sustain while my child/children attend CLS or my child/children or myself access CLS facilities and that by signing this Agreement, I hereby release Releasees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, from all liability for such injury, illness, damage, or death.

I certify that I believe my child/children are presently in good health and have no known conditions that I believe would preclude safely attending CLS. Furthermore, I agree to proactively notify CLS should the health condition of my child/children change in such a way that would place my child/children at a greater health risk or pose a health risk to others attending CLS, including without limitation, a risk that would make my child/children more vulnerable to being infected with or spreading COVID-19.

I understand and agree that each of the provisions of this Agreement are severable, and, should any provision be found unenforceable, the other provisions shall remain fully valid and enforceable.

I agree that all matters arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Maryland without giving effect to Maryland's conflict of laws provisions. The exclusive mechanism for resolution of any disputes concerning any aspect of this Agreement's execution, implementation, interpretation or termination shall be a Biblical process that involves good faith negotiations, and if necessary, Christian conciliation (which may include mediation or arbitration or both) under the rules of the Institute for Christian Conciliation (see <http://www.peacemaker.net/rules-of-procedure>) conducted in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

**I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS ACCEPTANCE OF RISK AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS. I SIGN THIS AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY AND WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT I AM VOLUNTARILY GIVING UP LEGAL RIGHTS.**

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

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