

# Pandemic Policy

COVID-19 RESPONSE  
WVCS K-8

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## Campus Readiness Plan

### Wellness of WVCS Students and Staff

Students with any symptoms related to COVID-19 including a fever of 100.4 or higher will need to be picked up by a parent as soon as possible. When a child is sent home with a fever or other flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms the family will receive notification from the school at the earliest the time the child may return to school once symptom free. Students must be symptom and fever free for 72 hours before returning to campus unless they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection include: fever or chills, cough, short of breath or difficulty breathing, unusual level of fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

- Students exuding potential symptoms will have their temperature checked at the office however any staff member may request a student to have their temperature checked.
- Upon returning to campus from illness students will need to pass a health screening.
- The school asks families to notify the office if their student has tested positive. In cases of a positive test students or staff will be required to quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus.
- The school will notify families if their student has been in contact with a student or staff that has tested positive.

**Personal Responsibility** – the school expects all students and staff to follow these preventative steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer when washing is not possible (using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the campus.
- Bring a non-glass water bottle that is labelled with the student's name. Water fountains will be sanitized frequently, however students are encouraged to bring water from home.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid sharing food or drink of any type.
- Attempt to maintain a distance of six feet from others when possible.
- Anyone with respiratory issues is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering

- If a family elects to wear face coverings, it will be the school's expectation that the student understands personal, proper care and cleaning of the covering and how best to put on and remove the covering independently.

**Student and Staff Hygiene** - Consistent emphasis on handwashing as well and reminders regarding cough/sneeze etiquette.

**Campus Cleaning/Sanitization** - Enhanced focus on cleaning of high traffic areas during and after the school day. Student work areas will be sanitized between uses.

**Temperature Checks** – Staff, volunteers, and visitors will have their temperature checked before proceeding to classrooms or common areas within the school.

**Water Bottles** – Students are strongly encouraged to bring a filled water bottle from home. Please ensure that the bottle is labeled with the student's name.

**Lunchroom** – Students will distance while waiting in line for their hot lunch order. Lunchroom staff will be wearing masks during food service and following enhanced cleaning measures between student use of tables. Students will be required to sanitize or wash their hands before heading to recess.

**Student Transitions** – WVCS will employ strategies to avoid students having to stand still in lines during transitions.

**Attendance Policy** – WVCS will be flexible where necessary. We ask families to be diligent in communicating with us regarding health concerns that require prolonged absences. Tuition will be collected when WVCS is open and operating whether students are participating in distance or in-person learning. If a child is absent due to illness or quarantine precautions, tuition will be maintained to keep the child's spot reserved in the classroom. WVCS will not have a perfect attendance award this school year.

**Large Gatherings** – Large gatherings will be avoided during the first quarter. Students will be in the classroom for school wide pledges, prayer, and announcements. Students will participate in chapel from their classrooms.

**Face Coverings** – Face coverings will be optional. Students may wear them; parents are encouraged to teach students the necessary steps to properly wear a face covering. Faculty, staff, and volunteers will wear face coverings when social distancing (6 feet) is not possible. The school's expectation is that any face covering worn on campus will not be a distraction to the learning environment and will be free of any words or messages.

It is highly recommended that any student with respiratory issues (such as asthma) wears a mask.

**Specials Classes** – Students will attend specials in the special’s classrooms. Classes will be sanitized between class changes. Students will sanitize or wash hands before and after their specials classes. Parents may opt to have their student not attend specials. Please let your student’s homeroom teacher know.

**Recess** – Classes will follow an assigned schedule for recess times and spaces to avoid large groups.

**Extracurricular/Athletics** – The White Tanks Athletic League will not have any activities in the first quarter. Boys basketball is currently scheduled for the second quarter with flag football in quarter three and girls' volleyball in the 4th quarter. Coed soccer has been cancelled for this school year.

**Field Trips** – WVCS will not be booking any trips during the first quarter. Middle school camp has been rescheduled for April.

## Quarantine Protocol

There are several scenarios in which the school will and will not require quarantine. These are described below. All stakeholders are encouraged to review [“COVID-19 Guidance for School Response to a COVID-19 Case”](#) from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

- **Personal, positive test whether symptomatic or asymptomatic.** If a staff member or student has been assessed by a medical professional who has diagnosed them as positive for COVID-19, the expectation of the school is that the individual would immediately engage a quarantine protocol and alert the school to the diagnosis. This individual would be expected to quarantine, away from campus, for a period of fourteen days. The individual may return to campus once they have been cleared by a medical professional.

**School Response** – The school will engage in communication first with local health authorities to determine the next steps the school will take. The school will then communicate with families of students that may have been in contact with the individual. The school would determine what spaces need to be closed for sanitization and make appropriate accommodations for learning to continue on campus or from home.

- **Personal, negative test but symptomatic.** If a staff member or student is displaying symptoms consistent with flu and/or COVID-19 but has tested negative for COVID-19, they should remain away from school until they have been free of symptoms for seventy-two hours.
- **Symptomatic but untested.** If a student or staff member is symptomatic but has not been tested for COVID-19, they should remain away from campus until they have been free of symptoms for seventy-two hours.
- **Incidental exposure to COVID-19.** COVID testing is not encouraged by medical professionals in cases where there are no symptoms. If a staff or student member has been exposed to COVID-19 and/or alerted to potential exposure via contact tracing protocols but has not displayed symptoms associated with COVID-19, the individual will not be required to engage quarantine protocols and may attend classes.

**Confidentiality** – The school administration will make every effort to maintain confidentiality when notifying the community of communicable disease. However due to the infectious nature of some diseases the school is responsible to notify classroom teachers so that necessary cleaning protocols can be followed.

## Learning from home option

A hybrid learning option from home is available. Please contact Mr. Wieler ([nwieler@wvchristianschool.org](mailto:nwieler@wvchristianschool.org)).

## Preschool

In addition to the policies of this plan, the preschool adopts additional policies and procedures outlined in the WVCS Preschool Pandemic Policy COVID-19 Response, provided to families with enrolled students in preschool and available upon request.

## Acknowledgement of Risk Waiver

Following advice from ACSI and Church Mutual, the school's insurance provider, WVCS is asking all families to sign a limited release of liability waiver in order to ensure that families have reviewed the Campus Readiness Plan and acknowledge implicit risks within the plan. A copy of that waiver is included within this information.

## **Acknowledgment of Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19**

West Valley Christian School (WVCS) is hereby providing notice to me/us that it currently intends to open its educational and school program for the 2020-21 school year. I/we understand that WVCS cannot protect my child/student and/or me from risks which may be encountered as a result of my child attending WVCS. 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 including exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19), or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agents, and the risk of being quarantined, or illness that may result in medical care, hospitalization or death.

I/we 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/we understand these inherent risks and dangers involved with participation in the school providing its educational program and acknowledge the existence of risks which are not obvious or predictable, 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 to extend to myself and my child/student, as applicable.

In consideration of myself and my/our child/student participating West Valley Christian School's educational and school program, I/we, and any legal representatives, heirs and assigns, hereby release, waive, and discharge West Valley Christian School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any and all liability for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or damages resulting therefrom, on account of any injury, illness or exposure to and/or contracting the corona virus (COVID19) or other biological agents, virus or similar bacteriological agent by me or my/our child/student's attendance at and participation in West Valley Christian School's educational program, including any medical expenses, injury and/or death.

I/we agree to indemnify West Valley Christian School, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and representatives from any loss, liability, damage, or cost that may be incurred due to my child/student's participation in the aforementioned program, whether caused by negligence of West Valley Christian School, or otherwise. I fully understand, on my own behalf and on 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 Arizona. I /we 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/we 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 West Valley Christian School's educational program.

By signing below I am attesting that I have read the West Valley Christian School's Campus Readiness Plan and that I will not send my student(s) to school if they have any of the following symptoms: Fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough or shortness of breath, chills or repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, body aches/fatigue. My signature also acknowledges that I am aware that if my child is vulnerable to respiratory illness that they should wear a mask when attending school.

I/WE HAVE CAREFULLY READ THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS THEREOF. I/WE SIGN THIS RELEASE VOLUNTARILY AS MY OWN FREE ACT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE, INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND THEREBY.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_