



Harvest Christian School

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Harvest Christian School: Opening a Healthy School 2020

We look forward to welcoming students back to school as we return to in-person classes (Scenario 1) for fall 2020. School will be held on its normal schedule Monday through Friday (8:15-3:00pm). In anticipation of the start of the school year, we want to share with you some of the ways we are preparing our school environment to maintain the health and safety of our students, your family, and our employees.

As we proceed, we want to do so in a way that honors God. The details are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Department of Education. These recommendations are applied to our school in accordance to the principles of Romans 13:1. Key recommendations include physical distancing, purposeful targeted cleaning, and grouping of students into cohorts. A cohort would consist of no more than 9 students and 1 teacher.

The information around us is changing daily, and we will do our best to keep you current with needed changes and updates to our plan. We are committed to responding to new data so that we can provide a safe and healthy learning environment throughout the school year. We intend to start the year in Scenario 1, unless a change to Scenario 2 (hybrid learning) is required for the safety of our students due to worsening COVID-19 metrics at the local, regional, or statewide level. Scenario 3 (distance learning) would only be implemented if local, regional, or statewide metrics worsen to require the suspension of in-person learning. This could be due to a stay at home order or because of a larger outbreak in the school population. No matter what scenario we are implementing, the focus will remain on providing a quality Christ-centered education. Because we can make the best decision for HCS, independently of local school districts, we will use the "Safe Learning Plan" presented by MDE, MDH, and the governor's office in response to Executive Order 20-82 as a guideline for helping us to determine when a change in learning scenario is needed.

To minimize exposure and minimize the spread of illness, we plan to:

- Use physical distancing, including, where appropriate
 - Reducing/limiting room capacities
 - Spreading apart seating in classrooms and during chapel
 - Modifying hallway traffic patterns, limiting congestion
 - Modifying van and lunchroom seating plans
 - Limiting congestion (no congregating) during arrival and dismissal
- Modify certain activities, where appropriate
 - Electives classes by cohort, including physical education
 - Emergency drills
- Encourage good hygiene by
 - Reminding students regularly about good personal hygiene habits
 - Asking parents to provide hand sanitizer (see supply list)
- Enhance our cleaning procedures with
 - A focus on high-touch areas (cleaning three times a day)
 - Increased cleaning protocols in classrooms, with specific plans dependent on how the classroom is used (e.g. a desk is used by one elementary student for the whole day; or a desk is used by multiple secondary students each day) and age of the student (e.g. young child vs. teenagers)

July 30, 2020 Revision

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- Limit contact with parents and guests at school
 - School buildings: parents and guests visit school offices only
 - Lunch and chapels: students and staff only, no guests
 - School events: evaluated and modified on a case-by-case basis; some events may need to be cancelled
- Limit exposure to other students or staff who may be ill by
 - Maintaining daily student wellness checks before the school day (temperature, symptoms, exposure)
 - Asking parents to keep home a student who is symptomatic/been exposed to COVID-19
 - Contacting parents if their student becomes symptomatic while at school
 - Asking staff to daily check their own temperature/symptoms and to stay home if they are symptomatic
 - Maintaining cohorts of students where possible, avoiding unnecessary exposure to larger groups
 - Communicating appropriately to parents if their student is believed to have been exposed to illness
 - Advising parents on a case-by-case basis
 - Using the Minnesota Department of Health Decision Tree to determine when it is appropriate to return to school after an illness (minimum 72 hours fever-free)
- Face coverings
 - Due to Governor Walz's executive order 20-81, Minnesotans are required to wear face masks in a public indoor space, including when waiting outdoors to enter a public indoor space. In addition, workers are required to wear them outdoors when social distancing cannot be achieved. All visitors will be asked to wear a face covering and only enter the "office" area of the main building.
 - When in the classroom, a cohort of students may remove their face covering per requirements set forth in executive order 20-74 for indoor gatherings of 10 or less people.
 - Face coverings should be worn at arrival and dismissal. Face coverings are strongly recommended in common areas (hallways) and when cohorts of students are mixed indoors.
 - Preschool students are not required to wear face coverings.
 - Face shields will be provided for use by kindergarten through 6th grade students at school. Face shields will be provided for all staff. Staff will wear a face covering when not with their cohort especially when social distancing cannot be achieved.
 - We will ask all students and staff to have their own face covering at school for use.
 - Students and staff who have medical condition, mental health condition, or disability are not required to wear a face covering. **Parents may write a note to the school office indicating that their child is exempt from wearing a face covering.**

Alternate solutions:

- School events open to the public will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis
 - Held as allowed
 - No symptomatic persons will be allowed
- Student learning (if an extended absence is required)
 - Students who are absent due to symptoms of/exposure to COVID-19 will not be held at fault.
 - HCS is unable to provide distance-learning lessons while conducting traditional in-class instruction. However, the administration will work with teachers to provide appropriate homework assignments and/or other learning materials for students (similar to the kind of support that was given in previous school years).
 - Should local or state governmental agencies require us to suspend in-person classes, we will transition to a distance-learning model (Scenario 3). We are committed to continuing to provide high-quality academic instruction regardless of the method of delivery.

In addition, please reference the most up-to-date Harvest Christian School COVID-19 Preparedness Plan found on the website (www.hcsmn.org) or by request from the office.

When beginning of the year forms are signed, they will also include an agreement of understanding regarding COVID-19 and infectious disease that parents/guardians will need to sign before their child returns to school.

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