

WCA Health & Safety Plan 2020-2021

Westside Christian Academy seeks to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students, within the truth of the knowledge that God is the Author and Creator of all. We aim to institute additional measures to protect our students and staff without creating a culture of fear or undermining the deeply relational nature of our school community.

Guiding Principles:

1. God is sovereign - we do not need to be afraid
2. God gives wisdom - we can know what to do
3. God created community - we should support and pray for each other
4. Parents have authority over the health of their own children
5. Human health is multi-faceted and interconnected. The ODE guidelines for opening schools states: "Continuing to keep children physically out of school could have long-term detrimental effects on academic progress, mental and emotional well-being and behavior, according to recent studies and the American Academy of Pediatrics."

In the course of a child's day they will spend the greatest amount of time with their classmates and homeroom teachers, and as such we will treat that group of community members as we would a family unit. They will avoid sharing items when possible, sanitize, and space slightly more than normal. Yet overall life in the family unit will continue much as it would have in previous years, just as it has inside our homes where the amount of time spent together makes it all but impossible to do otherwise. Within the school community these families will interact with one another in ways that allow the most spacing possible and with reasonable safety procedures in place. We desire to preserve the core components of a loving, relational school environment seeped in the fear of the Lord while exercising wisdom and discernment to protect our children. As a school we desire to be above reproach and for others in our community to know we deeply care.

The current plan outlined below is based on recommendations from a number of governmental and health related organizations, including requirements by the Ohio Department of Education. This framework requires parents and employees to ensure that only healthy individuals are entering the campus. To support and enforce this approach, parents will be required to sign a waiver of liability and symptom assessment agreement. Our reopening provides for a healthy and safe environment while allowing the greatest level of "normalcy," but depends on students and employees to remain at home if they display any symptoms or have been in close contact with others who are symptomatic. The Health and Safety Committee will oversee the implementation of and adherence to this plan to ensure our students are safe at school.

The school facilities will receive increased levels of cleaning and sanitizing, as well as increased containment of groupings of students, which may be required at any time during the school year. In keeping with the spirit and culture of WCA, classes will be treated as families and allowed a greater level of interaction than with the student body at large, while maintaining common sense hygiene practices. These plans will remain in place until such time that administration determines they may be safely removed or modified.

Plan Item	Protocols
Communication & Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As with other health and safety issues like weather days, a dynamic situation requires a dynamic response, as such the decisions around closures and increased safety measures will be constantly assessed by

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	<p>administrative leadership who are considering all of the factors. Decisions reached will be communicated immediately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a health or safety concern arises and administration determines it could impact the WCA community, information will be disseminated immediately with as much detail as necessary to ensure safety while protecting the privacy of those involved.
Athletics, PE & Extracurriculars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WCA will comply with all requirements of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. ● All persons involved in the programs will sign a waiver of liability and health screening agreement. ● There must be no shared personal items (towels, clothing, shoes, or sports-specific equipment) between students. ● Students must wear their own appropriate apparel (do not share clothing). No clothing may be left in changing areas at any time. ● Individual clothing/towels must be washed and cleaned after every practice/game/meeting. ● All equipment (including balls) must be disinfected after each use and prior to the next practice/game/meeting. ● Only two WCA athletes are permitted to change in the locker room at a time. Students in the same homeroom class can change four students at a time in keeping with the class as a family framework.
Assembly and Chapel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All school assembly and chapel will be held outdoors, live streamed or a hybrid option. ● GS assembly will be attended by one class from each grade level on a rotation and live streamed for the other classes in GS. ● Chapel for each division will be spaced appropriately. For the first quarter of school, singing in large groups will be minimized.
Classrooms & Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, wipes, and paper towels. ● Desks will be spaced as much as possible and sanitized before use by a different student. ● Common areas and other high traffic areas, including the lobby and restrooms, will be cleaned & sanitized by janitorial staff or admin. staff throughout the day. ● Evening janitorial staff will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting the entire facility. ● Classroom doors, as well as non-fire hallway doors, will be kept open as much as possible to allow ventilation and airflow. ● Hand sanitizing stations will be placed inside classrooms and lobbies. ● Students should not touch or use another student's locker, backpack, or lunchbox. ● Symptomatic individuals (symptoms include currently experiencing or experienced within the past 14 days: fever of 100.4 or greater, cough, difficulty breathing) will be quarantined in a designated area with a face covering and sent home.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any student who does not qualify as symptomatic but begins to feel unwell, exhibits an elevated temperature or other cause for concern may be separated and monitored until symptoms resolve or administration can check them. ● Symptomatic individuals or those with a positive diagnosis will be prohibited from re-entering school until they have been cleared by school administrative personnel and have tested negative for COVID-19.
<p>Guests, Parents, & Family Visitors (WCA Community)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All members of the WCA community are required to sign the WCA COVID Waiver (see pages 5 & 6) and notify school administration of potential exposure and symptomatic household members. ● As mandated by the State of Ohio, masks are required for guests, parents, and visitors when inside the building. ● Members of the WCA Community should try to minimize the number of visits and length of visit to the school campus when possible. ● Kindergarten parents will be permitted to accompany their child into the classroom for the first week of school. Kindergarten will begin on a 15 minute delay to allow the other students to enter their classrooms prior to the 8:30-8:45 parent window for K.
<p>Third Party Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Third party visitors (vendors, service providers, etc) will be required to wear a mask when entering WCA buildings.
<p>Health Screening on Campus, and Waiver of Liability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temperatures of all persons (e.g., students, employees, parents) will be checked prior to entering the campus during high risk alerts in Cuyahoga County. ● Parents will be asked to check temperatures daily at home regardless of alert level in Cuyahoga County. Students will also have their temperature checked by a WCA staff member prior to entering the campus. ● Administrative personnel will issue regular reminders of the requirements to monitor for symptoms and check temperatures. ● Parents and employees must complete a Waiver of Liability and Symptom Assessment Agreement at the beginning of the school year. ● It is recommended that any person who feels they are high risk self-quarantine for 14 days or current health agency guidelines with no symptoms appearing prior to returning to school. ● Any student that exhibits a fever of 100.4+ will be held in the designated quarantine area with a face covering, and parents will be notified to pick up their child. ● Any employee that exhibits a fever of 100.4+ will leave the campus safely. ● WCA will monitor daily absences and trends for ill or symptomatic students.
<p>Distance Learning and School Closure</p>	<p>Closure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If WCA leadership deems it necessary for the health and safety of the student body the school may close to conduct a school-wide deep cleaning.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance Learning will be conducted during those days. ● Protocols and practices to ensure a high level of engagement in learning will be in place to support remote learning. ● In preparation for any future closures, WCA has developed a full remote learning plan and is ready to maintain continuity and offer high quality classical education should these disruptions to in person learning occur. (See Remote Learning Plan)
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will wash hands before and after lunch. ● Students will sanitize their own desk after lunch. ● Students will keep all snacks in their lunch box with their book bag. ● Students will isolate their water bottles in a designated area of the classroom.
Masks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The wearing of masks or face shields by students in the classroom for PreK-6 is based on the parent’s priorities. While the State of Ohio recommends masks in the school setting for 3rd grade and up, WCA respects the authority of the family to decide what is best for their child. 2. Students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to wear masks throughout the day especially when social distancing is not possible. 3. Students will be responsible for honoring their families' practices. The WCA community recognizes parents as the God given authority over their children and supports each family fully. 4. Masks should not be distracting in nature and keep with the spirit and intent of the uniform policies and dress codes of WCA. 5. Ohio Department of Health and Department of Education Guidelines require all school staff & volunteers to wear face coverings unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the learning process. WCA believes that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The wearing of masks can significantly interfere with the learning process in the classical model. Our methods of education go beyond the transfer of information and require relational connection. Masks present physical barriers to social and emotional connections. Thus, our teachers will have discretionary use of masks in the classroom. b. Facial coverings may not be advisable for long time periods for health reasons. c. There are numerous functional and practical reasons staff members may be unable to wear facial coverings in the course of our school day including considerations for our students social and emotional well being. 6. Non-teaching staff will wear masks in the building according to ODE requirements which does allow for exceptions. Likewise, teaching staff are required to wear face coverings when not in the classroom as stated in ODE requirements.

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<p>Personal Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No personal items may be shared (e.g., backpacks, clothing). ● Any shared learning materials will be disinfected. ● All personal items (including textbooks) must be labeled with the student's name (e.g., water bottles, notebooks, backpacks). ● All personal items not stored inside a locker, desk, or designated student storage area must be taken home daily to allow proper disinfection of classrooms and shared spaces.
<p>Physical Distancing & Minimizing Exposure</p>	<p>Building Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-student access will be restricted to an as-needed basis. No unnecessary visiting on the campus will be permitted to minimize potential exposure. <p>Drop Off / Dismissal / Welcome Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student drop-off begins at 8:00 AM at designated areas. ● Students dropped off before 8:15 AM will gather in the gym and be seated in rows behind their designated sit spot. <p>Check Out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents will call the main office to request their child check out. ● Students will meet their parent outside of the main entrance (door D) <p>Classroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upon entering the classroom students will sanitize their hands. ● Students will be instructed not to share items with their classmates. <p>P.E. & Recess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreational and sports equipment will be regularly cleaned and sanitized. <p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 students use the restroom at a time
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water fountains will not be operational. Four contactless bottle filling stations will be installed to replace our current water fountains. ● Students will bring their own water bottles labeled with their name. ● Students must bring a water bottle daily and must take it home at the end of the school day to be sanitized.

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***WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND SYMPTOM ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT**

WCA is hereby providing notice to me that it intends to reopen its school program on August 19, 2020. I/we understand that WCA cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks, which may be encountered as a result of my child attending the school and/or participating in any school-sponsored program. I/we realize there are natural, mechanical, and environmental conditions and hazards which independently or in combination with any activities engaged in while participating in this program may result in the exposure to certain risks. These risks include but are not limited to exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization, or death.

I hereby state that I, on behalf of my child/student and myself, am an adult, over the age of 18, and legally competent to sign this form. I understand these inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing their services and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious, predictable or known, and hereby intend this release to extend to injury or loss which results from both obvious or predictable risks, as well as risks that are unpredictable and not obvious and unknown to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable.

I hereby agree not to enter the campus of WCA nor permit my child/student to enter the campus of WCA if I/they have exhibited or been in contact with another person who has exhibited any of the symptoms currently listed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention as [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#), or has tested positive within the previous 14 days or current health agency guidelines.

In consideration of myself and my child/student, I/we, and any legal representatives, heirs and assigns, hereby release, waive, and discharge WCA, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from all liability for any loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness or exposure to and/or contracting the coronavirus (COVID-19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent by me or my child/student attendance at and participation in the preschool and/or afterschool program, including any medical expenses. Injury and/or death.

I agree to indemnify WCA, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student participation in the aforementioned program, whether caused by the negligence of WCA or otherwise. I fully understand, on my behalf, and behalf of my child/student the risks associated with the aforementioned participation and assume any risk associated therewith.

This notice, release and indemnity agreement contains the entire agreement between and among the parties hereto, and the terms of this release are contractual and not a mere recital.

The parties to this agreement hereby agree that the interpretation and enforceability of this release shall be governed by the laws of the State of OHIO.

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I expressly agree that this release, waiver, and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by applicable laws and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am giving up on behalf of my child/student and myself certain legal rights and remedies including the right for my child/student and/or myself to recover damages in the event of death, personal and/or bodily injury of any kind, property loss or damage, expenses of any nature whatsoever including attorney's fees, and other losses that my student(s) or that I may sustain in association with my child's participation in the program.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE, AND WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN, AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF AND WILL ADHERE TO SAID POLICIES. I SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF MY ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD, AS MY FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

This release will need to be signed, & returned to WCA prior to the student starting classes.

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

Printed Parent or Legal Guardian Name

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Printed Parent or Legal Guardian Name

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Date