



# The Road Forward

## Fall, 2021

Christ the Teacher Academy, Fort Lee

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**All students must report to school with a completed Symptom Check sheet each morning! Parents are encouraged to review the symptoms and keep their child home if symptoms occur. Symptom Check sheet is attached. Students will also be given copies to bring home for your use.**

### **1 General Health and Safety Guidelines**

Where possible, the following recommendations will be used to develop a layered approach to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**1.1 Vaccination** Although COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and accessible, not all school-aged children are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Most K-12 schools will have a mixed population of fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated individuals at any given time, thereby requiring the layering of preventive measures to protect individuals who are not fully vaccinated. CTTA will have a system in place to acknowledge the vaccination status of students and staff. Staff and students must provide a copy of their vaccination card to the nurse upon the arrival of school in September. As stated in the guidelines, if we are unable to determine the vaccination status of individual students or staff, those individuals will be considered not fully vaccinated.

**1.2 Communication between School officials and local health departments** will remain in close communication with each other to provide information and share resources on COVID-19 transmission, prevention, and control measures and to establish procedures for Local Health Department (LHD) notification and response to COVID-19 illness in school settings. Understanding that COVID-19 may impact certain areas of the state differently, NJDOH provides information on COVID-19 transmission at the regional level, characterizing community transmission as low (green), moderate (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red). This information is posted online every week on the NJDOH CDS COVID-19 website and sent out via New Jersey Local Information Network and Communications System (NJLINCS) to public health and healthcare partners.

**1.3 Masks** Wearing masks is an important prevention strategy to help slow the spread of COVID-19, especially when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings. Updated CDC guidance on masking in this setting has required masks to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The diocese is also recognizing the Executive Order No. 251 by Governor Murphy that masks are mandatory for all staff, teachers and students.

**1.4 Maintain Physical Distancing and Cohorting** Though physical distancing recommendations must not prevent a school from offering full-day, full-time, in person learning to all students for the 2021-2022 school year, CTTA will implement physical distancing measures as an effective COVID-19 prevention strategy to the extent that we are equipped to do so while still providing regular school operations to all students and staff in-person.

Christ the Teacher Academy will:

- Maintain three feet of distance between students in classroom settings to the extent possible while offering full-time, in-person learning to all students.
- In common areas, in spaces where students may gather such as cafeteria and auditoriums, we will space students at larger distances.
- During indoor activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band practice, sports, or exercise we will provide an additional layer of protection. We have ordered air purifiers for the cafeteria, gym and the one special classroom that does not have windows.

### **1.5 Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

- CTTA will follow washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Students will hand sanitize (with a sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol) when entering the classroom at all times.
- Students will sanitize before and after all snacks and meals.
- Students must sanitize after sneezing into a tissue.
- Students will sanitize after changing masks.

### **1.6 Meals**

For meals offered in cafeterias or other group dining areas, where masks may not be worn, we will implement layered prevention strategies to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. T

Christ the Teacher Academy will:

- Limit the number of classes in the cafeteria. Hence, offering four lunch periods for students to maintain social distancing.
- We will continue to allow classes to eat at the picnic tables outside.
- Routine cleaning and sanitizing between groups although each class will have their own assigned tables and chairs.
- Individually wrapped lunches from the new lunch vendor.
- The addition of five air purifiers for the cafeteria.
- Sneeze guards added to all cafeteria tables for protection as well.

## **2 Cleaning, Disinfection, and Airflow**

### **2.1 Limit Use of Shared Supplies and Equipment**

- We have ensured for adequate supplies (i.e. classroom supplies, equipment) to minimize sharing of high-touch materials or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect routinely and preferably between use.
- Encourage hand hygiene practices between use of shared items.
- Discourage use of shared items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected.

## 2.2 Cleaning and Disinfection Schools

- CTTA will follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA-registered product for use against SARS-CoV-2. This means at least daily cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.
- If a person exhibits COVID-19 compatible symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 within 24 hours of being in the school building, school staff will clean and disinfect the spaces.
- CTTA has purchased sanitizing guns that expedite the cleaning of all large spaces and classrooms.

## 2.3 Improving Airflow

Schools must to the extent possible, increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants. This can be achieved through several strategies:

- CTTA will bring in as much outdoor air as possible. If safe to do so, open windows and doors. Even just cracking open a window or door helps increase outdoor airflow, which helps reduce the potential concentration of virus particles in the air.
- Use child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. Fans are securely and carefully in/ attached to the walls well above the height of the children to increase air flow.
- Large meeting places will have additional airflow with air purifiers.

## 3 Screening, Exclusion, and Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

**3.1 Parental Screening Parents/caregivers** will be required to monitor their children for signs of illness **every day** as they are the front line for assessing illness in their children. **Students who are sick should not attend school.** We will strictly enforce exclusion criteria for both students and staff.

We will require the Symptom Check sheet from every student while entering the building. You must check the child's temperature before they get to school.

### 3.2 Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff Schools

CTTA will

- ensure that procedures are in place to identify and respond to a student or staff member who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Speak to the Fort Lee Health Department as protocol to be sure to complete their specific guidelines for each particular case.
- Designated an area away from others to isolate individuals who become ill with COVID-19 symptoms while at school. We have created an additional nursing station with a private entrance.
- Nurse Neila will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions based on the care and tasks required.
- For school settings, NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school: At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.
- For students with chronic illness, only new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline will be used to fulfill symptom-based exclusion criteria.

### 3.3.2 When Illness Occurs in the School Setting Children

- Students with COVID-19 symptoms will be separated away from others until they can be sent home.
- Student will be asked whether they have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days meeting the definition of a close contact. Individuals should be sent home and referred to a healthcare provider.
- Persons with COVID-19- compatible symptoms **must** undergo COVID-19 testing before returning to school.
- Students and staff, who test positive should be reported to the LHD and contact tracing will begin. Ill individuals that test negative should be referred to a healthcare provider, who may consider additional COVID-19 testing.
- We will be able to provide the following information when consulting with the LHD: Contact information for the ill persons; The date the ill person developed symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19 (if known), and was last in the building; Types of interactions (close contacts, length of contact) the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations; Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for ill person's close contacts in the school; Vaccination status if known Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps. Regardless of vaccination status, if a student or staff experiences COVID-compatible symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2.
- Christ the Teacher will have Contract Tracing books in each classroom to track all students and staff entering and exiting a classroom with the time. This will ensure all possible contacts are known for each case.

### 3.3.3 Exclusion COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria for Persons

- Students who have to quarantine will be asked to remain home until tested. While at home, students can follow the Google Classroom page for their class(es). Listed will be all the work and assignments for the day.
- While there is no statewide travel advisory or mandate in place at this time, schools are encouraged to have a policy for exclusion for students and staff that is consistent with CDC COVID-19 travel recommendations. The CDC recommends that travel be delayed for those who are not fully vaccinated. If travel cannot be delayed, domestic and international travelers who are not fully vaccinated should get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and **self-quarantine for a full 7 days** after travel, even if they test negative. If testing is not completed post-travel, individuals should self-quarantine for 10 days. International travelers who are fully vaccinated should also get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel, self-monitor for symptoms, and isolate and get tested if symptoms develop. For those traveling to/from New Jersey, domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or U.S. territories other than those connected to New Jersey, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware.

\*As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and adherence to the rules. We are all in this together and want everyone to remain healthy!